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Political Science
Barnard College
Fall 2005

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POLS BC 3055x Colloquium on Political Violence and Terrorism

Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

Course Description: The colloquium is designed to illuminate students' understanding of the most important aspects of domestic and international terrorism in the United States and abroad. While not ignoring the history of terrorism in the American and global setting, special attention will be paid to the "new" terrorism of the post-Cold War era and to anti- and counter-terrorist measures in response to catastrophic terrorist attacks. The assigned readings furnish all students with descriptions, theories, analyses, case studies and transnational comparisons that explain political violence by non-state actors, the roots of terrorism, the role of state sponsors and of "involuntary host countries," the organizational patterns of terrorist cells, groups, and networks, the importance of ideology in terrorists' goals, targets, and methods, issues arising from anti-terrorist (defensive) and counter-terrorist (offensive) policy responses and the rationales and politics surrounding policy-making. Individual readings for research papers provide students with expertise in one particular aspect of terrorism or responses to terrorism.

Course Requirements: Attendance at all sessions is required except for excused absences on Oct. 4th (Rosh Hashanah) and Oct. 18th (Sukkot) for observant students. If a student misses more than two classes without proof of sickness or another exceptional reason, the final grade will be lowered by ½ point for each missed class; if a student misses five or more sessions without proof of serious sickness, he/she will fail the class.

Students must read the assigned material in preparation for each session and participate in class discussions. To make sure that everyone is well prepared, each student will compile a short list (one page or less) of important points, issues, and questions concerning the assigned readings for each class.

Every member of the class will write a research paper (25-30 typewritten, double-spaced pages) that examines one particular aspect of terrorism or counter-terrorism. We will discuss suitable topics in class. The deadlines for handing in the short paper proposal with a preliminary list of sources (2-4 pages), the revised proposal with a complete outline and bibliography (6-8 pages), and the complete term paper are listed on this syllabus. Grades will be based on class participation (one third of the final grade) and the final paper (two thirds of the final grade).

Prerequisites: Limited enrollment course open to undergraduate political science majors or concentrates. Students are assigned to the course by the Barnard Department of Political Science after application.

Topics and Mandatory Readings:

Session 1 **Introduction: The Terrorist Threat--Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow;**
(Sept. 6) **What is terrorism? Is terrorism ever justified?**

Readings:

Brigitte L. Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapters 1 and 2;
Martha Crenshaw, Terrorism in Context, chapter 1;
Richard E. Rubinstein, Alchemist of Revolution, chapters 1-3.

Session 2 **Terrorism in the Global Context**
(Sept. 13)

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 3 and Appendix
(The Appendix lists and summarizes major international and domestic terrorist incidents from the early 1970s to the present time so that students get a basic understanding of past terrorist acts and respective perpetrators, victims, methods, and outcomes. This material will be helpful in understanding many aspects of terrorism and comparing various terrorism waves, groups, targets, methods, etc).

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, chapter 3.

Session 3 **Terrorism in the Domestic Context**
(Sept. 20)

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 4;
Kenneth Stern, A Force Upon the Plain, pp. 179-258
"The Army of God Manual, Third Edition, available at
<http://www.armyofgod.com.AOGsel1.html>

Session 4
(Sept. 27)

The Making of Terrorists: Causes, Conditions, Influences

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 5,
pp. 85-93; pp. 99-106.

Walter Laqueur, No End to War, pp. 11-48.

Walter Reich, Origins of Terrorism, chapters 1-10;

Crenshaw, Terrorism in Context (each student chooses one of the following case studies of movements in Algeria, Italy, Peru, and Spain. Read your case study for class session 5, when we will first discuss this material before moving on to the next topic.

Session 5
(Oct. 4)

States and Terrorists: From State Sponsors to Involuntary Hosts

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 6

Short Proposal for Research Paper is due at the beginning of class

Session 6
(Oct. 11)

Ideology Matters: Terrorist Goals, Targets, and Tactics

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 7;

Christoph Reuter, My Life is A Weapon, chapters 1-5;

Christopher Harmon, Terrorism Today, chapters 1-5.

Session 7
(Oct. 18)

Inside Terrorism: Organizational Structures and the Financing of Terrorism

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 8;

Chris Dishman, "The Leaderless Nexus: When Crime and Terror Converge." Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, May/June 2005;

Simon Reeve, The New Jackals, chapters 8-12.

We will not meet on Oct. 25 and on November 1. I will participate in and speak at a conference in Lisbon, Portugal, October 25-27; November 1, Election Day, is a university holiday. Make up class for the Oct. 25 session will be on Tuesday, December 13, one day after the official end of classes for the fall semester.

Your hard copy of the detailed outline for the term research paper must be in my mail box on the 7th floor of the International Affairs Building before 4:00 p.m. on November 27.

Session 8 **Gender and Terrorism: What Motivates Female Terrorists?**
(Nov. 8)

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 5, pp. 93-99

Barbara Victor, Army of Roses, pp. 1-85

Robin Morgan, The Demon Lover. Introduction, chapters 1, 2, and 6.

(If gender and terrorism is your research topic, you may want to look at the Sept./Oct. 2005 issue of Studies in Conflict and Terrorism that is devoted to this topic.)

Session 9 **Balancing Security and Civil Liberties/Human Rights in the Face of
(Nov. 15) Terrorist Threats**

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 9

Mark Danner, Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror. Pp. 1-105.

Session 10 **Difficult Choices: Military or Non-Military Responses?
(Nov. 22) Prevention and**

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 10;

James Bamford, A Pretext for War, chapters 10-14;

Richard Perle and David Frum, An End to Evil, chapters 1, 2, 5, and 9.

Session 11
(Nov. 29)

Prevention, Preparedness, and Post-9/11 Reforms

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapters 11 and 16

Stephen Flynn, America the Vulnerable, chapters 1-7.

Selected chapters in the 9/11 Commission Report

Session 12
(Dec. 6)

Media and Communication: Central to the Calculus of Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and the Media, chapters 12, 13, and 14;

Pippa Norris et al., eds. Framing Terrorism, chapters

If your research deals with media, communication and related topics, see also Brigitte Nacos, Mass-Mediated Terrorism: The Centrality of the Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism.

Session 13:
(Dec. 12)

Public Opinion and Terrorism/The Moral Force of T-Victims

Readings:

Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 15

Norris, Framing Terrorism, pp. 68-74, chapters 4-5.

Term Papers are due at the beginning of this last class session!

I have ordered two books in the Columbia Bookstore as required readings:

Brigitte L. Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding Threats and Responses in the Post-9/11 World. New York: Longman, 2006. We will use this textbook as the basic reading source for all course sessions.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, The 9/11 Commission Report. New York: W. W. Norton. This volume must be read by every student as valuable explanation of the reasons for the successful execution of the 9/11 attacks and what reforms were recommended by the bipartisan commission to prevent further acts of terrorist violence.

The following readings are on reserve in the Barnard Library:

Bamford, James. A Pretext for War. New York: Double Day, 2004.

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

Danner, Mark. Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror. New York: The New York Review of Books, 2004.

Flynn, Stephen. America the Vulnerable. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Harmon, Christopher C. Terrorism Today. London: Frank Cass, 2000.

Heyman, Philip B. Terrorism, Freedom, and Security: Winning Without War. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003.

Heyman, Philip B. Terrorism and America: A Commonsense Strategy for a Democratic Society. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1998.

Hoffman, Bruce. Inside Terrorism. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.

Kegley, Charles Jr., ed. International Terrorism: Characteristics, Causes, Controls. New York: St. Martin's, 1990.

Lawrence Freedman, ed. Superterrorism: Policy Responses. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2002.

Laqueur, Walter. The New Terrorism: Fanaticism and the Arms of Mass Destruction. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Laqueur, Walter. No End to War: Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century. New York: Continuum, 2003.

Morgan, Robin. The Demon Lover: The Roots of Terrorism. New York: Washington Square Press, 2001.

Nacos, Brigitte L. Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding Threats and Responses in the Post-9/11 World. New York: Longman, 2006.

Nacos, Brigitte L. Mass-Mediated Terrorism: The Centrality of the Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

Norris, Pippa, Montague Kern and Marion Just. Framing Terrorism: The News Media, the Government, and the Public. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Perle, Richard and David Frum. An End to Evil. New York: Random House, 2003.

Pillar, Paul R. Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy. Washington, DC: Brookings, 2001.

Reich, Walter, ed. Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Reeve, Simon. The New Jackals: Ramzi Yousef, Osama bin Laden and the Future of Terrorism. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1999.

Reuter, Christoph. My Life is a Weapon. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Rubenstein, Richard E. Alchemists of Revolution: Terrorism in the Modern World. New York, Basic Books, 1987.

Say, Peggy and Peter Knobler. Forgotten. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991.

Simon, Jeffrey D. The Terror Trap: America's Experience with Terrorism (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994).

Stern, Kenneth S. A Force Upon the Plain: The American Militia Movement and the Politics of Hate. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Victor, Barbara. Army of Roses: Inside the World of Palestinian Suicide Women. New York: Rodale, 2003.