

PSC 407Q – Political Violence & Terrorism
Spring 2007
Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:45pm
Room WRI-C237

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Office Hours: R 10:30-12, F 1-2:30, and by appointment.

Class Description

This course is intended to provide an overview of the motivations and significance of various forms of political violence including revolutions, ethnic conflict, guerrilla war and terrorism as well as how governments have attempted to deal with the problem. In particular, we will focus on academic approaches to understanding political violence and terrorism drawing upon classic and contemporary scholarship. We will utilize these theoretical tools to understand a series of issues including religious violence and mass murder.

Course Requirements

Texts

Required

Amy Chua. 2004. *World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*. New York: Anchor Books. ISBN: 0385721862.

Bruce Hoffman. 2006. *Inside Terrorism*. Columbia University Press. ISBN: 0231126999.

Mark Juergensmeyer. 2003. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, 3rd edition. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520240111.

Mahmood Mamdani. 2002. *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691102805.

Walter Reich, ed. 1998. *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press. ISBN: 0943875897.

Optional

Lisa A. Baglione. 2007. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. Thomson/Wadsworth. ISBN: 0495092622.

Martha Crenshaw, ed. 1995. *Terrorism in Context*. Pennsylvania State University Press. ISBN: 0271010150.

Jack A. Goldstone, ed. 2003. *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies 3rd edition*. Thomson/Wadsworth. ISBN: 015506679X.

With the exceptions of Mamdani and Baglione, which the library does not have, all of the texts are available on reserve at Lied Library. Additional readings listed on the schedule are denoted by WC and will be posted online on WebCT/WebCampus.

I also expect you to keep up with current events on a regular basis through a major international news source. I recommend you subscribe to The Economist (see www.economistacademic.com). Other good sources of information include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), Financial Times (www.ft.com), International Herald Tribune (www.ihf.com), Asia Times (www.atimes.com), and Le Monde (www.lemonde.fr/).

Specific to terrorism, good resources include Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre <http://jtic.janes.com/public/jtic/index.shtml>, the Terrorism Knowledge Base <http://tkb.org>, and specialty journals such as *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* and *Terrorism & Political Violence*.

Assignments

Exams (50% total): During the semester, a midterm (25%) and a final (25%) will be administered. While the final will not be cumulative strictly speaking, the concepts studied in the first part of the course will remain significant in the latter half of the semester. The exams will concentrate on using critical thinking skills to evaluate and apply course materials. You will be asked to submit prospective questions in preparation for the exam. Exam questions will be based on those submitted by students. These will be due at least one week prior to the exam.

Research Project: During the semester, you will become an expert on a group that has engaged in some form of political violence. An abbreviated list of possible groups is located at the end of this syllabus. This is not meant to be exhaustive. Rebellions and insurgencies of any form and any time period are plausible choices. The project is composed of the following:

Group Profile (15 %): For this assignment, you will write a 4-6 page background paper on the group you have chosen to examine. While there will be some variation depending on the group, the paper should include a discussion of the group's grievances, goals, composition, tactics, organization, and accomplishments. Your expertise should inform our class discussions and will provide the basis for the Analytical Paper.

Analytical Paper (25 %): For this assignment, you will take your expertise developed from the Group Profile to compare your case to another group. The second case study you select should have significant distinctions in at least one key variable, such as the group's purpose, its area of operations, or the historical period in which it operated. Questions from which you can choose for this 8-10 page paper include:

- 1) What affect does the use of state violence or terror have on the formation, duration, or behavior of rebel groups? (Your two cases should be groups from different states)
- 2) Do the tactics employed by rebellions, insurgents and terrorist groups correspond with their objectives?
- 3) Is there a "new terrorism" that is significantly different from previous forms of terrorism? (Your cases should include one modern group and one 'historical' group)
- 4) What leads some groups to choose violence as a form of protest or resistance? (Your two cases should be from the same state or ones with similar domestic context)

5) Students may address a different question, but should check with me before proceeding.

You are encouraged to meet with me as you determine your group(s) and topic and throughout the semester as you proceed.

Participation (10%): As an upper division class, I expect it to be highly interactive. I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the day's readings and current events related to the course. Good participation involves contributing to the discussion through providing information from the readings, critically analyzing ideas from the readings and your classmates, and by sharing ideas related to the application of various concepts we will discuss. The classroom will be an environment in which everyone is treated with respect. Keep interruptions to a minimum. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off, late arrivals and early departures avoided, and no "side-bar" conversations held.

Final Grades: The points for each of these elements totals 100. Translated into letter grades, course grades will be determined by the following: A (93-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-90); B (83-87); B- (80-83); C+ (77-80); C (73-77); C- (70-73); D+ (67-70); D (63-67); D- (60-63); F (60 and below).

Grading Notes: Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade disputes must be in writing and must be submitted within one week of the assignment or exam being returned to you.

Ordinarily no makeups will be given for missed assignments or exams. However, if extraordinary circumstances require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and/or (2) provide documentation of the issue (e.g. doctor's note, police report) that necessitated your absence. Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work provided that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration. Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide written verification of participation. All make-up exams will be scheduled immediately upon your return to class.

The instructor reserves the right to conduct quizzes should conditions warrant.

Extra credit will not be offered.

Note on (Electronic) Communication

If I need to get in touch with you, I will use the email address you have on record on UNLV, which is likely your university account. For assignments that permit electronic submission, whether via email or WebCT, do not wait until the last minute to submit. Excuses of technical issues with email, internet connections, and the like will not be accepted. Date stamps on my email or via WebCT will serve as the arbiter as to whether you have submitted on time.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. For details on the Student Conduct Code, see <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>

The instructor reserves the right to have students' assignments submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright. Plagiarism in any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

Student Accommodation

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to let me know within the first two weeks of the semester and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>

Student Support

The Teaching and Learning Center has collected a number of resources to help you succeed at http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Course Schedule (subject to change)

January 16 Introductions

January 18 Defining the Scope of the Class

Readings:

Hoffman. Chapter 1.

WC: William Safire. 2006. "First Civil – War" *The New York Times*. December 17.

Part I: Theoretical Perspectives on Political Violence

January 23 Globalization/Systemic Approaches Part 1

Readings:

Chua. Read Intro to Part 1 (pp. 19-21), at least one chapter from Chapters 1-4, and Chapter 11.

January 25 Globalization/Systemic Approaches Part 2

Readings:

Chua. Read Intro to Part 2 (pp. 123-125) and at least one chapter from Chapters 5-7.

January 30 Socio-economic Approaches

Readings:

WC: Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in Goldstone.

WC: Krueger, Alan B., and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. "Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(4):119-44.

February 1 Domestic Politics/Political Opportunity Approaches

Readings:

WC: Samuel P. Huntington. "Revolution and Political Order" in Goldstone.

WC: Theda Skocpol and Ellen Kay Trimberger. "Revolutions: A Structural Analysis" in Goldstone.

WC: Jack A. Goldstone. "Revolutions in Modern Dictatorships" in Goldstone.

Rotberg, Robert. 2003. "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators" in Rotberg, Robert I. (ed). *State Failure and State Weakness in a Time of Terror*.

Washington, DC: Brookings. p. 1-25. Available through Lied's website:

<http://webpac.library.unlv.edu/search/tState+Failure+and+State+Weakness/tstate+failure+and+state+weakness/1%2C1%2C2%2CE/frameset&FF=tstate+failure+and+state+weakness+in+a+time+of+terror&2%2C%2C2>

February 6 Cultural Approaches

Group Profile Topic Due

Readings:

WC: Clifford Geertz. 1994. "Primordial and Civic Ties" in *Nationalism* John Hutchinson & Anthony D. Smith, eds. Oxford University Press.

WC: Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* Summer 1993, 72/3.

WC: Eric R. Wolf. "Peasants and Revolutions" in Goldstone

February 8 Group-level Strategic Approaches

Readings:

Martha Crenshaw, "The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Strategic Choice," in Reich, pp. 7-24.

WC: David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict" *International Security* 21:2 (Autumn, 1996), pp. 41-56.

WC: Charles Tilly. "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" in Goldstone.

February 13 Elite-Based Approaches

Readings:

WC: Max Weber. "Charisma, Bureaucracy, and Revolution" in Goldstone.

WC: Eric Selbin. "Agency and Culture in Revolutions" in Goldstone.

WC: Paul R. Brass, 1994 "Elite Competition and Nation-Formation," in *Nationalism* John Hutchinson & Anthony D. Smith, eds. Oxford University Press.

February 15 Psychological Approaches

Group Profile Due

Readings:

Jerrold Post, "Terrorist Psycho-logic: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Psychological Forces," in Reich, pp. 25-40.

Juergensmeyer Chapter 10.

February 20 Catch Up/Review

February 22 Midterm Exam

Part II: Issues in Political Violence

February 27 The Tactic of Terror

Readings:

Hoffman Chapter 8 pp. 229-240, 252-256.

Juergensmeyer Chapter 7.

March 1 Suicide Terrorism

Readings:

Hoffman Chapter 5.

Ariel Merari, "The Readiness to Kill and Die: Suicidal Terrorism in the Middle East", in Reich.

March 6 Organizational Issues

Readings:

WC: Louis Beam, "Leaderless Resistance," *The Seditonist* Issue 12, February 1992.

WC: Mike German, "Behind the Lone Terrorist, A Pack Mentality," *The Washington Post*, June 5, 2005.

Hoffman Chapter 8 pp. 240-252.

March 8 Single-Issue Terrorism

Readings:

WC: Rachel Monaghan, "Single-Issue Terrorism: A Neglected Phenomenon?" *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 23:4 (October 2000), pp. 255-265.

WC: Stefan Leader and Peter Probst, "The Earth Liberation Front and Environmental Terrorism," *Terrorism and Political Violence* 15:4 (October-December 2003), pp. 37-58.

Poke around Earth Liberation Front website <http://www.earthliberationfront.com/>; Animal Liberation Front <http://www.animalliberationfront.com/>; and Army of God <http://www.armyofgod.com/>

March 13-March 15 Spring Break

March 20 Religious Violence

Readings:

Juergensmeyer Chapter 8 plus choose one chapter from Chapters 2-6.

Poke around Missionaries to the Unborn website <http://www.mttu.com/main.htm>

March 22 Religious Violence Part 2

Readings:

Juergensmeyer Chapter 9 plus choose another chapter from Chapters 2-6.

March 27 Role of the Media

Readings:

Hoffman Chapter 6-7.

March 29 The “New” Terrorism?

Readings:

Hoffman, Chapter 9.

WC: David Tucker, “What is New About the New Terrorism and How Dangerous is It?”
Terrorism and Political Violence 13:3 (Summer 2001), 1-14.

April 3 Genocide/Mass Atrocity

Readings:

Mamdani pp. 3-7, 41-43, 73-75, 87-102, 103-119, 125-131.

April 5 Genocide/Mass Atrocity Part 2

Readings:

Mamdani, Chapter 7.

Part III: What is to be Done?

April 10 Counterterrorism

Readings:

WC: 9/11 Commission Report. “12. What To Do? A Global Strategy”

WC: National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (2003). Especially pp. 15-28.

April 12 Counterterrorism Part 2

Readings:

WC: Jon B. Alterman, ed. “How Terrorism Ends,” Special Report No. 48, United States Institute of Peace, 1999.

WC: Peter Sederberg, “Conciliation as Counter-Terrorist Strategy,” *Journal of Peace Research* (August 1995), pp. 295-311.

April 17 Confidence Building/Peace Agreements

Readings:

WC: David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild “Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict” *International Security* 21:2 (Autumn, 1996), pp. 56-75.

April 19 Library Day for your paper projects

Analytical Paper Due

April 24 Confidence Building/Peace Agreements Part 2

Readings:

WC: Stephen John Stedman, “Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes,” *International Security* 22:2 (Autumn, 1997) pp. 5-53.

April 26 Development of Political Institutions/Democratization

Readings:

Juergensmeyer Chapter 11

Mamdani, Conclusion.

May 1 Development of Political Institutions/Democratization Part 2

Readings:

Chua, Chapter 12.

May 3 Catch Up/Review

Final Exam: Tuesday May 8 3:10-5:10pm

Partial List of Groups for Case Studies (recommended cases are in boldface)

Abu Nidal organization (ANO)
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)
Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB)
Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade
Al-Badhr Mujahedin (al-Badhr)
Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group, IG)
Al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI)
Al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad, EIJ)
Al-Qaida
Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB)
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)
Animal Rights Movement (ARM)
Ansar al-Islam (AI)
Anti-Imperialist Territorial Nuclei (NTA)
Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (ALIR)
'Asbat al-Ansar
Aum Shinrikyo/Aum Supreme Truth/Aleph
Basque Fatherland and Liberty/Euzkadi ta Askatazuna (ETA)
Cambodian Freedom Fighters (CFF)
Christian Identity Movement
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)/United People's Front
Communist Party of Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)
Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)
Earth Liberation Front (ELF)
Earth First!
Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)
First of October Antifascist Resistance Group (GRAPO)
Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN)
Great East Islamic Raiders—Front (IBDA-C)
HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)
Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HUJI)
Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B)
Harakat ul Mujahidin (HUM)
Hizb-I Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)
Hizballah (Party of God)
Hizbul-Mujahedin (HM)
Irgun
Irish National Liberation Army (INLA)
Irish Republican Army (IRA)
Islamic Army of Aden (IAA)
Islamic International Peacekeeping Brigade (IIPB)
Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)
Jamiat ul-Mujahedin (JUM)
Japanese Red Army (JRA)
Jemaah Islamiya (JI)
Kahane Chai (Kach)
Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK, KADEK)/Kongra-Gel (KGK)
Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM)
Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LT)
Lashkar I Jhangvi (LJ)
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
<http://www.eelam.com>
Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)
Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)
Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF)
Maoist Communist Center of India (MCCI)
Missionaries to the Unborn (MTTU)
Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (GICM)
Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK or MKO)
National Liberation Army (ELN)—Colombia
New Red Brigades/Communist Combatant Party (BR/PCC)
Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)
Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD)
People's War
People's Will Movement (Narodnaia Viola)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP-GC)
Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR)
Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA)
Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ)
Real IRA (RIRA)
Red Army Faction (RAF)/Bader-Meinhof Gang Red Brigades (RB)
Red Hand Defenders (RHD)
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
Revolutionary Nuclei (RN)
Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17 November)
Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) 135
Revolutionary Proletarian Initiative Nuclei (NIPR)
Riyadus-Salikhin Reconnaissance and Sabotage Battalion of Chechen Martyrs (RSRSBCM)
Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)
Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path or SL)
Sipah-I-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP)
Special Purpose Islamic Regiment (SPIR)
The Tunisian Combatant Group (TCG)
Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)
Turkish Hizballah
Ulster Defense Association/Ulster Freedom Fighters (USA/UFF)
Ulster Defense Force (UVP)
United Self-Defense Forces/Group of Colombia (AUC)
Weather Underground/Weathermen

Zapatista National Revolutionary Army (EZLN)
Zealots