



# Course program and reading list

Semester 3 Year 2022

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

## The Cyber-Space in the Modern Terrorism Strategy

**Lecturer:**

Dr. Eitan Azani [eazani@runi.ac.il](mailto:eazani@runi.ac.il)

**Teaching Assistant:**

Mr. Stevie Weinberg [wstevie@runi.ac.il](mailto:wstevie@runi.ac.il)

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<b>Course No.:</b>	<b>Course Type :</b>	<b>Weekly Hours :</b>	<b>Credit:</b>
24156	Lecture	3	3

<b>Course Requirements :</b>	<b>Group Code :</b>	<b>Language:</b>
Final Paper	223241561	English

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### Course Description

#### THE THREAT: INTERNET AS A PLATFORM

- The Use of Internet by Terrorist Organizations and Religious Justifications
- ISIS/Al Qaeda – Evolution, structure, modus operandi, policy and strategy:
  - The transformation from the real world into the virtual and the combination of both
  - Jihadi Websites and Forums: General Overview
  - Communication Strategy of Terrorist Organization on the Internet: Use of Internet for
  - Public Relation, Da'wa and Recruitment
  - Use of Internet for Operational Issues: Virtual Courses, Financing, ethos of Jihad and How to disseminate knowledge
  - Use of Internet as a Platform to Conduct Terrorist Attack: Case Studies

- Use of Internet by Right Wing Extremism
- Use of Internet for Intelligence Operation: Case Studies
- The use of Internet by Terrorist Organizations: Case studies of Hezbollah Current issues in information security

ELECTRONIC JIHAD – DEFENSIVE

ELECTRONIC JIHAD – OFFENSIVE

THE RESPONSE



## Course Goals

The course will discuss how the cyber-space is being used by terrorist organizations for: incitement, indoctrination, training, recruitment, data-mining, intelligence, operational activities, defensive and offensive attacks. The course will use case studies from relevant Jihadi Websites, Forums, Chat-Rooms and Social Network. We will then discuss in this course the relevant typologies of cyber-attacks as well as define them. Finally, through case study analysis, we will discuss the motivation and operational capability of selective terrorist groups to operate on the cyber-space.

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



## Grading

### **Class Exercises (30%)**

- Presentation No. 1 - Recruitment & Radicalization: 10%
- Presentation No. 2 - Intelligence Gathering: 20%
- Students will be asked to present in group of four in class, as well as submit their presentations (and any additional documents on Moodle).
- Presentations should be submitted with the ID numbers of all presenters.
- Only one submission on Moodle per group.

### **Final paper (70%)**

- An outline which will include the title of the paper, the main topics and a preliminary bibliography should be submitted via email to the TA).
- Length: in pair: 10-15 pages; if writing alone (6-8 pages)
- Line Spacing: 2.0
- Font: Times New Roman
- Size: 12
- Margin: Standard
- Due Date: TBA
- Weight: 70% of your final grade

- Literature: The paper must be written according to academic writing standards
  - Misc: The assignment can be written in pair or alone
  - Please include a cover page with your ID Number
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## Lecturer Office Hours

Stevie Weinberg: [stevie@ict.org.il](mailto:stevie@ict.org.il)

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## Tutor Office Hours

By appointment: [stevie@ict.org.il](mailto:stevie@ict.org.il)

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## Teaching Assistant

Stevie Weinberg: [stevie@ict.org.il](mailto:stevie@ict.org.il)

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## Reading List

### **Periodical Updates**

- ICT Cyber-Desk, Cyber-Terrorism Activities Reports, International Institute for Counter- Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <http://www.ict.org.il/Articles.aspx?WordID=26>
- Jihadists Use of Virtual Currency, International Institute for Counter- Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <https://www.ict.org.il/images/Jihadists%20Use%20of%20Virtual%20Currency.pdf>
- Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG), JWMG Insight, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <http://www.ict.org.il/Articles.aspx?WordID=24>
- Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG), JWMG Periodical Reviews, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <http://www.ict.org.il/Articles.aspx?WordID=22>
- National Cyber-Security Strategies in the World – Available at: <http://www.enisa.europa.eu/activities/Resilience-and-CIIP/nationalcybersecuritystrategies-ncsss/national-cyber-security-strategies-in-the-world>
- The International Cyber-Terrorism Regulations Projects (ICTRP) - [www.ictcp.org](http://www.ictcp.org)
- The Global Forum for Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT) - <https://www.gifct.org/>
- Tech Against Terrorism - <https://techagainstterrorism.org/>
- Global Network on Terrorism & Technology (GNET) - <https://gnet-research.org/>

### **Readings**

- Berger J.M. and Morgan Jonathon, The ISIS Twitter Census – Defining and Describing the population of ISIS supporters on Twitter, The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Analysis Paper | No. 20, March 2015
- Bertram, L. (2016). Terrorism, the internet and social media advantages. *Journal for Deradicalization*, 7, 225-252.
- Denning, Dorothy, *Terror's Web: How the Internet is Transforming Terrorism*, Handbook of Internet Crime (Y. Jewkes and M. Yar, eds.), Willan Publishing, 2009
- Geers, Kenneth, *Strategic Cyber Security*, Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, NATO, 2011
- Hoffman, Bruce, *The Use of the Internet By Islamic Extremists*, Testimony presented to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 4, 2006
- Jacobson, Michael, (2010) *Terrorist Financing and the Internet*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 33:353-363, 2010
- Jenkins, Michael, *Is al Qaeda's Internet Strategy Working*, Testimony presented to the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, December 6, 2011,
- Musawi, Mohammed Ali, *Cheering for Osama – How Jihadists Use Internet* Discussion Forums, Quillam, August 2010
- Paul Gill, Emily Corner, Amy Thornton, Maura Conway (2015). *What are the roles of the internet in terrorism? Measuring online behaviors of convicted UK terrorists*. VOXPol Network of Excellence.
- Phillip W. Brunst (2010). *Terrorism and the Internet: New Threats Posed by Cyberterrorism and Terrorist Use of the Internet*. Springer.
- Stenersen, Anne, *The Internet – A Virtual Training Camp*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 20:215-233, 2008
- *The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2012
- Tsfati, Yariv and Weimann, Gabriel, *www.terrorism.com: Terrorism on the Internet*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 25:317-332, 2002
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNCTITF (2011) *Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes – Legal and Technical Aspects*. New York: United Nations.
- Weimann, Gabriel (2018). *Going Darker? The challenge of dark net terrorism*. Wilson Center.
- Weimann, Gabriel and Natalie Marsi (2020). *Research Note: Spreading Hate on TikTok*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. Published online: 19 Jun 2020