

# POL-2110: TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: POL-2110 : Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

**Board of Trustees:**

2015-01-29

**Academic Term:**

2015-08-24

**Subject Code**

POL - Political Science

**Course Number:**

2110

**Title:**

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

**Catalog Description:**

An interdisciplinary examination of the complex nature, types and historical evolution of terrorism. Will analyze terrorism and its political, economic, religious, psychological and ideological dimensions. Select acts of domestic and global terrorism will be examined to better understand terrorists' motives, methods and objectives. Counterterrorism strategies and how democratic nations should respond to terrorism and future terrorist threats will be evaluated

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1010 College Composition I or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze and interpret the political, economic, religious, social and ideological dimensions of terrorism.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Explain why there is no universally accepted working definition of terrorism.
2. Explain terrorism from the terrorists' perspectives.
3. Summarize the motivations of terrorists.
4. Assess the changing strategies, tactics and targets of terrorists in the 21st century.
5. Formulate a working definition of what is terrorism.
6. Discuss terrorism in its historical context.
7. Compare and contrast domestic as well as variants of international terrorism
8. Define what is modern terrorism, counterterrorism and antiterrorism.
9. Identify the underlying causes that contribute to the development of terrorists and terrorist organizations.
10. Explain the processes of radicalization and de-radicalization of terrorists.
11. List of the objectives of terrorists.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of financing of terrorism.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze the impact of terrorist acts against America.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Recognize personal biases regarding other nations, cultures, ethnic, racial and religious groups.
  2. Analyze and evaluate how the modern media impacts terrorism, counterterrorism and public opinion.
  3. List the components of an effective counterterrorism policy.
  4. Evaluate evolving cyber threats and understand the need for cybersecurity.
  5. Explain the threat of weapons of mass destruction terrorism.
  6. Discuss the need for national security within the context of civil liberties.
  7. Provide insightful perspectives on how democracies can and should respond to terrorism.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

- A. 10-12 page research paper
- B. Exams consisting of essays and short answer questions.
- C. Film critiques
- D. Individual classroom presentation followed by a Q&A session
- E. Participation in class discussions
- F. Internet projects
- G. Article reviews
- H. Case studies

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Defining terrorism
  - a. Definitional challenges
    - i. U.S. government definitions
    - ii. Alex P. Schmid
  - b. What Constitutes terrorism?
2. History of terrorism
  - a. 1st century - 17th century
  - b. 18th century - 1789-1799, French Revolution
  - c. 19th and 20th centuries, modern terrorism
    - i. Ideologies
    - ii. Causes
  - d. Types of terrorist organizations
    - i. State sponsored
    - ii. Non-State (Independent) Groups
    - iii. "Lone Actor" ("Lone Wolf" terrorists)
  - e. Strategies and Tactics
    - i. Motives
    - ii. Objectives
    - iii. Weaponry
    - iv. Target Selection
  - f. Al-Qaeda
    - i. Origins
    - ii. Ideology
  - g. Select acts of terrorism
    - i. International
    - ii. Domestic
3. Terrorism Post - 9/11
  - a. Origins
  - b. Ideologies
  - c. Financing
  - d. Phases of modern terrorism
  - e. Nature of conflict
    - i. Protracted conflict
    - ii. Asymmetrical warfare

- f. Strategies and tactics
  - i. Motives
  - ii. Objectives
  - iii. Weaponry
  - iv. Target selection
- g. Al-Qaeda and world-wide affiliates
- 4. The making of terrorists
  - a. Radicalization process
  - b. Recruitment methods
- 5. State sponsored terrorism
  - a. What is state-sponsored terrorism
  - b. Who are the terrorists
  - c. Underlying causes
  - d. Financing
  - e. Ideologies
  - f. Strategies and tactics
    - i. Motives
    - ii. Objectives
    - iii. Weaponry
    - iv. Target selection
  - g. Select acts of State sponsored terrorism
- 6. International Terrorism
  - a. Globalization of terrorism
  - b. Who are the terrorists?
  - c. Underlying causes
  - d. Financing
  - e. Ideologies
  - f. Strategies and tactics
    - i. Motives
    - ii. Objectives
    - iii. Weaponry
    - iv. Target selection
  - g. Select acts of global terrorism
- 7. Domestic terrorism: post-Cold War/post-9/11
  - a. Who are the terrorists?
    - i. "Right-Wing" lone actors and groups
    - ii. "Left-Wing" lone-actors and groups
  - b. Underlying causes
  - c. Financing
  - d. Ideologies
  - e. Strategies and Tactics
    - i. Motives
    - ii. Objectives
    - iii. Weaponry
    - iv. Target Selection
  - f. Select acts of domestic terrorism
- 8. Terrorist Weapons
  - a. Weapons of mass destruction (WMD)
    - i. Chemical and biological
    - ii. Radiological and nuclear
  - b. Conventional weapons
    - i. Cyber-terrorism
    - ii. Suicide bomber
    - iii. Improvised explosive devices (IED"s)
    - iv. Assassinations
    - v. Hijackings
- 9. Counterterrorism
  - a. "Our War on Terrorism"
  - b. Components of an effective counter-terrorism program

- c. U.S. Intelligence Agencies and Resources
  - d. Intelligence gathering, interpretation, assessment and dissemination
  - e. Strategic and tactical responses to:
    - i. Global terrorism
      - 1. Unilateral efforts
      - 2. Multilateral efforts
    - ii. Domestic terrorism
    - iii. Threat of WMDs terrorism
  - f. Successes and failures
10. National security vs. civil liberties and human rights
- a. National security - How should a democratic nation respond to terrorism?
    - i. Government agencies
      - 1. Federal
      - 2. State
      - 3. Local
    - ii. Legislation
      - 1. Federal
      - 2. State
      - 3. Local
    - iii. Supreme Court Decisions
  - b. Civil liberties
    - i. The Constitution
    - ii. Indefinite detention
    - iii. Profiling
    - iv. National I.D.
    - v. electronic surveillance activities
  - c. Human rights
    - i. Indefinite detention
    - ii. Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq
    - iii. Interrogation programs
    - iv. Military tribunals vs. Civilian Courts
    - v. Enemy aliens, POW's, detainees, and enemy combatants
11. Impact of domestic and foreign mass media on
- a. Terrorism
  - b. Counterterrorism
  - c. The Public
12. Terrorism in the 21st Century
- a. Nature of current and future threats
    - i. Domestic
    - ii. International
  - b. Counterterrorism strategies and tactics

## Resources

Cigler, Allen ed. *Perspectives on Terrorism: How 9/11 Changed U.S. Politics*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

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Friedman, Thomas L. *Longitudes and Latitudes: Exploring the World after September 11*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2002.

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Firestone, Rubeen. *Jihad: The Origins of Holy War in Islam*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

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Glad, Betty and Chris J. Dolan, eds. *Striking First: The Preventative War Doctrine and the Reshaping of U.S. Foreign Policy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

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Laqueur, Walter. *A History of Terrorism*. New Brunswick: Transaction, 2001.

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Pipes, Daniel. *Militant Islam Reaches America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002.

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Rashid, Ahmed. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.

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Cole, David and James Dempsey. *Terrorism and the Constitution: Sacrificing Civil Liberties in the Name of National Security*. New York: The New Press, 2003.

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Crenshaw, Martha ed. *Terrorism in Context*. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1995.

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Egendorf, Laura K. ed. *Terrorism – Opposing Viewpoints Series*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc, 2004.

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Esposito, John L. *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

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### Resources Other

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7. September 11 Digital Archive <http://911digitalarchive.org>.
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9. Thrackrah, John Richard. Dictionary of Terrorism. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

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