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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
JS 123 is an upper-division course focusing on terrorism and security. Terrorism is certainly one of the major problems that endanger human security throughout the world. Since 9/11 the successive US governments have been spearheading a global war on terror which consumes a large chunk of tax-payers’ money. The organizations like Hamas in Palestinian territories and ISIS in Syria and Iraq have brought terrorism again to the center-stage of public discourse in USA and the world. Terrorism has been described as “the poor man's air force” and as a tactic used by states to achieve foreign and domestic policy goals. This description of terrorism highlights the complexity of terrorism, which is a tactic used by individuals, groups, and states for a variety of goals. No single course can give you a full understanding of this topic, but this course hopes to provide the tools necessary to become educated consumers of news in a post-9/11 world. We will explore the phenomenon of non-state terrorism. The two central goals of the course are to provide students with an opportunity to study the historical use of political terror and to encourage students to think of terrorist activity not as the work of the mad, but of self-interested and calculating political actors. To accomplish these goals, we will examine a large swath of the literature both in historical scope and theoretical arguments.

Please note that this is an online course in which students will 1) watch videos of my course lectures that have been posted on Canvas, and 2) take online quiz, midterm and final exams, and complete assignments that, as noted above, will also be posted on Canvas. Hence this course is essentially located on Canvas, to which enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material, except for the course books, will be available thought Canvas. Although I may be available in the campus to meet with interested students in person during the semester, all students are responsible for watching these lecture videos online, taking notes on those lectures, doing the course readings, taking the online quizzes, midterm and final examinations and submitting assignments (paper critiques) online. (A word to the wise: Students who do not watch the course lectures in sequential order as the semester progresses, or do not take notes on the contents, or do not do the required course readings will find it impossible to get a good grade and may well end up failing this course. Cutting corners or cramming before
exams, which is never a good idea for students who are serious about learning, is likely to lead to disaster in an online course!) To reiterate, course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

REQUIRED TEXT

1. BRUCE HOFFMAN. 2006. INSIDE TERRORISM. NEW YORK: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS.

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence
A plus = 100-96%, A = 95-93%, A minus = 92-90%, B plus = 89-86%, B = 85-83%, B minus = 82-80%, C plus = 79-76%, C = 75-73%, C minus = 72-70%, D plus = 69-66%, D = 65-63%, D minus = 62-60%, F = 59-0%

GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Four Critique papers: 20%
Mid Term Exam 30%
Final Exam: 30%
Quiz: 20%

1. Four Critique papers 20%
In four different weeks, you should prepare a four page critique of the week’s assigned article. Critiques must be typed, double-spaced, and in a font size no smaller than 11. Critiques are required to be uploaded online through Canvas. I will evaluate your critiques for critical content. Works that merely summarize the readings will receive poor marks. When writing your critique, keep in mind the following points: what are the important claims made by the author? What has the author really shown? What are the strength and weakness of the arguments? What are the possibilities for related research? What interesting questions (at least three) we can ask to the author? I will not accept any critiques after the deadline.¹

2. Mid Term Exam 30%
A mid-term examination will be given to assess your knowledge and understanding of course material covered during lecture. These will consist of three essay-type questions. The approximate submission dates for the mid-term and final exams appear in the schedule below. The exam questions will be given/uploaded on Canvas about seven days before the submission date.

3. Final Exam 30%
The final exam will cover chapters and articles covered after the midterm and may have similar format.

¹ You are not required to analyze mathematical stuff in case of a quantitative paper.
4. Quiz  
A quiz will be assigned each week from the second week (about 10 in total). The students are required to take the timed quiz through Canvas. The questions will be based on previous week’s reading and will evaluate students’ understanding of the topics of discussion.

**Student Learning Objectives are as follows:**

Upon completion of this course, students would/should be able to:

SLO 1: Have a clear understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism as distinguishable from other forms of political violence.

SLO 2: Be familiar with the theories of terrorism.

SLO 3: Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals.

SLO 4: Identify the causal factors which drive terrorist violence.

SLO 5: Understand the risk to human security posed by terrorist violence.

SLO 6: Learn about different responses to terrorism and strategies to counter terrorist violence.

SLO 7: Learn to engage in educated discourse of the sensitive issue of terrorism.

**Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy**
The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

**University Policies**

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current
academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University’s continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video,
slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU, Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or
psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

Schedule

Week 1: Definition and Typology
Reading:

1. Hoffman, Ch. 1, pp. 1-40

Week 2: Strategies, goals and logic of Terrorism


# First paper critique – *Kydd and Walter (2006): Due on September 11 #

Week 3: Terrorism in Modern World
Reading:

1. Hoffman, Ch. 2, pp. 43-62

Week 4: Discrimination and Terrorism (Theory)
Reading:

3. Shining Path, Peru: Reading TBA

# Second paper critique – *Piazza (2012): Due on September 25 #
Week 5: Discrimination and Terrorism (Case Studies)  
Reading:  
1. Basque Fatherland (ETA): Reading TBA  

Week 6: Democracy and Terrorism  
Reading:  

**Midterm due on October 13 (The question paper will posted one week ahead of this date)**

Week 7: Democracy and Terrorism  
Reading:  
1. Hoffman, Ch. 6 & Ch. 7 (Media/public opinion and terrorism)

Week 8: Development/Globalization and Terrorism  
Reading:  

# Third paper critique – *Ghatak & Gold: Due on November 3 #
Week 9: Terrorism and State weakness


Week 10: The Internationalization of Terrorism
Reading:

1. Hoffman, Ch. 3

Week 11: Suicide Terrorism
Reading:

1. Hoffman, Ch. 4, pp.131-171

Week 12: Religion and Terrorism
Reading:

1. Hoffman, Ch. 4, pp. 81 – 130.
   2 ISIS: TBA

Week 13: Crime and Terrorism
Reading:


# Fourth paper critique – *Hutchinson and O’Malley (2007): Due on November 21#
Week 14: Counter-terrorism
Reading:


Week 15: Future of Terrorism: Will it end?
Reading:


Final Exam Due: TBD