

AJ 133 TERRORISM (course number 17403)
Offered Tuesday & Thursday, 0730- 0845 hrs, MH 520.
Instructor: P.C. Unsinger

FALL 2000

Course Description: an examination of the variety of terrorist activities from assassination to mass movements of communal violence as being currently experienced in Indonesia. We'll look at the political and cultural aspects of terrorism, the philosophies behind the violence, the sponsors or representative actors and the countervailing forces deployed. Some mechanics of terrorist acts will be explored.

Office and Hours: The instructor is available for consultation on T/Th 0700-0730hrs and at 1145-1345 hrs. Office is MH 521, right next to the classroom. The office phone is 408 924 1350. The office fax machine is 408 924 2953. Email is <unsinger@email.sjsu.edu>. The phone, fax and email are checked twice a week at about 1200 hrs on T/Th. The monitoring of phone, facsimile and e-mail is not geared for emergencies and should not be depended upon for that purpose.

Textbook: There is no one text selected for the class. The field of terrorism has been extensively explored in books, articles and newspaper accounts. At this very moment there are several major terrorist "events" occurring and news accounts of them on interactive newspapers can easily be monitored. The library and even the internet is an excellent source for information about the topic or specific areas of interest.

Attendance: There is a strong correlation between attending class and receiving a high score on exams and the paper. Attendance is taken, on occasion, by the instructor and kept for his own records.

Grades and Grading: There are a term paper and examinations used to collect information for giving a course grade. The term paper carries a weight of 100 points and there are two examinations, each carrying a weight of 50 points. A total of 200 points are possible. The dates when the paper is turned in and when exams are taken are listed in the course schedule. There is also a make-up day for those who cannot take an exam at a regular hour for whatever reason. There is no excuse for a late paper as a "window" for submission is provided. On a separate sheet the criteria for a paper is provided.

Care should be exercised on any written work. This is a university and the organization and mechanics of writing should be of that level. The same care should be exercised in noting sources of material whether from the internet or from a book or news clippings. Letter grades are assigned according to the following:

A+ = 200-197; A = 196-188; A- = 187-185
B+ = 184-181; B = 180-174; B- = 173-170
C+ = 169-167; C = 166-130; C- = 129-120
D+ = 119-116; D = 115-105; D- = 104-100
F = 99 and below

On the paper, there are standard university practices that need not be explained. However, a sheet with topics that are contained in any analysis of a terrorist organization is provided. "Style" manuals are readily available at bookstores or over internet providers. Select one and follow it carefully. All sources need to be cited and proper endnoting and bibliography is accepted practice in all papers. A word of caution: computer program failures are in some correlation with the date papers are due. So, extreme care should be exercised as the due date draws near.

Class Safety: A review of university safety procedures will be made. Students should familiarize themselves with the procedures.

Schedule:

29 Aug (t) first day of class. Explanation of course and requirements. Review of university safety procedures. Definitions (academic and operational).

31 Aug (th) Theoretical Constructs of Terrorism: Philosophical Basis. The Leites and Wolf Model of Insurgency.

5 Sep (t) The Just War/The Just Assassination

7 Sep (th) Classifications of Terrorism: Class v Class, Nationalism, State Sponsored/Maintenance, Communal/Cultural, Religious, Purging the Unwanted and Centrifugal.

12 Sep (t) Terror's Structure: Table of Organization and Functions

14 Sep (th) Counter-Terrorism: Organization and Functions

19 Sep (t) Class Terror: The Ideological Pattern (Socialism and the Marx/Leninist theory)

21 Sep (th) The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939 – Society in Turmoil. Turn in subject of paper on 3x5 card.

26 Sep (t) Mao's Idealism – Landlords and Cultural Revolution

28 Sep (th) Stalin's Purges – Power Competition, Anti-Semitism and Paranoia.

3 Oct (t) Ultimate Class Terror – Cambodia and the Killing Fields

5 Oct (th) Foreign Sponsored Terrorism – Afghanistan and the Cold War Rivalry of the USSR v USA

10 Oct (t) State Sponsored Terror – Ethnic Purging and the Jewish Question in the German State

12 Oct (th) State Building (Nationalism) – Palestine, 1918-1948

17 Oct (t) State Building (Nationalism)– Algeria, 1948-1958

19 Oct (th) Centrifugal Force Terrorism - Timor

24 Oct (t) Centrifugal Force Terrorism – Indonesia and Outlying Regions

26 Oct (th) Centrifugal Force Terrorism – Sri Lanka and the Tamils

31 Oct (t) mid term examination
2 Nov (th) Negating and Demonizing an Enemy – The Waco Incident

7 Nov (t) video “Waco – the Rules of Engagement” (instructor will be in Bangkok)
9 Nov (th) video “Waco – the Rules of Engagement” (instructot will be in Bangkok)

14 Nov (t) Racial Terror – Kenya (1952) and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)
16 Nov (th) Northern Ireland – Combination of Them All

21 Nov (t) video “Death of a Terrorist”
23 Nov (th) Thanksgiving Holiday

28 Nov (t) Terror’s Weapon: Briefcase Nuclear Devices
30 Nov (th) Terror’s Weapon: Aviation – Hijacking & Bombing

5 Dec (t) Terror’s Weapons: Chemical & Biological Devices
7 Dec (th) course final examination

12 Dec (t) Make up day for examination(s), Rm MH 520 at 1000 hrs

18 Dec (m) Papers due by 0930 hours

TERRORIST ACTION GROUP

- (1) select a terrorist group as your research topic
- (2) your paper will consist, and not be limited to, the following topics:
 - (a) Synopsis or executive summary of the work
 - [1] summary of study
 - [2] geographical setting (including appropriate maps)
 - [3] political/cultural context
 - [4] general evaluation of threat to U.S. interests
 - (b) General description of the group as to
 - [1] general and specific grievances and aims
 - [2] structure, organization, personnel characteristics (composition), etc.
 - [3] identification with specific client group(s)
 - [4] other competitive/complimentary group(s); internal/external
 - (c) target choices
 - [1] opposition and force available to it; internal supports
 - [2] external forces for and against group
 - [3] symbolic targets
 - [4] news worthy targets in immediate and remote reach
 - [5] audience possibilities
 - (d) method of operations
 - [1] standard/known methods employed
 - [2] unique methods employed
 - [3] case example of action
 - (e) forecasts of actions and results
 - [1] external to USA of threat – symbolic, etc.
 - [2] internal USA threat – symbolic, etc.
 - [3] likely outcomes of group action(s)
 - (f) sources of information and evaluation
 - [1] arrangement of sources according to primary & secondary sources
 - [2] evaluation of all sources as to reliability, relevancy and materiality
 - (g) susceptibility to countermeasures
 - [1] existing vulnerabilities
 - [2] possible vulnerabilities
 - [3] resources available for application

3. Paper is due on _____. Paper should be assembled into a suitable folder. Normal standards for submission of papers apply (grammar, etc.). Citations can be made in endnotes and should follow standard procedures.