



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2023

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Terrorism and Extremism on Social Media

Lecturer:

Prof. Gabriel Weimann gabriel.weimann@post.runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Deborah Schimenovitz deborah.schimenovi@post.runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4788	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Exam	231478801	English



Course Description

Terrorism and Extremism on

Social Media 2022/3

Prof. Gabriel Weimann (Ph.D.)*

E-Mail: Weimann@com.haifa.ac.il

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Alexander Pack

E-Mail: alex@ict.org.il

Introduction

Terrorism and extremists have always relied on the mass media for publicity, psychological warfare, propaganda and political achievements. But then came the Internet. Terrorist groups started using the network to distribute their propaganda, to communicate with their supporters, to foster public awareness of and sympathy for their causes, and even to execute operations. Moreover, terror groups started using social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Gab, 8Chan, Telegram and even TikTok to spread their messages, recruit members and gather intelligence. This course examines the relationships between modern terrorists and extremist groups and the new online platforms, how terrorists use these online channels, how democracies can respond to the challenge, and what are the prices of various measures.

Course format

This is an online class (by Zoom). Since the course involves multimedia presentations, attendance is required and will be monitored every lesson. The lessons are not recorded

All the required material including the PowerPoint presentations, video clips, reading material – will be posted online.

Both the lecturer and the TA will be accessible online by emails and will respond to every question or comment. So do not hesitate to write us. The lecturer will have open online "office hour" after each class.

Please note this warning: This course, on terrorism and violent extremism, involves unpleasant and even gruesome material.

Course Outline

(The reading items for each chapter will be provided)

1. **Opening: The Theater of Terror Conceptualization**
2. **The Emergence of Media-Oriented Extremism and Terrorism**
3. **Moving Online:**
 1. **Terrorist websites**
 2. **Terrorist forums and chatrooms**
 3. **Terrorists on social media (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Gab, Telegram, TikTok, etc.)**
4. **New Terrorism Meets New Platforms**
5. **The New Trend: Far-Right Extremism Online**
6. **Psychological Warfare on Social Media**

7. **Radicalization and Recruitment on Social Media**
8. **Virtual Training on Social Media**
9. **Online Narrowcasting: Targeting Sub-Populations**
10. **Lone Wolf or Virtual Packs? The Online Networks of Lone Operators**
11. **Going Darker: Moving to The Dark Net**
12. **Counter Measures, Their Effectiveness and Prices**
13. **Conclusion**

Required Readings:

Most of the reading material is taken from two books but there will be additional readings for some chapters.

All the reading material will be accessible online, you will not need to go to the library or the bookstore.

1. Gabriel Weimann, *Terror on the Internet: The New Arena, The New Challenges*, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2006.

Online at:

<http://books.google.com/>

[books?id=19iCbNOoYmIC&dq=weimann+terrorism&printsec=frontcover&source=bn&hl=iw&ei=Bs4oTMSCIsScIgf0_6i](http://books.google.com/books?id=19iCbNOoYmIC&dq=weimann+terrorism&printsec=frontcover&source=bn&hl=iw&ei=Bs4oTMSCIsScIgf0_6i)

2. Gabriel Weimann, *Terrorism in Cyberspace: The Next Generation*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2015

Requirements:

1. **Attendance is obligatory and will be checked**
2. **Final exam**

Final Grade will be based on the final exam.

*** About the Lecturer:**

Dr. Gabriel Weimann is a Full Professor of Communication at IDC, and a Professor (Emeritus) at the Department of Communication at Haifa University, Israel. His research interests include the study of media effects, political campaigns, persuasion and influence, modern terrorism and the mass media. He published nine books: *Communicating Unreality* (Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2000); *The Influentials: People Who Influence People* (State University of New York Press, 1995); *The Theater of Terror*

(New York: Longman, 1994); *Hate on Trial* (Toronto: Mosaic, 1986); *The Singaporean Enigma* (Jerusalem: Tzivonim, 2001); *Terror in the Internet: The New Arena, the New Challenges* (Washington, DC: USIP Press, 2006), *Freedom and Terror* (London: Routledge, 2011); *Social Research in Israel* (Jerusalem: Tzivonim, 2015), and *Terrorism in Cyberspace* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015). His papers and research reports, about 210 publications, have been published in scientific journals such as *Journal of Communication*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Communication Research*, *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, *American Sociological Review* and others. He received numerous grants and awards from international foundations, including the Fulbright Foundation, the Canadian-Israeli Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, the German National Research Foundation (D.F.G.), the Sasakawa Foundation, United States Institute for Peace (USIP), The Woodrow Wilson Center, the Australian Research Council and others. Prof. Weimann was a Visiting Professor at various universities including the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, American University (DC), Hofstra University, Lehigh University (in USA), University of Mainz and University of Munich (in Germany), Carleton University (in Canada), NYU branch in Shanghai, China, and the National University of Singapore.



Course Goals

Introduction

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Grading

Requirements:

1. **Attendance is obligatory and will be checked**
2. **Final exam**

Final Grade will be based on the final exam.

 Lecturer Office Hours

Office Hours; after class

 Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Alexander Pack

E-Mail: Alex@ict.org.il

 Reading List

Reading items for each week will be provided, free, on Moodle, every week.