This course will introduce the student to the subject of terrorism. The course will cover the causes of terrorism, its relation to other forms of political conflict and violence, the goals and strategies pursued by terrorist groups, the extent to which terrorism succeeds in achieving its goals, counterterrorism strategies pursued by governments, and the potential for terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

**Requirements:** The grade will be based on class participation (40%), a one-page proposal for your paper (5%), presentation of your paper project to the class (15%) and a final paper (40%).

**Class participation**

The participation grade will be a combination of showing up and contributing to the discussion. I expect that every student has done all the reading, and I may call on students at random to summarize readings. Full credit will be given for comments that indicate that the student has done the reading and reflected on it.

**The Paper Project**

The paper will take one of the topics we cover in class as a starting point and develop an argument with both theoretical and empirical aspects. The paper must have at least four components. First, a question derived from the course, such as “what motivates terrorists?” or “is terrorism successful?” Second, an argument or claim, such as “terrorists are not rational” or “religious motivations are necessary for suicide bombing.” Third, a discussion of the relevant theoretical literature or debate on the question, both supporting your point of view and presenting alternatives. Fourth, a discussion of some empirical cases that support your point of view as opposed to the relevant alternatives.
A one page prospectus of the paper will be due in class on March 6th so that I can make sure you are on the right track. The finished papers should be around 4,000 words long and will be due on May 15th.

**The Presentations**

The two class sessions after spring break will be devoted to presentations of your paper project to the class. Presentations will be around 5 minutes are designed to make sure you are well along in the project and to elicit feedback from your fellow classmates. Presentations must be in Powerpoint, or equivalent, and the Powerpoint files will be due on the day of the presentation.

**Format for Written Work**

All written work, including the presentations, must have a title page including the title of the document (your project title), your name, the date, the name of the class, my name, and the type of assignment it is, (one page prospectus, presentation, or final paper). The pages must be numbered. References are to be done with American Political Science Association (APSA) system. The last page in the document should be the reference list. For information on writing and formatting references, see the UW Writing Center website, particularly, their writer’s handbook, where you can find information about proper citing and the APSA system.


**Submitting Written Work**

All documents must be submitted to the appropriate dropbox on the learn@uw site for the course. The name of the document must be your last name, followed by 1 for the paper proposal, 2 for the presentation and 3 for the final paper, followed by the relevant document suffix. For instance, Smith’s Powerpoint presentation would be named Smith2.pptx.

This serves as your notice for proper format and documentation. Documents not meeting these standards will be marked down accordingly with no appeal.

**Due Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Prospectus</th>
<th>March 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>April 10 (First half of the alphabet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 17 (Second half of the alphabet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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Readings: The following books are available at the bookstore.


Readings not found in these books are available on-line at the learn@uw website for the course. Go to https://learnuw.wisc.edu/ and log in. The course should be visible there, click on it and then on the content.

Course Outline:

Week 1: January 23 Introduction

Week 2: January 30 9/11


Week 3: February 6 Jihad

Week 4: February 13  Political Economic Factors I


Week 5: February 20  Political Economic Factors II


Week 6: February 27  Terrorist Motivations and Strategies


Plus Correspondence section


Week 7: March 6  Does Terrorism Work?


Week 8: March 13  Suicide Bombing


Week 9: March 20  Counterterrorism I


No Class March 27 and April 3

Week 10: April 10  Paper Presentations 1

Week 11: April 17  Paper Presentations 2

Week 12: April 24  Counterterrorism II


Week 13: May 1  Terrorism with WMD

Week 14: May 8     The Decline and Possible Fall of Al-Qaida
