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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security & Global Studies

INTL451

Terrorism and US National Security

3 Credit Hours

8-Weeks

Instructor Information

Instructor:

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Description (Catalog)

This course assesses the impact of terrorism on U.S. national security. It focuses on a variety of aspects related to U.S. policy on terrorism, the threat of terrorism to U.S. national security, and the problems inherent to U.S. counterterrorism. The student will develop a comprehensive understanding of how the U.S. views terrorism, how various policies affect outcomes of counterterrorism, strengths and weaknesses in policy and strategies, threats to U.S. national security, and suggestions for solutions to these threats.

Course Scope

The purpose and scope of this course is to describe the fundamental attributes of international terrorism, to identify the traits of domestic terrorism, and to provide the student with the analytical tools to comprehend and explain policy behavior of the United States as it seeks to deal with this pressing and chronic problem.

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Course Objectives

- CO-1** Describe and assess the causes and origins of terrorism and the effects of terrorism on US national security.
- CO-2** Analyze and evaluate the motivations, justifications, and methods of sub-state and state-level terrorism.
- CO-3** Interpret the effectiveness of various anti- and counter-terror measures against different forms of terrorism.
- CO-4** Examine the role and impact of terror groups on US national security, including assessing the threat, the methods, logistics, and operations of terrorist organizations.
- CO-5** Evaluate the role of state-sponsored terrorism as a national security problem
- CO-6** Assess the effectiveness of national security policy choices in light of the nature of the terror threats against the United States.

Course Delivery Method

This course will offer the student a highly interactive virtual classroom. Each week will have course announcements, assigned readings, lecture notes provided by the instructor and an assignment. The course will provide the student with the necessary knowledge of European politics to better appreciate and comprehend world events and the motivations of the numerous international actors. Initial forum posts are due by Thursday at 11:55pm ET. Follow-ups to classmates are due by Sunday at 11:55pm ET. All assignments are due on Sunday at 11:55pm ET.

Course Materials

1. Pillar, Paul. 2003. Terrorism and US Foreign Policy. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.
2. Sageman, Marc. 2008. Leaderless Jihad. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania.
3. Resources folder Assigned Readings and Videos

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Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions include one comprehensive question per week whose scope includes the week's course objectives as found in the course readings, lessons, and any multi-media materials. Details for forum participation may be found in the document "Forum Discussion Guidelines for BA Students" in Lessons – Week One.

The analytical essay assignment is an analytical essay due at the end of Week Four. The assignment will be no fewer than or no more than four pages, double-spaced, in 12 pt. font. The assignment assesses student learning for Weeks One - Four. Students are to rely only on the course readings in composing the essay. Specific instructions are located in the "Assignments" section of the classroom.

The final assignment is due at the end of Week Eight. The final assignment will be no fewer than and no more than four pages as in the analytical essay above. The assignment will be an assessment of the course objectives for Weeks One – Seven.

The research assignment is due at the end of Week Seven. It will be no fewer than six and no more than eight pages. Details of this assignment and its components are located in "Assignments" in the classroom.

Each assignment will be evaluated by the instructor using a rubric scoring guide and comments inserted into the Word document. Forum grades will be determined using a rubric scoring guide. Additionally, comments may be given informally within the forum or in more detail within the forum grader tool.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions	25
Research Project	25
Midterm Assignment – analytical essay (Weeks One – Three)	25
Final Assignment – analytical essay (Weeks One – Seven)	25
Total	100

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Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

<u>8-Week</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Course Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1	Terrorism: Introduction and Overview	CO-1 Describe the causes and origins of terrorism and the effects of terrorism on US national security.	Pillar, Intro to Paperback Edition & Ch. 1 Sageman, Intro, Ch. 1 & 2 Video: Terrorist Mindset.wmv	Forum Discussion
2	Dimensions of Terrorism	CO-2 Analyze and evaluate the motivations, justifications, and methods of sub-state and state-level terrorism.	Pillar, Ch. 1-3 Sageman, Ch. 3 & 4 Global Salafi.pdf Overview Motivations.ppt Dirty-Kuffar_HI.wmv	Forum Discussion
3	Counter-Terror and Anti-Terror Techniques	CO-3 Interpret the effectiveness of various anti- and counter-terror measures against different forms of terrorism.	Pillar, Ch. 4 Terror Funding.ppt Extremis.ppt Using Intelligence Against Terrorism.pdf	Forum Discussion
4	Mid-Term Reflection	CO1, CO2, CO3 Reflect on and summarize the first week's course	Review all the first three weeks' readings and videos	Midterm Analytical Essay

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		objectives.	in preparation for the Midterm Essay and Forum Discussion.	Assignment Forum Discussion
5	Terror Groups and Non-State Organizations	CO-4 Examine the role and impact of terror groups on US national security, including assessing the threat, methods, logistics, and operations of terrorist groups.	Pillar, Ch. 5 Sageman, Ch. 5-7 Joint Inquiry Staff Statement Eleanor Hill.pdf	Forum Discussion
6	State-Sponsored Terrorism	CO-5 Evaluate the role of state-sponsored terrorism as a national security problem.	Begin reading the 02, 06, and 11 Strategy documents.	Forum Discussion
7	Policy Options	CO-6 Assess the effectiveness of national security policy choices in light of the nature of the terror threats against the United States.	Pillar, Ch. 8 Sageman, Ch. 8	Forum Discussion Research Project Due
8	Final Course Reflection	CO1 – CO6 Reflect on and summarize all course objectives.	Review all course readings for the preparation for the Final Essay and Forum Discussion.	Final Essay Assignment Due Forum Discussion
Policies				

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>. All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1" margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

[Table of Contents](#)

Online Library

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The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:

librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

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Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.