Course Description

The first part of this course will start with a brief overview of fundamental terrorism issues - the definition of terrorism, the strategy of modern and post-modern terrorism, the current trends of Global Jihadi terrorism, etc. The second part of the course will address topics related to counter-terrorism, focusing on the typical dilemmas at the heart of the debate. By drawing on a substantial amount of reading material, the course will present both practical and theoretical perspectives on a range of topics, such as intelligence gathering, targeted killings, international cooperation, and the balance between liberal democratic values and effective counter-terrorism measures. Students will engage in the dilemmas facing decision-makers and counter-terrorism experts by participating in a group simulation exercise. Focusing on real-life scenarios in counter-terrorism, students will individually prepare policy papers that will include recommendations and analysis based on testimonies by expert witnesses, relevant literature, and outside research. In addition, the class will have the opportunity to hear from guest lecturers specializing in
the field of counter-terrorism.

Students are required to attend all classes and any assigned supplementary activities related to the course. Classes will consist of lectures, guest speakers, and simulations.

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Course Goals

The scope of terrorist attacks launched in the US post-September 11, the growing threat of the use of unconventional weapons, and the spread of a radical-Islamic network of terrorism have transformed the once localized threat of terrorism into an international problem. By intentionally targeting civilians while exploiting the freedom embedded in liberal-democratic values, terrorism presents a difficult and complex challenge to decision-makers and counter-terrorism experts. In order to effectively deal with the phenomenon of terrorism, decision-makers must address various dilemmas related to counter-terrorism: coping with the threat on an offensive, preemptive, and defensive level; collecting intelligence; and responding to terrorism through deterrent, punitive, and legislative measures.

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Grading

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Two–Three short policy papers: Students are required to individually write two–three short policy papers (maximum 5 pages) on the following topics*:

a. Media & Terrorism
b. Terrorist use of the Internet
c. Public Resilience
d. Suicide Attacks
e. Non-Conventional Terrorism
f. Racial Profiling
g. Torture
h. Targeted Killings
i. Domestic Collaboration
j. International Cooperation
k. Countering Domestic Terrorism
l. Countering Lone Actor Terrorism

50% Policy Paper I
50% Policy Paper II

Grading Criteria:

35: Background (including Statement of the Issue/Problem)
35: Pre-Existing Policies
20: Policy Options (including Pros & Cons)
10: Technicalities (including executive summary, bibliography, writing style, etc)

* Please note that only the two highest grades will count towards your final grade. If you are satisfied with your two first grades, you can thus skip the third policy paper.

See: How to Write a Policy Paper on your Moodle Website for guidelines and more information

Tutor Office Hours

Via email: stevie@ict.org.il

Reading List

List of Selected Useful Websites

- The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) - www.ict.org.il
- Intelligence & Terrorism Information Center - http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/site/home/default.asp
- The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) - www.memri.org
- The Long War Journal - http://www.longwarjournal.org
- National Counter Terrorism Center: World Wide Incidents Tracking System (WITS) http://www.nctc.gov/site/other/wits.html
- South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) - http://www.satp.org
- START: Global Terrorism Database - http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/
- University of Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism (CPOST): Suicide Terrorism Database - http://cpost.uchicago.edu/search.php
- National Security Archive, September 11th-George Washington University http://www.gwu.edu/~archive/NSAEBB/#911
- The Avalon project of Yale's Law School - http://avalon.lawyale.edu/subject_menus/21st.asp
- US Department of State: Counterterrorism
Combating Terrorism Center at West Point: Sentinel - http://ctc.usma.edu/
Brookings Institution-Project on Terrorism and American Foreign Policy - http://www.brookings.org/terrorism/
Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, University of St. Andrews (UK) - http://www.st-and.ac.uk/academic/intel/research/cstpv
Federation of American Scientists (FAS) - http://www.fas.org/terrorism/index.html
Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (FFI) [Norwegian Defence Research Establishment] - http://www ffi.no
RAND Corporation http://www.RAND.org/research_areas/terrorism
Jihadica - www.jihadica.com
Jihadology net: a clearing house for jihadi primary source material http://jihadology.net
SITE Intelligence Group - https://wwwsiteintelgroup.com/Pages/Default.aspx