

Terrorism
International Studies 382
Tuesday 3:10 – 5:00pm RH-304
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:00 to 4:00 or by appt. (Rockefeller 408)

No other issue generates as much discussion and controversy as the contemporary debate over ‘terrorism.’ But what is this phenomenon? And how should we respond to it? This course will examine ‘terrorism’ with a critical eye, looking at the different ways that the subject is framed by various disciplines and authors. Drawing on political science, anthropological and historical accounts, as well as arguments made by scholars from economics, Women’s studies and specific area studies, we will discuss the ways in which terrorism has been presented, debated and analyzed. We will also draw from the fictional universe through an examination of films and novels that depict the inner struggles of ‘terrorists,’ and the impact on those affected by their actions. By design, close readings of the course material will be central to doing well in the class as will active participation in the classroom discussion or on the discussion board.

The course will be graded on a 25-25-50 basis, with one media analysis worth 25% and a final paper worth 50%. The remaining 25% will be based on your on-time attendance and participation in the course.

Required Texts (available in the book store):

1. Gerard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin. 2007. *The History of Terrorism from Antiquity to Al Qaeda*.
2. Mark Juergensmeyer. 2001. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*.
3. Talal Asad. 2007. *On Suicide Bombing*.
4. Susan Faludi. 2007. *The Terror Dream: Fear and Fantasy in Post-9/11 America*.
5. Viken Berberian. 2002. *The Cyclist: A Novel*.

Other sources:

1. We will be reading some articles or book chapters that I have not asked you to buy. For these, I will scan a copy of the article and make it available to you as a PDF on Blackboard listed by the Author’s first and last name

September 2: Course Introduction

September 9: Definitions and History

Igor Primoratz. 1990. “What Is Terrorism?” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 7 (2): 129 – 138.

Michael Bhatia. 2005. "Fighting Words: Naming Terrorists, Bandits, Rebels and Other Violent Actors." *Third World Quarterly* 26 (1): 5 – 22.

Gerard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin. *The History of Terrorism from Antiquity to Al Qaeda*. Chs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 (pp. 1-11, 55-131, 175-217).

September 16: Ethical Issues

Sayid Qutb. 1964. Selection from *Milestones*.

Frantz Fanon. 1961. Selection from *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Timothy Garton Ash. 2001. "Is There a Good Terrorist?" *New York Review of Books* 48 (19).

Michael Ignatieff. 2004. Selection from *The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terrorism*.

September 23: Causes and Structure 1

Jerrold M. Post. 2005. "When Hatred is Bred in the Bone: Psycho-cultural Foundations of Contemporary Terrorism." *Political Psychology* 26 (4): 615 – 636.

Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. "Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17 (4): 119-144.

Carolyn Gallaher. 2000. "Global change, local angst: class and the American Patriot Movement" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 18: 667 – 691.

Christopher W. Hughes. 1998. "Japan's Aum Shinrikyo, the Changing Nature of Terrorism, and the Post-Cold War Security Agenda." *Pacifica Review* 10 (1): 39 – 60.

Castells, Manuel, Shujiro Yazawa, and Emma Kiselyova. 1996. "Insurgents Against the Global Order: A Comparative Analysis of the Zapatistas in Mexico, the American Militia and Japan's AUM Shinrikyo." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 21 – 59.

September 30: Causes and Structure 2:

Mark Sageman. 2008. Selection from *Leaderless Jihad: Terror Networks in the 21st Century*.

Bruce Hoffman. 2008. The Myth of Grass-Roots Terrorism: Why Osama bin Laden Still Matters. *Foreign Affairs*.

Mark Sageman. 2008. "Does Osama Still Call the Shots? Debating the Containment of al Qaeda's Leadership." *Foreign Affairs*.

Elaine Sciolino and Eric Schmitt. 2008 "A Not Very Private Feud Over Terrorism." *The New York Times*, June 8.

Jarret M. Brachman. "High-Tech Terror: Al-Qaeda's Use of New Technology."

October 7: Bombing 1

Robert A. Pape. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

Mia Bloom. 2004. "Devising a Theory of Suicide Terror." From *Dying to Kill: The Global Phenomenon of Suicide Terror*. Columbia University Press, chapter 4.

Karla Cunningham. 2003. "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 26(3): 171 – 195.

Jean Paul Azam. 2005. "Suicide-Bombing as Inter-Generational Investment." *Public Choice* 122 (1-2): 177-198.

Assaf Moghadam. 2003. "Palestinian Suicide Terrorism in the Second Intifada: Motivations and Organizational Aspects." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 26 (2): 65-92.

October 14: Bombing 2

Talal Asad. *On Suicide Bombing*.

Mike Davis. 2007. Selection from *Buda's Wagon: A Brief History of the Car Bomb*.

October 17 – 26: Fall Break

Reading Response Due October 28.

October 28: Religion

Mark Juergensmeyer. 2001. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*.

As-Sahab Media. 2007. "Interview with Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri."

Ken Silverstein. 2007. "Parties of God: The Bush Doctrine and the Rise of Islamic Democracy." *Harpers*.

Mahmood Mamdani. 2002. "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism." *American Anthropologist* 104 (3): 766-775.

November 4: Gender

Susan Faludi. Selection from *The Terror Dream*.

Mary Ann Tétreault. 2006. "The Sexual Politics of Abu Ghraib: Hegemony, Spectacle, and the Global War on Terror." *NWSA Journal* 18(3): 33 – 50.

November 11: Critiques

Jeroen Gunning. "A Case for Critical Terrorism Studies?" *Government and Opposition* 42 (3): 363 – 393.

Joseba Zulaika. 2003. "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecies of Counterterrorism." *Radical History Review* 85: 191 – 199.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. 2004. "Terror: A Speech After 9-11." *Boundary 2*: 81 – 111.

Eqbal Ahmad. 2006. "Terrorism: Theirs and Ours." From *The Selected Writings of Eqbal Ahmad*.

Cynthia Keppley Mahmood. 2001. "Terrorism, Myth, And The Power Of Ethnographic Praxis." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 30(5): 520 – 545.

November 18: American Domestic and Foreign Policy 1

Philip Bobbitt. 2008. Selection from *Terror and Consent: The Wars for the Twenty-First Century*.

Paul R. Pillar. 2004. Selection from *Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy*.

Saba Mahmood. 2006. "Secularism, Hermeneutics, and Empire: The Politics of Islamic Reformation." *Public Culture* 18(2): 323 – 347.

November 25: American Domestic and Foreign Policy 2

David Cole and James Dempsey. 2006. Selection from *Terrorism and the Constitution*.

Jorg Friedrichs. 2006. "Defining the International Public Enemy: The Political Struggle behind the Legal Debate on International Terrorism." *Leiden Journal of International Law* 19: 69–91.

December 2: Film *Paradise Now*

Tirzah Agassi. 2005. "In Conversation: Paradise Now Director Hany Abu-Assad." *Tikkun*.

Hamid Dabashi. 2007. "The '300' stroke." *Al Ahram* 856.

Neloufer de Mel. 2007. "Figure of Speech: The Female Suicide Bomber, Censorship and the Literary-Cinematic Site."

December 9: Fiction

Viken Berberian. 2002. *The Cyclist: A Novel*.

Final Paper Due Thursday December 11th at 5pm