



**SAN JOSÉ STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**JS123: TERRORISM AND SOCIETY**

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Bale  
Department: Justice Studies  
Semester: Spring 2017  
Contact Hours: Tuesday 3-4, Friday 2-3 (via phone or email): (831) 647-6603; [jbale@miis.edu](mailto:jbale@miis.edu)

**Course Description and Objectives**

This course is designed to provide a critical introduction to the subject of terrorism, an often misunderstood phenomenon that has assumed a particular salience in the wake of 9/11. Its aim is to clarify fundamental definitional and conceptual problems, introduce students to the burgeoning literature on the subject, describe basic terrorist organizational and operational methods, survey a wide range of terrorist groups and ideologies, examine certain high-profile terrorism themes, and tentatively assess the nature of the threat posed by terrorists to global security in the future. The course requirements will include a mid-term examination (40% of grade) and a final examination (60% of grade). After the exams are posted on Canvas, you will be given a one week period during which you will have to spend a single two-hour session taking the exams. On each exam, you will have to answer one essay question that contains several components. Your grade will be determined on the basis of how many of these components you correctly answer.

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 midterm and final exams 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 that will be on reserve in the library, will be acquired and/or turned in via that website. Although I may visit the SJSU campus once or twice during the semester to meet with interested students in person, all students are responsible for watching these lecture videos online, taking notes on those lectures, doing the course readings, and taking the online midterm and final examinations. (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.

The Student Learning Objectives for this course are as follows:

- 1) To distinguish terrorism from other types of political violence;
- 2) To become broadly familiar with different theoretical and analytical approaches to the subject;
- 3) To understand the core characteristics of various extremist political and religious ideologies that have served to motivate terrorists;
- 4) To identify the world's major terrorist organizations in each ideological category;
- 5) To learn about different responses to terrorism and approaches to counterterrorism;
- 6) To recognize present and future security threats posed by terrorist groups to the U.S., other countries, and the international community

In short, in this course you will be expected to master vitally important basic information about the phenomenon of terrorism.

Note that SJSU classes are designed in such a way that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf> . Note also that “[a]ll students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Note further that students must achieve a grade of "C" or better (not "C-") to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements, including all JS prefixes and FS 161 and FS 162.

The books listed immediately below will be needed for this course. Almost all of these books have been placed on 2-hour reserve (and some films on overnight reserve) at the SJSU library, whereas some books are available as eBooks. Alternatively, students can purchase personal copies of the following books:

Required Texts:

- David Cook, *Understanding Jihad* (Berkeley: University of California, 2005) ISBN 0-520-24448-6, paperback
- Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (Berkeley: University of California, 2003) ISBN 0-520-24011-1, paperback
- Farhad Khosrokhavar, *Inside Jihadism: Understanding Jihadi Movements Worldwide* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2009), ISBN 978-1-59451-616-0, paperback
- Walter Reich, ed., *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind* (Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center, 1998) ISBN 0-943875-89-7, paperback
- Marc Sageman, *Leaderless Jihad: Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2007) ISBN 0-8122-4065-0, hardcover
- Raymond Ibrahim, ed. and trans., *The Al Qaeda Reader* (New York: Broadway Books, 2007) ISBN 978-0-76792262-3, paperback

Recommended Texts:

- Barry Rubin and Judith Colp Rubin, eds., *Anti-American Terrorism and the Middle East: A Documentary Reader* (Oxford: Oxford University, 2002) ISBN 0-19-515715-X, paperback

## **Student Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. The university's Academic Integrity Policy requires students to be honest in all academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. A few students get into trouble because they are unaware of what constitutes academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference (e.g., stealing another student's work), violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Academic misconduct could result in failure for an assignment (typically a grade of zero) or for the course or even in expulsion from the university. The academic integrity policy can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct> . My punishments will be in accordance with university policies – I will not tolerate academic misconduct.

## **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf> , requires students to obtain the instructor's permission to record the course. "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material." If you wish to reproduce or distribute anything, you must get permission from me in writing beforehand. Moreover, "[c]ourse material developed by the instructor is also the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, and so forth. Students should also be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. Policies for adding classes are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-1800.html> . Policies for dropping classes are found at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-1809.html> , and information about late drops is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/> . Finally, deadlines for adding and dropping classes are listed on the registration calendar available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/> .

## **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

Although this is not as likely to be an issue with respect to online courses, San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf> .

## **Disabilities**

Every qualified student is entitled to equal access to learning. If you have a specific disability that may be addressed with academic accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible. I will try to work with you to ensure that you have a positive learning experience. You should inform me of necessary course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. This office is located in Administration Building, Room 110. If you are not registered with AEC, you should still discuss your issues with me to see if I may help. Many disabilities require extended time for exams; my policy is to always allow extended time for all students on all exams – this is why exams have ample time.

**Course Outline (Note: Since this an online course rather than an in-class course that meets on specific weekdays, the “dates” listed below are not precise – they are simply general guidelines indicating what videotaped lectures you will need to watch and what materials you will need to read each week during the semester. You should normally plan on watching two class lectures per week. The midterm and final exams will be posted on the dates listed, and you will have a two-hour block within which to take it over the course of a week.)**

## **Part I: Definitional and Conceptual Issues**

Week 1 (24, 26 January): Introduction: What is Terrorism?

Required Reading:

Schmid, *Routledge Handbook of Terrorism Research*, chapter 2

Week 2 (31 January, 2 February): The Etiology of Insurgent Political Violence and Terrorism

Required Reading:

Schmid, *Routledge Handbook of Terrorism Research*, chapter 4

Cronin, “Sources of Contemporary Terrorism,” in Cronin and Ludes, eds., *Attacking Terrorism*

Week 3 (7 February): The Purported Psychological Characteristics of Insurgent Terrorists

Required Reading:

Post, “Terrorist Psycho-Logic,” in Reich, ed., *Origins of Terrorism*

Reich, “Understanding Terrorist Behavior,” in Reich, ed., *Origins of Terrorism*

Bale, “Short Essay in Response to Radicalization Questions,” essay for USG

(9 February): The Goals of Insurgent Terrorists – Rational or Delusional?

Required Reading:

Crenshaw, “The Logic of Terrorism,” in Reich, *Origins of Terrorism*

Bale, “The ‘Strategic Thinking’ of al-Qā‘ida and the Question of Terrorist Rationality”

Week 4 (14, 16 February): State Terrorism

Required Reading:

Stohl, “The State as Terrorist,” in *Democracy and Security 2* (2006), pp. 1-12

Hodges, *Argentina’s “Dirty War”*, pp. ix-xiv, 172-94

Bale, “Terrorists as State ‘Proxies’: Separating Fact from Fiction,” in Innes, ed., *Making Sense of Proxy Wars*, pp. 1-29, 153-67

Film: “The Battle of Algiers”

Week 5 (21 February): Terrorist Organization, Strategy, Tactics, and Targets

Required Reading and Viewing:

Long, *Anatomy of Terrorism*, chapters 2, 6

Drake, *Terrorists’ Target Selection*, chapters 4-6

Springer, Regens, and Edger, *Islamic Radicalism and Global Jihad*, chapter 3

Film: “The Assault”

## **Part II: The Principal Categories of Terrorism during the Cold War Era**

(23 February): Ethno-Nationalist Separatist and Irredentist Terrorism

Required Reading:

Long, *Anatomy of Terrorism*, chapter 3

Shabad and Llera Ramo, “Basque Terrorism in Spain,” in Crenshaw, ed., *Terrorism in Context*

Week 6 (28 February): Left-Wing Terrorism

Required Reading:

Long, *Anatomy of Terrorism*, chapter 4

Alexander and Pluchinsky, *Europe's Red Terrorists*, chapter 2

McCormick, "The Shining Path and Peruvian Terrorism," in Rapoport, ed., *Inside Terrorist Organizations*

Film: "United Red Army"

(2 March): Right-Wing Terrorism

Required Reading:

Bale, "Terrorism, Right-Wing," in Cook, ed., *Europe since 1945: An Encyclopedia*

Smith, *Terrorism in America*, chapters 4-5

Week 7 (7 March) Midterm Examination

### **Part III: The "New" Religious Terrorism**

Week 8 (14, 16 March): Religious Terrorism

Required Reading:

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, chapters 7-10

Week 9 (21, 23 March): Christian Terrorism

Required Reading and Viewing:

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, chapter 2

Film: "Soldiers in the Army of God"

Week 10 (4 April): Jewish Terrorism

Required Reading:

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, chapter 3

(6 April): Apocalyptic Cults and Terrorism

Required Reading:

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, chapter 6

Bale, "The 'Cult' Wars, Part I," *Hit List* magazine

Film: "Ticket to Heaven"

Week 11 (11, 13 April): Islamism and Muslim Terrorism

Required Reading:

Bale, "Islamism and Totalitarianism," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* 10:2 (June 2009)

Cook, *Understanding Jihad*, chapters 1-2, 5

Rubin and Rubin, *Anti-American Terrorism*, pp. 29-32, 62-4, 131-3, 137-42, 149-51, 289-90

Ibrahim, ed., *Al Qaeda Reader*, pp. 17-62

Week 12 (18 April): Global *Jihād*: Al-Qā'ida and Transnational Terrorist Networks

Required Reading:

Khosrokhavar, *Inside Jihadism*, introduction, chapters 1-2

Sageman, *Leaderless Jihad*, chapter 4

Bale, "Analysis of Marc Sageman's *Leaderless Jihad*," report for USG

Week 13 (20, 25 April): Global Jihadist Objectives

Khosrokhavar, *Inside Jihadism*, chapters 3-4

Harris, "Al-Qaeda's Fantasy Ideology"

Scheuer, *Imperial Hubris*, chapters 1, 5

Week 14 (27 April): Islamist Terrorist Groups in the West

Required Reading and Viewing:

Khosrokhavar, *Inside Jihadism*, chapter 6

Hoffman, "The Myth of Grass-Roots Terrorism," *Foreign Affairs* (May-June 2008)

Film: "Islam vs. Islamists"

#### **Part IV: Conclusion: The Future of Terrorism**

(2 May): The Tension between Security and Civil Liberties

Required Reading and Viewing:

Cole and Dempsey, *Terrorism and the Constitution*, chapter 1

Emerson, *American Jihad*, pp. 1-8, chapter 2, and appendices A-C

Film: "Terrorists Among Us: Jihad in America"

(18-24 May) Final Examination