| **PROFESSOR:** Dr. Bruno Baltodano | **PHONE NUMBER:** 239-432-7340 |
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| **OFFICE LOCATION:** Hendry Hall (K-217) | **E-MAIL:** bbaltodano@fsw.edu |
| **OFFICE HOURS:** M, T, W, Th: 10:00 am - 11:00 am  and 3:30 pm -4:30 pm F: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | **SEMESTER:** Fall 2017  Terrorism and Political Violence (section 10 H)  T, Th: 2:00 - 3:20 pm. Royal Palm (N) 2065 |

1. **COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE, CATALOG DESCRIPTION, CREDITS:**

**POS 2910 TERRORISM AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE (3 CREDITS)**

This course aims broadly to enhance the critical ability of students to understand and analyze the issue of terrorism, as well as their ability to assess the transnational challenges associated with terrorism and its implication for public policy. The central goal of this course is to introduce students to the academic study of terrorism and political violence. Our critical examination of terrorism will focus on explaining the formation of terrorist groups and the motivations behind terrorist behavior from individuals, groups and central governments.

1. **PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

**CO-REQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:** Topic Outline.

• Conceptual frameworks for analysis of terrorism

• A definition of terrorism and its implications

• Psychologacal and social factors of political violence

• Status of ethnic and racial minorities

• Contrasting Ideologies

• Institutions and social discourse

• Symbolic politics and political change

* Public Policy implications

1. **All courses at Florida SouthWestern State College contribute to the general education program by meeting one or more of the following general education competencies:**

**C**ommunicate clearly in a variety of modes and media.

**R**esearch and examine academic and non-academic information, resources, and evidence.

**E**valuate and utilize mathematical principles, technology, scientific and quantitative data.

**A**nalyze and create individual and collaborative works of art, literature, and performance.

**T**hink critically about questions to yield meaning and value.

**I**nvestigate and engage in the transdisciplinary applications of research, learning, and knowledge.

**V**isualize and engage the world from different historical, social, religious, and cultural approaches.

**E**ngage meanings of active citizenship in one’s community, nation, and the world.

**A.**  **General Education Competencies and Course Outcomes**

1. Listed here are the course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play an integral part in contributing to the student’s general education along with the general education competency it supports.

General Education Competency: **Think**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

* Students will analyze terrorism, within the context of contemporary global politics.

2.  Listed here are course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play a supplemental role in contributing to the student’s general education along with the general education competency it supports.

General Education Competency: **Engage**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

* Students will identify the major intervening factors involved in the rise and fall of terrorism.
* Students will consider and evaluate possible public policy options to the evolution of terrorism.

**B.** **In accordance with Florida Statute 1007.25 concerning the state’s general education core course requirements, this course meets the general education competencies for Social Sciences.**

* Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic socio-political, economic and cultural issues in the use of political violence.
* Students will demonstrate a clear understanding of the evolution and factors behind terrorism.

**C.** **Other Course Objectives/Standards**

* Students will demonstrate the capacity to think critically about political behavior from a global perspective.
* Students will demonstrate a clear understanding of factors driving the rise and fall of terrorism, terrorists and terrorist organizations.
* Students will analyze the process of radicalization as it pertains to terrorists.
* Students will evaluate the current challenges of transnational issues as they pertain to terrorism.

1. **DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES:**

**Programs for Students with Disabilities**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the College’s guiding principles, offers students with documented disabilities programs to equalize access to the educational process. Students needing to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or who suspect that their academic performance is affected by a disability should contact the Office of Adaptive Services at the nearest campus. The office locations and telephone numbers for the Office of Adaptive Services at each campus can be found at <http://www.fsw.edu/adaptiveservices>.

**REPORTING TITLE IX VIOLATIONS**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act, has established a set of procedures for reporting and investigating Title IX violations including sexual misconduct.  Students who need to report an incident or need to receive support regarding an incident should contact the Equity Officer at [equity@fsw.edu](mailto:equity@fsw.edu).  Incoming students are encouraged to participate in the Sexual Violence Prevention training offered online.  Additional information and resources can be found on the College’s website at <http://www.fsw.edu/sexualassault>.

1. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

This course is designed to transfer to upper-level universities and to prepare you for upper-level coursework in Political Science. This class involves reading, writing and active class participation. It is fast-paced and you MUST absorb textbook material on your own outside of class. You are expected to contribute to daily class discussions. **Learning is not a spectator sport.**

The main emphasis of this class is to develop students' expertise on terrorism and political violence as well as introducing students to relevant analytical frameworks, theories, and cases concerning terrorism, insurgency and related forms of political violence. Few issue generates as much discussion and controversy as terrorism. But what is this phenomenon? And how should we respond to it? Is terrorism a modern invention or does it have a deeper past? What drives an individual to join a terrorist group? Is terrorism an effective political tool? To do so, this course will draw upon theories from political science, social psychology and philosophy. By design, close readings of the course material will be central to doing well in the class as will active participation in classroom discussions.

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Class attendance is not mandatory but students are highly encouraged to attend all lectures. **Chronic absenteeism will negatively affect your grade; especially in your** **Class Participation Points** (see Grading Policy section below for details). The determination of what constitutes excessive absence in this course rests solely with your professor. Additionally, as per FSW’s Financial Aid policies, students must attend each class at least once during the first week of class be eligible for financial aid.

1. **GRADING POLICY:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 90 – 100 = A | 80 - 89 = B | 70 - 79 = C | 60 - 69 = D | Below 60 = F |

1. Class Participation: 15 percentage
2. Terrorist Profile Paper: 30 percentage
3. Class Presentation: 15 percentage
4. Midterm Exam: 20 percentage
5. Final Exam: 20 percentage

**TOTAL: 100 percentage points**

1. **Class Participation – 15% of your final grade:**

I expect daily class discussions to be lively, respectful and to show that **YOU** have completed the day’s assigned reading **BEFORE** class. There’s no such thing as an “excused absence” – you’re either in class, or you’re not. Class participation points **cannot** be made up. Silent attendance will not earn full credit. This grade category will be updated **weekly in Canvas** throughout the semester.

**Class Participation Grading Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **90 – 100:**  Student shows proficient control of course material, participates regularly during class discussions and properly uses class concepts in his/her comments. | **80 – 89:**  Student shows competent control of course material, participates often during class discussions and occasionally uses class concepts in his/her comments. | **70 – 79:**  Student shows poor control of course material, rarely participates in class discussions and is unskilled in the use of class concepts in his/her comments. | **60 – 69:**  Student is unable to show basic knowledge of course material, does not participate during class discussions and/or has marked absenteeism. | **Below 60:**  Student lacks the ability to control course material, participation is limited to unsupported personal opinions and/or rarely attended class. |

1. **Terrorist Group Profile (30% of your final grade) and Presentations (15 %) – 45% combined:**

Each student will choose a past or present terrorist group (**from a list provided by your professor**) to profile and present to the class. In a ***2,000 word minimum research paper***, you will describe its origins, leading members, goals and strategies, structure, notables successes and failures, its current status (have they disappeared, splintered or transformed into a political party?) as well as its future prospects. I will provide further details on a separate document. I can point you towards resources, so come talk to me if you want some help getting started. Be sure to also take advantage of our amazing librarians while doing your research. I’ll distribute a list of terrorist groups on Thursday the 31st of August. By Tuesday, September the 5th, each student must respond with their ranking of groups (#1 being the group they’d most like to present on, #2 for second- best, etc.). I’ll assign groups based on interest. Your 30 minutes presentations will take place from 11/9/17 to 11/24/17. On the day of his/her presentation, each student must turn in a one-page report on the group to every member of the class. This isn’t your formal profile, think of it as if you were giving a report to President Trump...but there must be a bibliography with it.

1. **In-Class Midterm Exam and Final – 20 % each of your final grade (40% combined):**

Short Essays. They will cover concepts from our primary text, supplemental documents and lectures. Students will be able to choose **two out of four essay questions**. Students will have the entire class time to complete it. Students CAN make up the Midterm Exam but it MUST be completed NO LATER than one calendar week from its original due date. There is NO option to make up a missed Final Exam.

1. **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**
2. **Inside Terrorism.**

(2006) Bruce Hoffman. ISBN 9780231126991

1. **Terror in The Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill.**

(2003) Jessica Stern. ISBN 978006050533-2

1. **The Cyclist.**

(2002) Viken Berberian. ISBN 9780743249393

1. **Class Handouts:**

Supplemental readings will be made available in digital copy via Canvas our course space.

1. **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**8/28/17**: Last day to drop the class for a refund.

**10/27/17**: Last day to withdraw from the class with a “W.”

1. **YOUR PROFESSOR’S OBJECTIVES:**
2. Students will learn to reason critically and creatively about terrorism and political violence in order to be able to better understand this phenomenon.
3. Students will acquire disciplinary knowledge of the major concepts and theories about terrorism and political violence.
4. Students will demonstrate a familiarity of the myriad of factors that affect individuals and groups to partake in terrorism and political violence.
5. Students will describe the motivations and behaviors of a variety of terrorist groups.
6. **ACADEMIC FREEDOM / RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

In this class we will discuss sensitive and volatile topics. In any critical discussion, there are bound to be differing points of view. It is my hope that these differences will enhance discussion and create an atmosphere where students and professor alike will be encouraged to respect each other’s views.

1. **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:**

Students enrolled in all FSW courses are expected to uphold standards of academic integrity and are subject to FSW’s rules governing plagiarism/Academic Misconduct. For more information on the Academic Integrity Policy please review the Student Rights and Responsibility Section of the Catalog [**http://www.fsw.edu/academics/catalog**](https://www.fsw.edu/academics/catalog). For helpful information about citing sources see <https://www.fsw.edu/library/citationguides>.

If a student is caught cheating/plagiarizing in MY class, for a first offense she/he will receive a “zero” for the assignment and I will send an Academic Misconduct Report, to the Chief Student Affairs Officer within 10 business days after the incident. If a student is caught cheating/plagiarizing a second time, she/he will receive an F for the semester.

1. **Disclaimer:**

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. A syllabus is a “guideline,” not a contract.

1. **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Lectures** | **Readings/Videos/Class Handouts\*\*\*** |
| **8/22/17** | **Course Overview** | SPLC VIDEO (IN CLASS) |
| 8/24/17 | Introduction: The Problem of Definition |  |
| 8/29/17 | 1. What is Terrorism? | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 1 |
| 8/31/17 | 1. Colonialism and Modern Terrorism | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 2 |
| 9/5/17 | 1. Lone Wolves | Jessica Stern, Ch. 7 |
| 9/7/17 | 1. Organizations Commanders and Their Cadres | Jessica Stern, Ch. 8 |
| 9/12/17 | 1. Psychology of Terrorism | Randy Borum \*\*\* |
| 9/14/17 | 1. Alienation and Terrorism | Jessica Stern, Ch. 1 |
| 9/19/17 | 1. The Role of Religion | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 4 |
| 9/21/17 | 1. Jihadists | Jessica Stern, Ch. 3 |
| 9/26/17 | 1. Charismatic Leaders and Terrorism | Jessica Stern, Ch. 6 |
| 9/28/17 | 1. Temple Mount Faithful | Jessica Stern, Ch. 4 |
| 10/3/17 | 1. Internationalization of terrorism | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 3 and  Jessica Stern, Ch. 9 |
| 10/5/17 | 1. Humiliation and Hatred | Jessica Stern, Ch. 2 |
| 10/10/17 | **MIDTERM** | **ALL OF THE ABOVE** |
| 10/12/17 | **NO CLASS** | **Dr. Baltodano out of town** |
| 10/17/17 | 1. Strategies of Terrorism | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 8 |
| 10/19/17 | 1. Territory and Terrorism | Jessica Stern, Ch. 5 |
| 10/24/17 | 1. The Media and Terrorism’s Volume | Bruce Hoffman, Ch, 6 AND 7 |
| 10/26/17 | 1. State Sponsored Terrorism | Noam Chomsky, Monthly Review, Vol. 53, No. 6  (November 2001) pp. 1-8\*\*\*  Rigoberta Menchú \*\*\*  Marguerite Feitlowitz \*\*\* |
| 10/31/17 | 1. Internet and Radicalization | **The Al-Qaeda Code (VOD- FSW Library)** |
| 11/2/17 | 1. Political Extremists in the U.S. | SPLC Hate Report\*\*\* |
| 11/7/17 | 1. Suicide Bombers | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 5  **The Cyclist** |
| 11/9/17 | **Terrorist Group Presentations and Paper** | **TBD** |
| 11/14/17 | **Terrorist Group Presentations and Paper** | **TBD** |
| 11/16/17 | **Terrorist Group Presentations and Paper** | **TBD** |
| 11/21/17 | **Terrorist Group Presentations and Paper** | **TBD** |
| 11/23-26/17 | **NO CLASS** | **College Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday** |
| 11/28/17 | 1. Outlook for the Future | Bruce Hoffman, Ch. 9 |
| 11/30/17 | 1. Policy Prescription | Jessica Stern, Ch. 10 |
| 12/7/17  2:00 am to 3:50 pm | **FINAL EXAM** | ALL OF THE ABOVE |

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