Course Description

Countering Global Jihad is complicated and multi-dimensional. It requires a deep understanding of all levels of the threat, emphasizing the ideological component and its derivatives: policy, strategy, and modus operandi.

Course Goals

The Radical Islamic Ideologies Course will deepen the student’s understanding and knowledge of the development of radical Islamic ideologies, the reciprocal relations between them, and competing Muslim and Western ideologies. The course will deal, inter alia, with "the ideological attack", the fusing of various radical ideologies, and the manner
in which they have been translated into policy and operational strategies. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the part played by the various philosophers in the development of ideological cogitation, from Ibn Hanbal (in the 9 century) to Abu Musab Al-Suri, Al Qaida's ideologist (21 century).

Grading

The grading in the course will be as follows:

1. Core Assignment (20%)
2. A final paper (80%). The students will be required to write on one of the topics relating to the course based on the lessons in class and the reading list; By the end of the semester, full instructions will be published.

Core Assignment (20%):

The students (groups of three–four students) will be required to write a core assignment on one of the following topics in which they will analyze a main concept/idea viewed by a main radical ideologist and its translation to a strategy / its implementation in practice based on primary sources (most of it will be on the Moodle).

1. The ideological debate between Abdullah Azzam to bin Laden on: defining the enemy, prioritizing the ways of action, and the perception of the Mujahideen.
2. Refer to the use of the concept of Hijra from Sayyid Qutb to ISIS; refer as well to the way the message was conveyed and its scale of influence.
3. What are the attitudes among the leaderships of the global jihad organizations with an emphasis on al-Qaeda and ISIS regarding the establishment of the Caliphate and refer to the responses of leading Muslim scholars.
4. The development of the perception of Jihad in the eyes of Hassan al-Banna, Sayyid Qutb and Abdullah Azzam
5. The development of the perception of Jihad in the eyes of bin Laden, Abu Musab al-Zargawi and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
6. What is the ideological line that characterized Anwar al-Alwlaqi; Refer to his accessibility to the hazards of 9/11 terrorist attacks; his activities in AQAP; and to his series of speeches / writings / statements on ideology, strategy and operation.
7. Walaa and Baraa – The Wahhabi approach; al-Qaeda approach; ISIS's approach.
8. The Near Enemy and the Far Enemy – as it viewed by AQ following Sep 11, 2001 and following the Arab Spring (2011).
10. Takfir – as it viewed by AQ following Sep 11, 2001 and following the Arab Spring (2011).
11. *Takfir* - The concept of *Takfir* in ISIS compared to al Qaeda. Also point to the internal debate in ISIS regarding heresy.
12. Abu Musab al-Suri is an outstanding figure in the leadership of al Qaeda and one of the leaders of the strategists in the organization – who is the man, what is his contribution to the ideological discourse and what is his contribution to al Qaeda's operational conduct?
13. Analyze the main points of bin Laden's ideological and operational conception based on his speeches.
15. Analyze the main ideas of Sayyid Qutb's ideology and the operative lines he suggests to counter the crisis that afflicts Islam, as emerges from his writings.

The assignment will include the following:

1. A presentation (5-7 slides).
2. A summary (2-3 pages) that will include:
   1. The name of the course
   2. Name of the student
   3. D. number
   4. Name of the topic
   5. Overview
   6. Body
   7. Conclusion / Insight

The team must send the topic they chose to Dr. Michael Barak's email for his approval following the end of the second lesson.

The students will present their work in the 10th-11th lessons, i.e., Jan 5, 2023, & Jan 12, 2023.
Reading List

Reading list

General


Wahabiyya


The Muslim Brothers


Hasan al-Bana

Sayyid Qutb


Yusuf Al-Qaradawi


Al-Qaeda


Abd Allah ‘Azzam


Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi


Abu Mus'ab al-Suri


Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi

Ayman al-Zawahiri

- “Profile of Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden’s Heir as Leader of Al-Qaeda”, The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, 2011.

ISIS

  

Al-Banna, Hasan


Azzam, Abdullah

- Azzam, Abdullah. A Message To Every Youth. Al-Tibyan Publications.

Ibn Laden, Osama.


Al-Maqdisi, Abu Muhammad Asim

- Al-Maqdisi, Abu Muhammad Asim. This is our Aqeedah. Al-Tibyan Publications.
- “Interview with Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi (December 1997)”, pp73–75.

**Qutb, Sayyid.**

- Qutb, Sayyid. The Islamic Concept and its Characteristics.

**Al-Zarqawi, Abu Musab**


**Al-Zawahiri, Ayman**

- “Knights Under the Prophet's Banner”.

**General**

- “Muhammad Atta: Suicide Note (September 18, 2001)”, pp.233–238.