

POLI 386
Terrorism and Homeland Security
Spring 2021
MW 2-3:15
DUC Alumni Room

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This course broadly investigates terrorism, counter-terrorism, and homeland security. We will study international and domestic terrorism, its causes, methods, and impact. We will also focus on different responses to terrorism and different approaches to counter-terrorism. Our study of terrorism is guided by several different approaches too, including historical perspectives, social science, criminology, and public policy. We will also study institutions and issues associated with homeland security.

One of the guiding approaches to the course will be a focus on the public policy issues and consequences surrounding terrorism. We will consider many of the various public policy options that governments have when responding to terrorism, from military force to criminal prosecution and deradicalization strategies.

Learning outcomes: Students will:

- Learn about the underlying theories that explain the origins and development of terrorist beliefs and terrorist groups.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the different types of terrorism, at the global and domestic levels.
- Be able to discuss how government agencies, particularly law enforcement and national security agencies, deal with the problems of domestic and international and terrorism.
- Learn about policy approaches to terrorism in the United States and globally.
- Become familiar with empirical ways of studying and understanding terrorism, including the use of data bases that study terrorism events.

Readings:

Textrental: Understanding Terrorism, 6th ed. (SAGE, 2017). Gus Martin.
Other required readings available in CANVAS.

Grading and Assignments

Course Grade distribution:

A	94-100%	A-	90-93%		
B+	87-89%	B	84-86%	B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%	C	74-76%	C-	70-73%
D+	66-69%	D	60-65%	F	<60%

Assignments:

15%	Class participation and attendance
15%	Paper #1. Reaction paper. 750 words minimum. Uploaded to CANVAS.
20%	Paper #2 START Terrorism Database project. 750 words minimum. Uploaded to CANVAS.
30%	Final Exam Essay. 1500 words minimum. Uploaded to CANVAS. The essay will focus on domestic terrorism in the United States. You will use course materials and data from the START Database for your analysis. No other materials can be used.
20%	Coursera Online course: Countering Violent Extremism. The online course is free through Coursera. You must complete the course and upload the pdf certificate of completion to Canvas. Only the pdf certificate will be accepted and awarded credit. Screenshots of your course completion will be rejected by Canvas.

Assignment Details

Your course grade is comprised of assessments that ask you to apply knowledge learned in the course to specific problems and data. You are also assessed based on consistent class attendance and participation in discussion and completion of a free, online course on countering violent extremism.

ALL writing assignments are graded based on a rubric. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the rubric, which is attached to each assignment in Canvas.

All papers must be uploaded to the appropriate CANVAS dropbox by the due date. Late papers will be penalized up to 20% of the grade received on that assignment.

Plagiarism on any paper will result in a grade of 0 for that paper. All papers are scanned by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. This also includes self-plagiarism, which is the attempt to submit a paper also submitted to another class. All papers must be unique to the assignment in POLI 386.

All papers must be written in formal prose. Do NOT use slang, informal writing such as contractions, and do not write in 1st-person narrative.

Paper #1:

DUE DATE: Friday, February 19, 11:59pm.

Review *The Global Terrorism Index, 2020*, available in CANVAS. Write a reaction paper in which you provide your own thoughts and analysis to some of the things that you've read. You must upload your paper to Canvas in either a .doc, .docx or pdf. All other file formats will be rejected by Canvas. Papers e-mailed to me will not be counted.

For the assignment do the following:

1. Read the executive summary of the report, pages 1-5.
2. Pick ONE section of the report to respond to in your paper. Choose from:
Section 1: Results; Section 2: Economic Impact of Terrorism; Section 3: Trends in Terrorism
Section 4: The Shifting Landscape of Terrorism; or Section 5: Terrorism and Systems Theory

Paper #2:

DUE DATE: Friday, April 2, 11:59pm.

Module 2 or Module 3

Using the START Global Terrorism Database (<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>) conduct a basic analysis on some of the variables in the database.

Choose ONE of the following assignments:

1. Using the START database, assess David Rappaport's argument in "Four Waves of Modern Terrorism."
2. Pick one of the types of terrorism (dissident, ideological, religious) and using the START database provide your own analysis. DO NOT focus on domestic terrorism in the United States, as that is the final paper assignment.

The purposes of this assignment:

- learn familiarity with a major database on terrorism;
- experiment with choosing variables for analysis;
- learn how to find and explain patterns of terrorist events and other phenomena;
- apply knowledge from Module 1 or Module 2 of the course.

In your paper narrative explain the following:

1. why you chose your variable(s);
2. what patterns have you observed;
3. what the data and results potentially tell you. This will be speculative, of course.
4. Provide at least two descriptive graphs on your data.

Graphs MUST be embedded in your paper. A phone screenshot of your graphs is not acceptable. I suggest downloading or printing your graphs as PDF files and then embedding them in your final document. The data on your graphs needs to be identifiable and explanatory. See sample papers in CANVAS.

This is NOT a research paper. You may use your textbook or other course materials if needed to support an assertion, but other outside courses are prohibited.

Paper #3: This paper will be a final essay in which you focus on domestic terrorism in the United States. You will be given several topics to choose from. This is NOT a research paper. You are to use only the materials provided to you in Canvas. See the specific assignment details in CANVAS. The assignment will open after spring break. Minimum word count: 1500 words.

DUE DATE: Tuesday May 18 12 NOON.

Online certificate course on Countering Violent Extremism

The course is called ***New Approaches to Countering Terror: Countering Violent Extremism***

The online course is hosted by Coursera. Registration for it is free. It is an asynchronous online course of approximately 3.5 hours duration. Upon completion you will be able to download a certificate in pdf form.

From the course website:

“The “New Approaches to Countering Terror: Countering Violent Extremism” course offered by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), is a multi-week interactive course designed to help students explore both pragmatic and philosophical challenges that continue to shape the evolution of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), a global security paradigm. START, a Department of Homeland Security Emeritus Center of Excellence and research, training, and education center housed at the University of Maryland within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), serves as a leading voice in the national and international dialogue regarding CVE. START’s Director and the course instructor, Bill Braniff, will introduce the concept of CVE and explore the promise of CVE as a more comprehensive and proactive approach to the complex phenomenon of violent extremism.

This 3.5 hour course will take an in-depth look at CVE as a relatively new area of policy and practice. As such, this MOOC can serve as an awareness-raising course, targeting anyone interested in terrorism, community resilience, security, policy and/or civil rights issues. The course is broadly interdisciplinary and has no prerequisites.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Differentiate between two ways of addressing violent extremism: counterterrorism (CT) and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE); 2. Explain the CVE spectrum of non-violent approaches to countering terror, including prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation/reintegration programs; 3. Make sound analytical judgments about CVE programs and their potential.”

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/countering-terror-violent-extremism?action=enroll>

DUE DATE: Certificate of completion must be uploaded to CANVAS by Friday April 23, 2021, 11:59pm. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT UNLESS YOU UPLOAD YOUR CERTIFICATE TO CANVAS. THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE A PDF THAT YOU RECEIVED UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE. SCREENSHOTS OF THE COURSE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Module 1:
Terrorism: Definitions, Categories

- 1/25 Introduction
1/27 Terrorism: A Conceptual Review; Martin, Chapter 1:
- 2/1 Chapter 1; Skim *Global Terrorism Index, 2020, Institute for Economics and Peace*. In CANVAS.
- 2/3-8 Definitions of Terrorism; Martin, Chapter 2.
- 2/10 The START Database
Studying terrorism empirically; finding patterns
- 2/15-17 The Causes of Terrorism; Martin, Chapter 3.
Waves and Strains
Readings in CANVAS.
David Rappaport, “Four Waves of Modern Terrorism”
Tom Parker, Nick Sitter: “The Four Horsemen of Terrorism: It’s not Waves, It’s Strains.”

Module 2:
Terrorism: Types and Tactics

- 2/22 State sponsored terrorism; Martin, Chapter 4.
- 2/24 Terrorism by Dissidents and Ideologues; International Terrorist Spillover: Martin, Chapters 5, 7, 8.
Readings in CANVAS. Skim the manuals and manifestos listed below.
Manuals and Manifestos: Baader-Meinhof Gang
Che Guevara
Urban Guerilla Minimanual
Red Brigades Manifesto
IRA Manifesto
Irgun/Menachem Begin Manifesto
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Manifesto
The Weathermen: Prairie Fire
- 3/1, 3, 8 As above
- 3/10-15 Religious Terrorism; Martin, Chapter 6.
Review: *Global Terrorism Index, 2020*.
In CANVAS: West Point Report, “The Caliphate’s Paper Trail”
Piazza, “Is Islamist Terrorism More Dangerous?”

Congressional Research Service, “The Islamic State’s Acolytes and the Challenges They Pose to U.S. Law Enforcement.”
START: “Understanding the Threat: Explaining the Rise the Appeal of the Islamic State.”
START: “Comparative Psychological Profiles: Baghdadi and Zawahiri”
Manuals and Manifestos: Al Qaeda Manual
Al Zawahiri Manifesto
Hamans Manifesto

3/17 Catch up day

March 22/24 Spring Break

3/29-31 Terrorist Tactics; Martin, Chapter 10
Readings in CANVAS: Brent L. Smith, et al., “The Terrorists’ Planning Cycle”
Jerold Post, “The Terrorists in Their Own Words”
Michael Freeman, “The Sources of Terrorist Financing”

Module 3: Terrorism in the United States

4/5, 7, 12 Terrorism in the United States; Martin, Chapter 12.

Reading in CANVAS: There will several current readings on domestic terrorism in the United States. A list of the reading will be posted in Canvas.

Module 4: Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security

4/14 Martin, Chapters 13, 14.

4/19-21 Martin, Chapters 13, 14
Counter-Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Risk Assessment
Readings in CANVAS: CATO “Public Opinion and Counter-Terrorism Policy, 2018”
GAO Report on Homeland Security’s Grant Program—FEMAS’s Risk-Based Grant Assessment Model

4/26 The Federal Government and Homeland Security
White House Strategies on Counter-Terrorism, 2011 and 2018.

4/28 States and Homeland Security
National Governor’s Association Report on Counter-Terrorism

5/3-3 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) as Counter-Terrorism

5/10-13 Catch-up

Statement on COVID-19 and UWSP

Students: Please note the following:

Changes to the Syllabus and Assignments

I do not foresee making significant changes to the course syllabus, assignments, or meeting patterns. However, the Covid pandemic may lead to changes in UWSP policy on in-person meetings or other issues. If that happens, appropriate changes to this course will be made.

Face Coverings:

At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

Please monitor your own health each day using the online screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).

As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.

Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.

Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.

Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.

Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.