The Sociology of Global Terrorism

SOCI 4957/5957
Spring 2011

Reorganize a bit based on last spring’s feedback, etc.!!

Instructor:
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office phone: 423-439-6652 (on campus: 96652)
office location: 223A Rogers-Stout Hall
office hours: Mon., Tues., Wed. 9-10 am; or by appt.

Course meets:
Room 324 Rogers-Stout; Mon., Wed. 1:40-3:00 pm

Required Texts:
The following texts are required. Occasional use will be made of D2L.

2. D. Cook, Understanding Jihad (U California, 2005).

Course Purpose/Goals:
This course provides motivated students an in-depth knowledge of contemporary global Islamist terrorism. Designed for all students--regardless of major--it is also directly pertinent to those seeking employment in homeland security-related occupations including counterterrorism, law enforcement, intelligence, the armed forces, and academe.
Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course students should be able to:

- define and characterize the concept ‘terrorism’.
- describe a proposed conceptual framework for analyzing global jihadism and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).
- characterize the core pillars of Quranically-derived Islamic belief and practice.
- depict the Quranically-based conception of jihad.
- engage and examine primary writings by classical and contemporary jihadist authorities/authors.
- examine the nature, concept, and historical evolution of violent jihad in Islam.
- illustrate key dimensions of contemporary global jihadism, including its doctrinal foundations, ideologues, strategists, and propagandists.
- describe key dimensions of twenty-first century global jihadist networks, including the prospects for the recent emergence of a ‘leaderless’ jihad.
- characterize select elements of a comprehensive counter-global jihadist strategy.

Course Organization/Format:
This course is taught in a lecture-discussion format. The instructor is primarily responsible for lecturing and presenting course material; students are responsible for completing assigned readings before the date they will be discussed. Students are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss these readings, and/or ask questions about them.

Evaluation Plan:
Course grades are based on two take-home essay exams and class participation. The weighting of each component is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take-home essay-exam 1</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home essay-exam 2</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Grading Scale:
The ETSU +/- Scale is used in this course.

Undergraduate | Graduate
---|---
A 94-100% | 94-100%
A- 90-93 | 90-93
B+ 87-89 | 87-89
B 84-86 | 84-86
B- 80-83 | 80-83
C+ 77-79 | 77-79
C 74-76 | 74-76
C- 70-73 | 70-73
D+ 67-69 | 67-69
D 65-66 | 65-66
F 64 and below | 73 and below
**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is required and is part of the class participation grade. Students are permitted three unexcused absences without consequence. Students are expected to inform the instructor if possible of pending absences, or should contact the instructor immediately following an absence to clarify its terms. Use instructor’s e-mail address whenever necessary in this regard *(kamolnp@etsu.edu).*

**Policy on Make-ups**

Make-ups in general are not available. However, make-ups will be permitted if a student can prove serious or reasonably unavoidable extenuating circumstances. Students who seek to exercise this option must contact the instructor before-hand, if at all possible, or immediately thereafter regardless.
Course Itinerary & Required Readings:

INTRODUCTION: GLOBAL JIHADISM AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT).

January
Mon., 17th OFF; Dr. MLK, Jr. Holiday
Wed., 19th Course Introduction, Organization, Expectations, Formalities;
Global Jihadism: A Proposed Conceptual Framework; Key Definitions.

PART ONE: THE QUR’AN, ISLAMIC FAITH, AND THE CLASSICAL PILLARS OF ISLAM.

Wed., 26th Muhammad: Preacher, Prophet/Messenger (‘Seal of the Prophets’), Lawgiver, Commander of the Faithful, Governor, Exemplary Ideal;
The Qur’an: A Prophetic Dialogue; God’s Word; God’s Messenger; Prophet Muhammad’s Moral Cosmos.
Handout: Islam as a World Religion.
Mon., 31st Prophet Muhammad’s Message.
Readings: P. Kamolnick, chs. 5 - 8.

February
Wed. 2nd Norms of Communal Conduct, Elements of Law (Shari’a).
Readings: P. Kamolnick, chs. 9.
Readings: P. Kamolnick, ch. 10.
PART TWO: THE CONCEPT AND HISTORY OF VIOLENT JIHAD IN ISLAM.

Wed., 9th
Introduction; Qur’an and Conquest; The ‘Greater Jihad’ and the ‘Lesser Jihad’

Mon., 14th
The Crystallization of Classical Jihad Theory; Classical Sources.
Readings: D. Cook, chs. 3; R. Peters, pp. 1-53

Wed., 16th
Cont’d.

Mon., 21st
Jihad during the Nineteenth-Century: Renewal and Resistance.
Readings: D. Cook, ch. 4.

Wed., 23rd
Radical Islam and Contemporary Jihad Theory.
Readings: D. Cook, ch. 5; R. Peters, pp. 149-169.

Mon., 28th
Globalist Radical Islam and Martyrdom Operations.
Readings: D. Cook, ch. 6, Afterword; R. Peters, pp. 171-183.

March
Wed., 2nd
Some Translated Globalist Radical Islam Documents
Readings: D. Cook, “Appendix”

MID-TERM TAKE HOME HAND ERED OUT: DUE MARCH 14.

Mon., 7th
NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK.

Wed., 9th
NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK.

PART THREE: A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL JIHADISM.

Mon., 14th

Wed., 16th
Jihadist Doctrine; Schools of Salafist Islam.
Readings, J. Brachman, ch. 2


Mon., 28th  Ayman al-Zawahiri, “Jihad, Martyrdom, and the Killing of Innocents” (c. pre-9/11)

Readings: J. Brachman, ch. 3

April
Mon., 4th  Key Jihadi Strategists and Strategic Themes.
Readings: J. Brachman, ch. 4

Wed., 6th  ????????

PART FOUR: UNDERSTANDING TERROR NETWORKS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Mon., 11th  Jihadi Propagandists
Readings: J. Brachman, ch. 5; R. Ibrahim, pp. 176-208 (Ayman al-Zawahiri; Osama bin Laden)

Wed., 13th  Understanding the path to radicalism; Studying terrorism.
Readings: M. Sageman, Leaderless Jihad: terror networks in the twenty-first century Introduction, ch.1
The Globalization of Jihadi Terror.
Readings: M. Sageman, ch. 2

Mon., 18th  The Jihadi’s Profile.
Readings: M. Sageman, ch. 3

Wed., 20th  Radicalization in the Diaspora; The Atlantic Divide.
Readings: M. Sageman, chs. 4-5

Mon., 25th  Terrorism in the Age of the Internet; Rise of the ‘Leaderless’ Jihad
Readings: M. Sageman, chs. 6-7

PART FIVE: COUNTERING GLOBAL JIHADISM

Wed., 27th  Combating Global Islamist Terrorism; Toward a Strategy
Readings: M. Sageman, ch. 8; J. Brachman, ch. 8
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT: DUE MAY 5TH.