Course Description

The course "Introduction to Terrorism" will focus on providing in-depth analysis of the nature and characteristics of the terrorism phenomenon and the modus operandi of international terrorist organizations, including ISIS, Al Qaeda and its proxies as well as right wing extremism. In addressing primary terrorism trends and dilemmas, the class will devote special focus to the following topics: the definition of terrorism, terrorism as a means of political violence, the suicide attack phenomenon, psychological warfare, media and public opinion, terrorism and public resilience.

Course Goals

After completing this course, the students will be able to:
• Characterize different types of terrorism and analyse their common denominators and differences
• Recognize the rationality (cost-benefit analysis) of terrorists
• Understand the different challenges posed by different terrorist groups
• Understand the different challenges posed by different terrorist modus operandi
• Become smarter consumer of news and developed critical observation on controversial counter terrorism measures

Grading
Final Paper: 100%

(additional instructions will be given in class & on the course website)

Lecturer Office Hours
By appointment

Tutor Office Hours
By appointment

Teaching Assistant
Stevie Weinberg
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Reading List
• Hoffman, Bruce. Inside Terrorism, Columbia University Press, 2006
• Merari, Ariel "Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency," Terrorism and Political Violence
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.aspx
- 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
- The Avalon project of Yale's Law School - http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/21st.asp
- 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
- Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (FFI) [Norwegian Defence Research Establishment] - http://www ffi.no
- RAND Corporation - http://www.RAND.org/research_areas/terrorism
- SITE Intelligence Group - https://wwwsiteintelgroup.com/Pages/Default.aspx