RPAD/RPOS 554: Terrorism and Political Violence
Understanding Terrorism, Insurgency and Civil Conflict

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Spring 2016
Th 5:45-8:35, Husted 208
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Course Description

This course is designed to give a theoretical and substantive understanding of numerous varieties of non-state violence, and how states respond to it. This is a field that has grown rapidly in salience and interest – both in the public policy sphere and in the scholarly one. As such, there has been a growth in the analysis of these issues – some of it good, some of it bad, and much of it ugly. In this course we will be parsing through much of this analysis, looking at the key discussions in the field, examining the policy impacts of conflict analysis, and looking into individual conflicts and militant organizations.

Non-state political violence has become one of the major public policy issues in both US foreign policy, as well increasingly in domestic policy (i.e. Homeland Security). The terms for these activities are myriad: terrorism, militancy, insurgency, guerilla warfare, low-intensity conflict, civil war, to name but a few. The responses too span far and wide in terms of their depth, scope, goals, means and resourcing; from counterinsurgency, to counterterrorism, to traditional policing and intelligence work.

This course will examine terrorism and political violence theoretically, drawing on frames from comparative politics, economics, criminal justice, demographics, and the study of technology, among other social scientific approaches. We will also examine terrorism and political violence more substantively, including looking at individual conflicts, violent organizations and activists, government responses and policies, and future trajectories of political violence. By combining the conceptual models with the practical case studies - the systematic social scientific approach with the real world of policy - this course is designed to offer insights into who engages in political violence, why they do it, where and when such violence is likely, and how governments respond to it.

Required Readings

For purchase:
Available online:
Other readings (except several journal articles which must be accessed through JSTOR/EBSCO/etc.) are available online.

Course Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Response Papers (6 x 5%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Proposal and Peer Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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1. Class Participation
This course is a seminar and therefore regular attendance and active participation are mandatory. Unlike a typical course, which is designed around a series of lectures by the professor, in a seminar the professor frames discussions and debates that will arise from the readings and students presentations. The seminar format does not work if you are not prepared - with thorough responses to all reading assignments, the professor’s questions, and engaged with your fellow students. The burden is on you to add something substantive to each discussion and move the seminar’s collective understanding of the topic forward. In short, **you will be doing most of the work.**
- Always come prepared to discuss how the readings fit into class themes.
- Always bring the assigned readings for that week’s discussion to class.
- Always bring a hard copy of any assigned response paper

2. Reading Response Papers
For **6 of the 14 Classes (not counting the first one)** you will be expected to submit Reading Response Papers. These **2-3 page** response papers are designed to make you synthesize the information you’ve read for the week. These papers are due at the beginning of class on the day those readings are to be done. When writing your responses, try to think about some basic questions:
- What do these readings have in common? How do they differ?
- Do they address similar questions?
- Do they agree? Disagree? Complement each other? Seem dissonant?
- Do they use similar methods?
- Why would these readings be put together? (In conjunction, how do they illustrate dynamics of political violence better than they might alone?)

The Response Papers will be graded according to a simple scale of:
5 points) Strong Analysis and Synthesis – basically an “A”
4 points) Acceptable Analysis – basically a “B”
3 or less) Unacceptable/Incomplete – basically a “C” or lower

3. Research Paper
Further details on the research paper (including the proposal, peer-review process, and presentation) will be distributed early in the semester.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1) Battle of Algiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency</td>
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<td>2) Weinstein, Jeremy. (2005) Resources and The Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment. JCR.</td>
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<td>3) CIA. (Undated) Guide to the Analysis of Insurgency.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2/18</th>
<th>Terrorism</th>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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| 3/3  | Counter-Terrorism | 1) 9/11 Commission Report. Chapters 3, 4, 8, 10  
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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4) Fishman, Brian (ed). (2008) Bombers, Bank Accounts and Bleedout: Al Qaida's Road In and Out of Iraq. USMA CTC. Chapter 4 |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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| 3/31   | Culture – Religion and Ideology  
4) Case Study: Oslo Norway Attacks  
   - Time - Killers Manifesto: The Politics Behind the Norway Slaughter 
   http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2084901,00.html  
   - Hegghammer/NYT - The Rise of the Macro-Nationalists 
   - Breivik’s Manifesto 
| 4/7    | Technology and Cyber Conflict  
3) Citizen Lab Reports on Insurgent and COIN Uses of Cyber Attacks:  
   Syrian Government: 
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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3) Hegghammer, Thomas. (2013) Should I Stay or Should I Go? Explaining Variation in Western Jihadists Choice Between Domestic and Foreign Fighting. APSR. |
| 4/21 | Conclusion and Moving Forward | 1) Remote Control Warfare:  
Cyberspace: An Assessment of Current Threats, Real Consequences and Potential Solutions:  
New Ways of War: Is Remote Control Warfare Effective:  
2) Climate Change:  
DoD - 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap:  
CAN – National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change: |
| 4/28 | Presentations of Final Papers and Wrap Up |