

**Political Science 386**

**MWF 1-1:50**

**TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

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**Office hours: MWF 2-3**

**Course Content:** On September 10, 2001, most Americans went about their day not worrying about terrorism. Terrorism was something that happened, from time-to-time, on foreign soil or was carried out, very sparingly, by disgruntled “nuts” in the United States like Timothy McVeigh or the Unabomber. The very next day, Americans became instantly and traumatically aware of terrorism and its possible danger to their lives and way of life. Despite this “discovery” by Americans, terrorism is neither a new nor unique threat; it has been a readily apparent phenomenon of the post World War II world. This course is designed to introduce students to the study of terrorism and counterterrorism. We will address numerous aspects of terrorism including problems in defining terrorism, terrorist methods, terrorist motivations, the evolution of terrorism, the psychology of terrorists, and countering terrorism. As always, students are encouraged to discuss these issues with their classmates and to seek out the instructor in office hours with any questions or comments relating to these issues.

**Required Texts:**

**Combs. Terrorism in the 21st Century. \*8th edition.**

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment :** By the completion of this course, students:

1. Will become more discerning critical thinkers and observers of political events, personalities, messages and processes by applying theories and methodologies of political science (including international relations) and through effective oral and written communication. Students will demonstrate competency by successfully completing a number of short “response” and through successful participation in classroom presentations on terrorism.
2. Will understand the institutions, processes and values that underpin political behavior and events. Students will demonstrate competency by successfully

- completing exams and through successful participation in classroom presentations on terrorism.
3. Will become more aware of the political impact that diversity can produce in political systems. Students will demonstrate competency through exams and papers.

### **Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will analyze the contexts (whether historical, political, ethical, literary, economic or technological) surrounding terrorism.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret and assess materials concerning the causes and consequences of terrorism.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between political power, global ethical standards, and terrorism.

Attendance: I believe, in general, that attendance policies should not be necessary at the university-level. Unfortunately, experience has shown that many students will only attend class regularly if it directly affects their grade. During the course, your discussion will be worth 50 points. Obviously, you cannot discuss if you do not attend. I will take attendance every day.

Additionally each student is responsible for (1) any announcements and handouts distributed in class; (2) the content of lectures and multi-media presentations in class; and (3) any changes to the class schedule announced in class. Let me repeat this - students are expected to attend all classes. A missed class is not an acceptable excuse for not knowing about changes in assignments, the content of class sessions, etc. It is the student's responsibility to find out. Do not call or email the instructor to inform him that you will miss a class or an exam. If you can be there, it is assumed that you will be there and if you cannot attend, a telephone call or email will not change my policy in any way.

### **Academic Honesty**

Please do not cheat – cheating does nothing but rob you of the chance for an education. As a college student, you are part of an academic community and are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful of that community, in part by being academically honest. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to “cheating on an examination,” “submitting a paper or assignment as one’s own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another,” and “submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas.”

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Discussion is important. Don’t be afraid to speak up, ask questions, or challenge the information I give you. Education is not strictly a spectator sport

-- you will find the class more interesting and informative if you participate. Discussion will also have an impact on your final course grade (see section below on grading).

2. Be nice, be patient, be tolerant.

3. **Grading: Exams and papers and such**

- Each student will participate in a group project – the “Terrorism Presentation.” It is explained in more detail below and will be discussed in class. Each presentation will consist of four elements; a “target choice” report, a philosophical/ideological statement, an in-class presentation and the preparation of a presentation portfolio. The Terrorism Presentation will be worth 250 points (report = 20, statement = 20, presentation =150, portfolio = 60).
- Class participation will also be an important element in determining your final course grade – both during regular class periods and the presentations. Participation will be worth 100 points.
- Four quizzes will be given during the course, each worth 60 points. The quizzes will test your knowledge of the assigned readings AND the lecture notes.
- To review - the distribution of points will be as follows:

Quizzes (4)	- 240 points
Class Participation	- 100 points
<u>Terrorism Presentation</u>	<u>- 250 points</u>
Total	- 590 points

**There will be no make-up exams or assignments except in the case of a bona fide (and verified) emergency! All make-up exams will consist of essay questions only.**

**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

**A = 93-100%**

**A- = 90-92 %**

**B+=87-89%**

**B = 83-86%**

**B-= 80-83%**

**C+ = 77-79%**

**C = 73-76%**

**C-= 70-72%**

**D+= 67-69%**

**D = 60-66%**

**F = 59% or below**

Bonus Points: I do not believe in extra credit, but I do like to reward students for good class attendance. Therefore, I will from time-to-time give a bonus quiz. You may earn up to 27 total bonus points.

### **Terrorism Presentation:**

If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the results of a hundred battles.

-- Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

I believe one of the highlights of the course this semester will be the Terrorism presentations. For the terrorism presentation you will actually be working as a terrorist cell and will plan an attack against a target in the United States. Trust me, ***I am NOT trying to turn you into terrorists!*** I want you to get an idea of the planning that is involved in a terrorist attack for the following reasons: (1) to better understand whether or not the United States is really vulnerable to such attacks; (2) to try to understand the motivations of actual terrorists; and (3) to better understand what government officials must protect against. This planning will help you to better know the enemy mind. For the terrorism presentation, the following steps will be taken:

- You will be assigned to a “terrorist cell.”
- Your cell will create a terrorist organization (including name).
- Your cell will prepare a report on its particular organization
  1. What type of terrorist organization are you?
  2. What ideology do you espouse?
  3. What are your goals?
  4. Why would you choose to attack the United States instead of some other country or organization?
  5. How does attacking the U.S help you reach your goals?
  6. What resources are at your disposal?
  7. How do you come by these resources?
  8. How do you normally recruit members?
  9. And so forth.
- Your cell will choose a target in the United States – all targets must be approved by Dr. G so that we do not have any overlap in the class. Your cell will prepare an attack on that target:
  1. When will the attack take place (and why that particular date and time)?
  2. How will the attack be carried out? This should be the biggest section of the plan – who will do what, when and how?
  3. What type of security will be in place?
  4. Will there be an escape system?
  5. What damages/casualties are expected?

6. What type of media coverage do you expect?
  7. Remember, the plan must be realistic given the number of individuals in your cell (and who those individuals are) and the type of resources at your disposal.
- Your cell will prepare a classroom presentation for your classmates outlining the specifics of your organization, your plan, goals, etc. In other words, the materials contained in your terrorist report and in the plan of attack. For your presentation, you should consider using PowerPoint, handouts, etc. You **CANNOT** use Prezi!
  - Your cell will prepare a portfolio of the plan, the materials used, etc, to be turned in to Dr. G. The portfolio will be due at the end of your in-class presentation. The order of presentations will be determined by a random draw later in the semester.
  - **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:** In the past this class project has, unintentionally, caused some “concerns” for law enforcement and university officials. Problems arose due to students’ not following instructions and, quite frankly, being silly and sloppy. Because of these problems, the following measures **MUST** be followed. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your course grade. These suggestions are based on my discussions with law enforcement officials, including the FBI:
    1. By the beginning of the third week of class, you must have decided on a target and basic method you plan to employ in your “attack.” I will pass this info on to law enforcement officials so if they hear of a plot (this has happened in the past) they no what is going on. It is okay to change your target and methods during the semester (if you find your original plans will not work for some reason), but notify me **IMMEDIATELY** of your changes.
    2. Be aware of your surroundings when discussing or working on this project. For example, don’t loudly discuss terrorist attack plans while working in the library or other campus facilities. Remember, you are supposed to be learning what it is like to be a terrorist and terrorists don’t go laughing or bull-shitting about their plans in public. We don’t want to scare anyone. If others do overhear you, assure them that this is a class project for Dr. Gunderson’s POL 386 class. Then email me to let me know.
    3. **ALL** materials used during and produced for this class project – whether they be photocopies, hand-written notes, powerpoint presentations, etc – must be clearly marked (preferably at the top of the page) that they are part of a class project for Dr. Gunderson’s POL 386 class.
    4. **ALL** display materials and/or “props” used during your terrorism presentation must be clearly marked that they are part of a class project for Dr. Gunderson’s POL 386 class. Additionally, any group using a prop for the presentation **MUST** let me know in advance of

their intention to use such materials so I may alert UWSP security officials in advance.

5. All materials for this course project, including papers, props, etc, should be disposed of properly off-campus. DO NOT leave materials lying around or toss them into public UWSP trash bins. If you can – shred this stuff!

### **COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

I reserve the right to make some adjustments to the assigned readings and the course schedule as the semester progresses. I will do my best to keep any changes to a minimum and will announce them in advance, in class.

Mon 1/24 Course Introduction and Syllabus

Wed 1/26 What is Terrorism? Chapter 1-2

Fri 1/28 What is Terrorism

Mon 1/31 What is Terrorism

Wed 2/2 Why Terrorism? Chapter 4

Fri 2/4 Why Terrorism

Mon 2/7 Why Terrorism

Wed 2/9 Ideology and Terrorism Chapter 3

Fri 2/11 Ideology and Terrorism

Mon 2/14 Quiz 1

Wed 2/16 State Terrorism Chapter 5

Fri 2/18 State Terrorism

Mon 2/21 State Terrorism

Wed 2/23 Terrorist Tactics Chapter 6-7

Fri 2/25 Terrorist Tactics

Mon 2/28 Tactics

Wed 3/2 Religion and Terrorism

Fri 3/4 Religion and Terrorism

Mon 3/7 Religion and Terrorism

Wed 3/9 Quiz 2

Fri 3/11 Counterterrorism Chapter 11-13

Mon 3/14 Counterterrorism

Wed 3/16 Counter terrorism

Fri 3/18 Counterterrorism

Mon 3/21 Spring Break

Wed 3/23 Spring Break

Fri 3/25 Spring Break

Mon 3/28 Counterterrorism

Wed 3/30 Counterterrorism

Fri 4/1 Counterterrorism

Mon 4/4 Counterterrorism

Wed 4/6 Counterterrorism

Fri 4/8 Quiz 3

Mon 4/11 International Context Chapter 10

Wed 4/13 International Context

Fri 4/15 International Context

Mon 4/18 Nuclear Weapons Chapter 14

Wed 4/20 Nuclear Weapons

Fri 4/22 Nuclear Weapons

Mon 4/25 The Future Chapter 15

Wed 4/27 The Future

Fri 4/29 Quiz 4

Mon 5/2 Terrorism Presentations

Wed 5/4 Terrorism Presentations

Fri 5/6 Terrorism Presentations

Mon 5/9 Terrorism Presentations

Wed 5/11 Terrorism Presentations

Fri 5/13 Terrorism Presentations