



Psychology of Terrorism:

An integrative approach to the study of terrorism & counter-terrorism

PSY 3220.20
Fall 2007
Professor Anthony F. Lemieux

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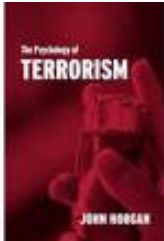
Wednesdays 2:30-5:30
NS 1059
Professor Anthony F. Lemieux

Books (required):

Horgan, J. (2005). *The psychology of terrorism*. Routledge. New York.

Hoffman, B. (2006). *Inside terrorism (2nd Ed.)*. Columbia University Press. New York.

Sageman, M. (2004). *Understanding terror networks*. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia.



Addition Readings (required): Will be available weekly and are available through blackboard; noted on syllabus

Office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00-10:30am, or by appointment, NS2045

Contact: anthony.lemieux@purchase.edu; phone: x6672

Course description and objectives:

This advanced seminar examines terrorism and responses to terrorism from a political / applied social psychological perspective. Topics include (but are not limited to) defining terrorism, preconditions of terrorism, recruitment and motivation, domestic and international terrorism, as well as case studies and analysis of terrorist organizations. Students will examine a variety of classic and current sources drawn from multiple disciplines. Through a combination of critical discussions, films & media, lectures, guest lectures, and analysis of current events, students will develop a core base of knowledge about terrorism.

Course requirements:

- In-class Mid-Term Exam **(25%)**
- Take-home Final Exam **(25%)**
- Preparation for all class meetings and Participation in class discussions **(25%)**
 - Doing readings before class (typically you will be reading at least 5 journal articles or book chapters for each topic)
 - Developing questions to lead / facilitate class discussion based on assigned readings (1-2 carefully constructed pages of your thoughts and reactions, **DUE TUESDAY BY 9AM; PRIOR TO YOUR CLASS!**) – These must be *submitted through blackboard*. In addition, please make sure to bring a hard copy to class.
 - Raising important issues both in class and on course discussion boards.
- Paper & Presentation (20%): One small-group 15 page paper & 15 minute in-class presentation profiling a terrorist group or issue. Note. In addition to being graded by me, your performance and contribution to both the overall paper and presentation will be assessed by your teammates. You will need to work on this together, and over the course of the semester. We will discuss resources in class.
- Current news analysis (5%) - you identify 1-2 current stories, reports, initiatives, or other points of interest for discussion during class (**weekly DUE EACH TUESDAY BY 9AM**). Preferably, you'll find content that relates to the topic(s) we are addressing in class. Note. I've prepared a number of links to resources that will help you get started.

Expectations:

This course is going to be extremely demanding. Specifically, you will have a substantial amount of reading and preparation (including web searches, analysis of current events, etc.) to do prior to each class. You will be expected to develop ideas, and questions about the readings and material that reflects your ability to synthesize ideas and content from multiple sources and perspectives. Because the class is conducted in a seminar format, it is critically important that you have completed the reading and generated discussion points and questions prior to each class meeting. By taking the course, you are making a commitment to yourself, to me, and to your classmates to perform at your best.

Attendance & etiquette: As this class is conducted as a seminar, your attendance is *essential*. If you need to miss class, please let me know ahead of time. Unexcused absences (even 1!) *will* negatively impact your grade. Please turn off cell phones and pagers. I realize that everyone can have a lapse in remembering to set it to silent (not vibrate, which also produces a distraction) once in a while, but under no circumstances should your phone ring / vibrate more than once. Do not look to see who is calling if it rings. Just shut it off as quickly as possible, and make sure it never happens again.

Students with disabilities: I encourage students with disabilities to let me know as soon as possible during the semester what, if any, special accommodations they will need. After-the-fact accommodations will not be possible. All students requesting accommodation for disabilities need to provide documentation from the Office of Students with Disabilities. This office is located in the Counseling Center, in the basement of Humanities (Room 0012). Call Ronnie Mait, who directs the office, at (914) 251-6035, or call the Counseling Center, (914) 251-6390. They are happy to answer questions. For more information, <http://www.purchase.edu/studaff/specialstudentservices>.

Plagiarism & cheating: Don't do it. Specific policies are detailed at <http://www.purchase.edu/Policies/plagiarismpolicy.aspx>

Schedule of classes: **Important assignments & dates are highlighted**

Please note: Because of the dynamic nature of this course, order of presentation of topics may vary. Any changes to readings will be announced in class, and the readings will be available at least a full week prior to the topic being discussed in class.

Date	Topic	Readings:
Sept 5: Week 1	Course introduction & description, BlackBoard Training	
Sept 12: Week 2	Defining terrorism; History and trends in terrorism	1.) Hoffman, Chs. 1-3 2.) Sageman Preface & Chs. 1-2 3.) http://www.tkb.org/ (watch virtual tour; start to get familiar with this resource) 4.) National Intelligence Estimate, July 2007.
Sept 19: Week 3 <i>Groups and Topics Selected</i>	Is there a 'psychology of terrorism?'	1.) Horgan, Chs. 1 & 2 2.) Victoroff, J. (2005). The mind of the terrorist: A review and critique of psychological approaches. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> , 49, 3-42. 3.) McCauley, C. R. (2006). <i>Psychological issues in understanding terrorism and responses to terrorism</i> . In C. Stout (Ed.). <i>The psychology of terrorism: Coping with the continued threat</i> , pp. 33-65. 4.) Crenshaw, M. (2000). The psychology of terrorism: An agenda for the 21 st century. <i>Political Psychology</i> , 21, 405-420.
Sept 26: Week 4	Becoming a terrorist: Radicalization and motivations	1.) Horgan, Chs. 3 & 4 2.) Moghaddam, F. (2005). The staircase to terrorism: A psychological explanation. <i>American Psychologist</i> , 60, 161-169. 3.) Hoffman, Ch. 4 4.) Post, J. (1998). <i>Terrorist psycho-logic: Terrorist behavior as a product of psychological forces</i> . In W. Reich (Ed.). <i>Origins of terrorism: Psychologies, ideologies, theologies, states of mind</i> , pp. 25-42. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Press.
Oct 3: Week 5	Being a terrorist	1.) Horgan, Ch. 5 2.) Hoffman, Ch. 8 3.) Sageman, Ch. 3 4.) Al Qaeda 'manual' (<i>skim this</i>)
Oct 10: Week 6 <i>Review of Group Progress</i>	Networks in terrorism and countering terrorism	1.) Sageman 4, 5, & Conclusion 2.) Arquilla, J. Ronfeldt, D., & Zanini, M. (1999). Networks, netwar, and information-age terrorism. In <i>Countering the new terrorism</i> (pp. 39-84.). RAND. 3.) McCants W. & Brachman, J. (2006). <i>Militant ideology atlas</i> . (Executive Report). West Point, NY: Combating Terrorism Center. 4.) TKB – explore relationships

<p>Oct 17: Week 7</p>	<p>Types and tactics: Suicide terrorism</p>	<p>1.) Hoffman, Ch. 5 2.) Pape, R. A. (2003). The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 97, 343-361. 3.) Atran, S. (2004). Mishandling suicide terrorism. <i>The Washington Quarterly</i>, 27, 67-90. 4.) Merari, A. (2007). Psychological aspects of suicide terrorism. In Bongar et al. (Eds). <i>Psychology of terrorism</i> (pp. 101-115). New York: Oxford. 5.) Bloom, M. (2005). Mother. Daughter. Sister. Bomber. <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i>, 61, 54-62. <u>Any one of the following:</u> 6.) Hafez, M. (2006). Suicide terrorism in Iraq: A preliminary assessment of the quantitative data and documentary evidence. <i>Studies in conflict and terrorism</i>, 29, 591-619. 7.) Hafez, M. (2007). Martyrdom mythology in Iraq: How jihadists frame suicide terrorism in videos and biographies. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 19, 95-115. 8.) Hafez, M. (2006). Rationality, culture, and structure in the making of suicide bombers: A preliminary theoretical synthesis and illustrative case study. <i>Studies in conflict and terrorism</i>, 29, 165-185.</p>
<p>Oct 24: Week 8</p>	<p>Types and tactics: CBRN terrorism; Domestic & single-issue terrorism</p> <p><i>(for this week: Use TKB to research 2-3 domestic groups)</i></p>	<p>1.) Post, J. (2002). Differentiating the threat of chemical and biological terrorism: Motivations and constraints. <i>Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology</i>, 8, 187-200. 2.) Gurr, N. & Cole, B. (2005). <i>The new face of terrorism: Threats from weapons of mass destruction</i>. New York: I. B. Taurus (Chapter 7 – Psychological motivations and inhibitory controls.) 3.) Allison, G. (2006). The ongoing failure of imagination. <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i>, 62, 36-45. 4.) Zimmerman, P. D. & Lewis, J. G. (2006). The bomb in the backyard. <i>Foreign Policy</i>, 157, 33-39. 5.) Kaplan, J. (1997). Leaderless resistance. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 9, 80-95. 6.) Sharpe, T. T. (2000). The identity Christian movement: Ideology of domestic terrorism. <i>Journal of Black Studies</i>, 30, 604-623. <u>optional:</u> 7.) Foxell, J. W. (2001). Current trends in agroterrorism (antilivestock, anticrop, and antisoil bioagricultural terrorism) and their potential impact on food security. <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i>, 24, 107-129.</p>
<p>Oct 31: Week 9</p>	<p>In-Class Mid-Term Exam</p>	
<p>Nov 7: Week 10</p>	<p>Media & terrorism</p>	<p>1.) Hoffman, Chs. 6 & 7 2.) Wilkinson, P. (1997). The media and terrorism: A reassessment. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 9, 51-64. 3.) Weimann, G. (2006). <i>Terror on the internet: The new arena, the new challenges</i>. United States Institute for Peace: Washington, DC. (Chapter 3 – Communicative uses of the internet for terror). 4.) Hoffman, B. (2006). The use of the internet by Islamic extremists. Testimony presented to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. RAND. 5.) Emerson, S. (2006). <i>Jihad incorporated: A guide to militant Islam in the U. S.</i> Amherst, NY: Prometheus. (Chapter 12 – Jihadi webmasters). 6.) Briefing – Internet jihad: A world wide web of terror. <i>The Economist</i>, July 14, 2007, 28-30. 7.) Kingston, S. (1995). Terrorism, the media, and the northern Ireland conflict. <i>Studies in Conflict & Terrorism</i>, 15, 203-231. <i>(optional)</i></p>
<p>Nov 14: Week 11</p>	<p>Simulation: Jeffrey Breinholt Director of national security law at the international strategy and assessment center, and veteran federal prosecutor.</p>	<p>Breinholt, J. (2005). Seeking Synchronicity: Thoughts on the role of domestic law enforcement in counterterrorism. <i>American University International Review</i>, 21, 157-189.</p>
<p>Nov 14 (6:30 pm)</p>	<p>NSS Lecture Fighting international terror through law enforcement, Jeffrey Breinholt</p>	
<p>Nov 21</p>	<p><i>No Class: Thanksgiving Recess</i></p>	

<p>Nov 28: Week 12</p>	<p>Understanding how terrorism 'stops' & the disengagement process</p>	<p>1.) Horgan, Ch. 6 2.) McCauley, C. R. (2006). Jujitsu politics: Terrorism and responses to terrorism. In P. R. Kimmel & C. E. Stout (Eds.). <i>Collateral Damage: The psychological consequences of America's war on terrorism</i> (pp.45-65). Westport, CT: Praeger. 3.) Ross, J. I. & Gurr, T. R. (1989). Why terrorism subsides: A comparative study of Canada and the United States. <i>Comparative Politics</i>, 21, 405-426. 4.) 'The Network.' March 25, 2007. CBS News. http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/23/60minutes/main2602308.shtml</p>
<p>Dec 5: Week 13 Papers Due</p>	<p>Case studies of terrorist groups (presentations)</p>	<p><i>No assigned readings: Use this week to work on your presentations and paper.</i></p>
<p>Dec 12: Week 14 Final Exam Distributed <i>[course evaluations]</i></p>	<p>Countering terrorism: Challenges & future directions</p>	<p>1.) Hoffman, Ch. 9 2.) Horgan, Ch. 7 3.) Weimann ch 7 – balancing security and civil liberties 4.) DeRosa, M. (2003). Privacy in the age of terror. <i>The Washington Quarterly</i>, 26, 27-41. 5.) Mayer, J. (2007). The black sites: A rare look inside the C.I.A.'s secret interrogation program. <i>The New Yorker</i>, August 13, 2007, 46-57. 6.) The Terrorism Index</p>
<p>Dec 19:</p>	<p>(final exam due!)</p>	

General Hypotheses of Terrorism. The Psychology of the Terrorist. Terrorist Profiling. Conclusion. The purpose of this study is to focus attention on the types of individuals and groups that are prone to terrorism (see Glossary) in an effort to help improve U.S. counterterrorist methods and policies. The emergence of amorphous and largely unknown terrorist individuals and groups operating independently (freelancers) and the new recruitment patterns of some groups, such as recruiting suicide commandos, female and child terrorists, and scientists capable of developing weapons of mass destruction, provide a measure of urgency to increasing our understanding of the psychological and sociological Psychology of Terrorism. In *Criminal Behaviour: A Psychosocial Approach*. pp. 325-347, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education. To foster a more in-depth understanding of the psychological processes leading to terrorism, the author conceptualizes the terrorist act as the final step on a narrowing staircase. Although the vast majority of people, even when feeling deprived and unfairly treated, remain on the ground floor, some individuals climb up and are eventually recruited into terrorist organizations. The psychology of the terrorist 19. Terrorist Motivation 19. The Process of Joining a Terrorist Group 20. Trends in terrorism over the past three decades, however, have contradicted the conventional thinking that terrorists are averse to using WMD. It has become increasingly evident that the assumption does not apply to religious terrorist groups or millenarian cults (see Glossary). Indeed, since at least the early 1970s analysts, including (somewhat contradictorily) Jenkins, have predicted that the first groups to employ a weapon of mass destruction would be religious sects with a millenarian, messianic, or apocalyptic mindset.