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@idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:
Mr. Stevie Weinberg  wstevie@idc.ac.il

Course No.: 24156  Course Type : Lecture  Weekly Hours : 3  Credit: 3

Course Requirements : Final Paper  Group Code : 223241561  Language: English

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
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

Lecturer Office Hours
Stevie Weinberg: stevie@ict.org.il

Tutor Office Hours
By appointment: stevie@ict.org.il

Teaching Assistant
Stevie Weinberg: stevie@ict.org.il

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
• The International Cyber-Terrorism Regulations Projects (ICTRP) - www.ictrp.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
• 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
• 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
• The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2012
• Weimann, Gabriel and Natalie Marsi (2020). Research Note: Spreading Hate on TikTok, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism. Published online: 19 Jun 2020