

AJ 133 Terrorism

Fall 2003 Term.

---Course Coverage--- This class covers a variety of topics on Terrorism, related to Terrorism and techniques employed in thwarting Terrorism. The variety of uses of Terrorism, from state sponsored, state implemented to community upon community, is a vast range. Attempts will be made to address all aspects in theory and through in-depth case examples.

Students of Terrorism need to know a variety of things. To understand weapons of mass destructions, for instance, requires some knowledge of nuclear physics. To protect a society in its transportation, such as aviation, some knowledge of the airline industry, airports and general aviation are needed. The list could go on.

The course will attempt to provide the student with adequate knowledge and skills for informed, engaged assessment of terrorism theory and practice.

Classroom MH 520. Class Code Number is 60869. Time 1030-1145 on TTh.

Instructor: Peter Charles Unsinger. Background in aviation security with Singapore Air Terminal Services (SIA Spin-off); intelligence (field operations and analysis – currently Senior Fellow in the Center for Current Events Analysis); policing at local (Milpitas), county (Santa Clara County), state (New South Wales and Northern Territory) and national level (Australian Federal Police); police interactions with Singapore Police Force, National Police Administration (Taiwan) and the Philippine National Police; commercial interactions with the International Maritime Bureau (London); and other official/semi-official and NGO groups such as Civil Aviation Authority on questionable travel documents (Cambodia & Republic of China), U.S. Immigration and Naturalization and Port Authority Sabah.

Office: MH 521. Office Hours are MW 1015-1115 hrs, TTh 0845-1030 hrs and Th 1630-1730 hrs.

Phone, etc.: Office Phone is 408 924 1350; Fax is 408 924 2953; email is unsinger@email.sjsu.edu. Caution should be exercised in using telephones, facsimile and email, etc.

TEXTBOOK: There really is no “good” textbook – that is, a one source for all things about Terrorism. Terrorism is too diverse a topic. Also, academia often ignores

many historical examples of Terrorism like class warfare as practiced by Stalin and Mao. Practitioners concentrate only on their own first hand experience.

Another problem posed by textbook(s) is that the purchaser feels subject matter testing should be based on their reading comprehension and retention. This restricts the education of the individual in becoming an analytical and functioning scholar.

There is, however, a library and your computer's search engines. Amazing what can be found there when doing a focused search. Beats a textbook.

When topics are introduced, the true student pursues the topic – finding out what the literature says and then scanning and absorbing needed detail from websites.

True students work with others collecting and collating information. You are encouraged to do so.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are two examinations. Each is inclusive of what was covered during the period preceding it. So, for the mid-term, one should prepare by conducting an exploration of all topics from the first class meeting to the date of the mid-term. For the final examination, one should prepare by studying the topics covered from the mid-term to the last class presentation.

There is a paper. This provides the student of Terrorism with the experience of examining a particular topic and providing a written explanation for the reader of the topic. A topic can be a Terrorist technique, operation, background of causation or maybe even a study of an individual Terrorist. The choice of topic is made by the report writer.

Lastly, there is a power point presentation. The subject is left to the student and again the length and breadth will be dependent upon the topic. A key element in grading is thoroughness.

GRADING AND COURSE WORKLOAD:

Grading is based on the examinations being worth a total of 50%, the paper being worth 25% and the Power Point Presentation being the remaining 25%.

San Jose State University has the following grading criteria: grade A being EXCELENT, grade B being ABOVE AVERAGE, grade C being AVERAGE, D being BELOW AVERAGE and F for FAILING the course.

To be excellent one should be in the upper percentile of the class, usually about 5-10%. Those above average are about 10-15% of the next highest. Average, or C students, would be the middle range doing satisfactory work. Those doing below average or failing would show through examinations, paper and project a lower level of accomplishment. Points will be added up and placed in rank order. Grades are then assigned according to the percentiles described. Some instructor discretion will be shown in instances where the numbers in higher categories are with more or less than the percentiles.

Slide and Video Presentations:

All lecture topics have been put together using the Power Point computer application.

The photographs are drawn primarily from news sources found on the internet. The BBC is an excellent source for stories and photographs.

The videos are commercially available. Both videos employed serve a purpose of showing two forms of political points of view. One examines the current (1998) situation in Algeria, a condition that continues to the present day. It is produced with the point of portraying the anti-fundamentalist Islamic movement in a negative light. The other is a classic propaganda function of the movie industry, in this case anti-colonialism and anti-capitalism. The movie, obviously leftist and at that time pro-Islamic, won an academy award for best foreign film. Times do change.

Missed class and you want to borrow them? Purge that thought from your mind.

Safety Issues Described.

Schedule:

August 21 Academic Year Begins

August 26 First Class Meeting. This important session covers the introduction of the course and the instructor, class requirements as to papers, examinations and practical and other relevant material.

August 28 Introduction to Terrorism.

September 2 Weapons of Mass Destruction

September 4 Bombing (General)

September 9 Assassinations.

September 11 Airport Security.

September 12 Last Day to Drop a Class without an Entry on Record

September 16 Aircraft Bombing.

September 18 Aircraft Hijacking

September 19 Last Day to Add Class and Register Late

September 23 Passports and Fraudulent Travel Documents.

September 25 State Operation of Terror – Stalin’s Purges and Mao’s Cultural Revolution

September 30 Commerce as Target

October 2 Europe’s Left and Terror

October 7 Northern Ireland

October 9 Cambodia and Pol Pot

October 14 Mid-Term Examination

October 16 Religious, Cultural, Land Tenure (latifundia), and Nationalism Terrorism – Algeria 1945+

October 21 video: Algeria's State of Seige

October 23 Movie: Battle of Algiers

October 28 Movie: Battle of Algiers

October 30 HUK/NPA (Philippines) and Malaya 1948-57

November 4 Suicide Bombings

November 6 East Timor

November 10 The U.S. Marine Corps' 228th Birthday

November 11 Chechnya

November 13 Afghanistan

November 18 Palestine

November 20 Small Time Terrorism and Bougainville/New Caledonia/Angola

November 25 Colombia

November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday.

December 2 Paper Due. Olympic Games

December 4 Sri Lanka

December 9 Last Day of Instruction. Chiapas (Mexico)

December 10 Study/Conference Day (no classes or examinations)

December 11 Final Examination; Power Point Presentation Due. Examination @ 0945hrs.