

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 123 (80), Terrorism and Security (Online), Winter, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.)
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Class Days/Time:	(Online)
Classroom:	(Canvas)

Course Format: Online

Course Description (Required)

JS 123 is an upper-division course focusing on terrorism and security. Terrorism is certainly one of the major problems that endanger human security throughout the world. Since 9/11 the successive US governments have been spearheading a global war on terror which consumes a large chunk of tax-payers' money. The organizations like Hamas in Palestinian territories and ISIS in Syria and Iraq have brought terrorism again to the center-stage of public discourse in USA and the world. Terrorism has been described as "the poor man's air force" and as a tactic used by states to achieve foreign and domestic policy goals. This description of terrorism highlights the complexity of terrorism, which is a tactic used by individuals, groups, and states for a variety of goals. No single course can give you a full understanding of this topic, but this course hopes to provide the tools necessary to become educated consumers of news in a post-9/11 world. We will explore the phenomenon of non-state terrorism. The two central goals of the course are to provide students with an opportunity to study the historical use of political terror and to encourage students to think of terrorist activity not as the work of the mad, but of self-interested and calculating political actors. To accomplish these goals, we will examine a large swath of the literature both in historical scope and theoretical arguments.

Please note that this is an online course in which students will 1) watch videos of my course lectures that have been posted on Canvas, and 2) take online quiz, final exams, and complete assignments that, as noted above, will also be posted on Canvas. Hence this course is essentially located on Canvas, to which enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material, except for the course books, will be available through Canvas. Although I may be available in the campus to meet with interested students in person during the semester, all students are responsible for watching these lecture videos online, taking notes on those lectures, doing the course readings, taking the online quizzes, midterm and final examinations and submitting assignments (paper critiques) online. (A word to the wise: Students who do not watch the course lectures in sequential order as the semester progresses, or do not take notes on the contents, or do not do the required course readings will find it impossible to get a good grade and may well end up failing this course.

Cutting corners or cramming before exams, which is never a good idea for students who are serious about learning, is likely to lead to disaster in an online course!) To reiterate, course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1: Have a clear understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism as distinguishable from other forms of political violence.
- 2: Be familiar with the theories of terrorism.
- 3: Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals.
- 4: Identify the causal factors which drive terrorist violence.
- 5: Understand the risk to human security posed by terrorist violence.
- 6: Learn about different responses to terrorism and strategies to counter terrorist violence.
- 7: Learn to engage in educated discourse of the sensitive issue of terrorism.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

BRUCE HOFFMAN. 2006. INSIDE TERRORISM. NEW YORK: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, ISBN 9780231126991

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

1. **Quiz:** A quiz will be assigned each of the days (4 in total): Jan 6, 9, 13 and 16. The students are required to take the timed quiz through Canvas. The questions will be based on previous days' reading and will evaluate students' understanding of the topics of discussion. The due dates are given in the schedule below.
2. **Exams:** Two examinations will be given over the two weeks course period. The exam will consist of three essay-type questions. The submission dates for the exams appear in the schedule below. The exam questions will be given/ uploaded on Canvas about 48 hours before the submission date.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%	B plus = 89-86%	B = 85- 83%	B minus = 82-80%	C plus = 79-76%
C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%	D plus = 69-66%	D = 65- 63%	D minus = 62-60%	F = 59-0%	

Determination of Grades

Quiz: 20%

1st Exam: 40%

2nd Exam: 40%

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

JS 123 (80), Terrorism and Security (Online), Summer, 2019e, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 2 & 3	<p>Definition and Typology Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoffman, Ch. 1, pp. 1-40 <p>Terrorism in Modern World Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoffman, Ch. 2, pp. 43-62
2	January 6, 7 & 8	<p>Strategies and goals of Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter (2006) The Strategies of Terrorism, International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer, 2006), pp. 49-80.</u> <p>Democracy and Terrorism Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Windsor JL (2003) Promoting Democratization Can Combat Terrorism. The Washington Quarterly 26(3): 43-58.</u> Hoffman, Chapter 6: The Old Media, Terrorism and Public Opinion. <p>Democracy and Terrorism Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: The New Media, Terrorism and the Shaping of Global Opinion
		First quiz due on January 6
2	January 9 & 10	<p>The Internationalization of Terrorism Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoffman, Chapter 3
		Second quiz due on January 9 ### Exam 1 due on Saturday, January 11- 11:59 pm ###

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	January 13 & 14	Development/Globalization and Terrorism Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Berrebi, Claude (2007) Evidence About the Link between Education, Poverty and Terrorism among Palestinians. <i>Peace Science and Public Policy</i> 13(1): 1-36. 2. Sambuddha Ghatak and Aaron Gold. “Development, Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism: Looking Beyond a Linear Relationship.” <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i>, (2017). DOI: 10.1177/0738894215608511 3. Li, Quan & Drew Schaub (2004) Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 48(2): 230-58.
		Third quiz due on January 13
3	January 15 & 16	Religion and Terrorism Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoffman, Chapter 4 • <u>Piazza, James A. (2009) “Is Islamist Terrorism More Dangerous? An Empirical Study of Group Ideology, Organization, and Goal Structure”, <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 21:1,62 – 88</u> Suicide Terrorism Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoffman, Chapter 5
		Fourth quiz due on January 16
Exam 2		Exam – 2 Due on January 17 - 11:59 pm (PT)