

POLS 4376/5376: Global Terrorism

6:00- 8:40 pm

Tuesdays

Ross Hall 215

Dr. Jacek Lubecki**Office:** Office 603E, Stabler Hall**Office Telephone:** 683-7029**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2 pm to 4 pm, and by appointment**E-mail:** jxlubecki@ualr.edu**Class objectives :**

The class has double objective. First, we need to understand the nature of terrorism, both as a general phenomenon and in its recent specific manifestations that has confronted the US over the last decade and culminated in the drama of September 11. Second, we need to learn how to deal with terrorism both by preparing to confront its specific manifestations (counter-terrorism) and eliminating its systemic causes through political means (anti-terrorism).

Graduate students taking the course, besides participating in all of the class activities will write a research project on an advanced topic in the study of terrorism. The topic will be chosen in consultation between the graduate student and the course instructor. The objective of the project will be to develop graduate scholarly skills in research and analysis of issues pertaining to terrorism.

Course Description:

First, we will explore the events leading to and following September 11, 2001. This specific case of terrorism will lead us to a broader investigation of terrorism as a social phenomenon. Armed with our understanding of terrorism as a social reality, we will engage in a counter-terrorism exercise, where will explore the issue of American domestic preparedness against the terrorist threat through investigative research and simulations in which the students will be asked to assume the identity of "terrorists," and "homeland security agents." Finally we will examine the political questions involved in the "war of terror" and deliberate on the possible courses of action that United States will and should take in the "war on terror" and the potential responses that significant non-American actors will take in response to measures undertaken by the U.S.

Graduate students taking the course will choose (in consultation with the instructor) a topic to research, develop a research proposal and a preliminary bibliography for the project, and write at least one draft and a final version of the project.

Evaluation and grade:

Your presence and preparation (class readings) for our meetings is absolutely crucial for the class. Attendance will be taken. After two unjustified absences, your grade will drop 5 points for each unjustified absence. An excused absence is only an absence having a doctor's note or a university-sanctioned absence. If, through our discussions or quizzes, I detect lack of preparation for the class, 5 percent of your grade will be taken off. In other words, don't come to the class unless you are prepared. The grading scale for the final grade is given below:

A = 90-100%	B = 89-80%	C = 79-70%	D = 69-60%
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The percentage points for detailed grades are as follows:

A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%
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A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%
B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%	F = 0-59%

If you simply meet the requirements of the course, that is, do the projects and readings and master the basic concepts; you should expect the grade of C. In order to get a B you need to get beyond what is simply required. An A student's work should be truly outstanding.

I assume little previous knowledge of the topic from you but expect hard work during the course. I am available during my office hours and by appointment. Of course, email is always encouraged. For the major written projects you are encouraged to turn in rough drafts as soon as possible.

Conduct of the course:

We will have three major take-home essay assignments (including the final reflection), three small written assignments, and written group-terrorism/counter-terrorism project with a presentation requirement. Additionally, graduate students will have to complete their research project. Grading distribution is given below

Two essay assignments (first 15 points, second 20 points)	35%
Small written assignment (3x5 points each)	15%
Terrorism/counter-terrorism project and its presentation (20 points for the project, 10 points for the presentation)	30%
Final reflection essay (for undergraduate students)	20%
Research project (for graduate students)	20%

This is an open and democratic class. A vigorous clash of ideas is encouraged and welcome. All of you will be asked to participate in our proceedings, present and discuss your ideas. I will not tolerate ignorance and passivity.

Students beware:

The class and the work that you will do in it is not an exercise in newspaper editorializing and opinion-oriented journalism. I am interested in your analytical judgment based on our class material. We will approach our topic with a detachment and objectivity of social scientists.

You will be required to do a substantial amount of reading and writing. This is not an easy class. I am notorious for requiring my students to write and read a lot. Also, there will be quizzes to make sure that you reading the class material. Unless you are willing to read and write systematically you should not expect to be able to pass this class.

Texts :

There are three required texts available at the bookstore:

1) Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment, Revised and Updated* McGraw-Hill, 2002

2) Ron Suskind, *The One Percent Doctrine*, Simon and Schuster, 2006

3) *09/11 Commission Report* (whichever edition - it is also available online) under:
<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm>

4) Additional sources for graduate students are chosen in consultation with the instructor.

We will also use extensively web sources listed under <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/> as well as additional web sources, especially in our terrorism/counter-terrorism exercise. We will view several films: "The Terrorist and the Superpower" (or "Searching for Bin Laden"), "Inside the Terror Network," "Campaign against Terror," and, most importantly, "The Battle of Algiers"

Disabled students policy:

It is the policy of UALR to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation, for example in arrangements for seating, examinations, note-taking should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. It is also the policy and practice of UALR to make web-based information accessible to students with disabilities. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the online course materials for this class, please notify the instructor immediately. The chair of the department offering this course is also available to assist with accommodations. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services, telephone 501-569-3143 or visit the website at <http://ualr.edu/disability/>.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism (using another author's work without acknowledging authorship) will be severely penalized – the penalties will range from an F for the assignment to an F for the course at the discretion of the faculty. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Student Life.

Course schedule:

1. 09/11 and "War on Terror"

01/15

1. Introduction:

Viewing of PBS frontline film "Looking for Answers" (2001)

01/22

2. Understanding the background of 09/11:

Viewing of PBS frontline film: "Inside the Terror Network"

09/11 Commission Report, chapters 2-5

01/29

3. Campaign against terror 1

Viewing of PBS frontline film: "Campaign Against Terror"

Selections from Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapters 8 and 9

Graduate students deadline to decide their topics

02/05

4. Campaign against terror 2

09/11 Commission Report, chapters 12-13

Essay 1 is distributed

2. Old and New Terrorism

02/12

5. Defining Terrorism

Discussion

Selection from films

Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapter 1

02/19

6. Why Terrorism?

Discussion

Selection from “Four Days in September”

Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapter 2

Essay 1 is due**Graduate students deadline to establish a preliminary bibliography**

02/26

7. The New Terrorism

Discussion

Selection from films

Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counter-terrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapter 3

03/04

8. Terrorism and Religion

Discussion

Selection from films

Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapter 4

Essay 2 is distributed**Graduate students deadline to write a research project proposal**

03/11

9. Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer, (editors) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment*, chapter 5

Brainstorming for terrorism – counterterrorism exercise begins

3. Terrorism/counter-terrorism exercise

03/18

10. Terrorism and counter-terrorism exercise. Brainstorming and first debriefing

Essay 2 is due**Spring Break**

04/01

11. Terrorism and counter-terrorism exercise. Second debriefing.

First drafts are due

04/08

12. **Presentations and reflection****4. War on Terror, part II**

04/15

13. War on Terror 1.

Ron Suskind, *The One Percent Doctrine*, pp. 1-124

Terrorism projects are due

Graduate students deadline to write the first draft of the research project

04/22

14. War on Terror 2.

Ron Suskind, *The One Percent Doctrine*, pp. 125-354

Final essay are distributed

04/29

15. Watching and reflection on the film “The Battle of Algiers” (1965)

05/13

6-8 pm, same classroom

Graduate students deadline to write the final draft of the research project.

Final essays are due, Class discussion