Course Description

This course will engage in a systematic review the terrorism and efforts to counter it. The course is designed to give students a broad overview of the policy area and to encourage critical thinking and independent action on the part of students.

Over the course of the semester we will analyze the historical origins of terrorism, some of the traditional tactics affiliated with it, as well as discussing underlying political and ideological sources. The next section of the course will examine terrorist groups, their training, as well as domestic (US) sources of terror. Following this, we’ll uncover responses to terrorism, including legal, military, legislation and through policy. The last quarter of the semester we’ll examine multiple cases related to terrorism and look at oppositional points of view by considering questions as: “Can terrorism be justified?” or “Can spreading democracy help defeat terrorism?”

Student Learning Objectives

At the end of the semester you will be able to:

- Identify the role of theories and concepts related to terrorism
- Evaluate the effectiveness of alternative policies related to terrorism
- Analyze and interpret empirical data (either qualitative or quantitative)
- Write effectively and communicate with peers
- Design and conduct an independent research project

Required & Recommended Materials

Required

Gottlieb, Stuart. (Ed.) 2009. Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Conflicting Perspectives on Cause, Contexts and Responses
Blackboard – all course communication, material, and grade posting is done through Blackboard.

Recommended

Government Reports
Scholarly articles
News Articles

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Joseph Jozwiak
Phone: (361) 825-5997
Course Assignments and Grades

Course Grades

Grading will be done on a conventional scale (90-80-70-60). However, a score of 89.5 is an “A” and 79.5 is a “B”.

Exams

There will be two exams over the course of the semester. The exams will be open book, take home exams administered via Blackboard and consist of short answer essay questions that will be based on the readings and discussions. Students will be expected to complete their own work and not share provide help to others or receive help from others in completing this. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

On-Line Discussion Participation

Students are expected to participate weekly in on-line discussions. Participation means that students will be required to post answers to three discussion questions that will be listed in the Discussion folder for each week and to respond to at least two posts of other students. The week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturdays thus students will be required to post answers to discussion questions by Wednesday of each week and respond to these student posts by midnight on Saturday. Students should ensure their answers reflect the readings for the week and that their responses to other students are insightful and add to the discourse. Merely stating one agrees with an answer is not enough; rather students need to add substantively to the discussion.

The maximum points per week are 10 for 14 weeks for a total of 140 points for the course. Late posts will not be accepted.

Reader Responses

The last third of the semester we will spend considerable time responding to the selections in the Gottlieb reader, Debating Terrorism. For each week, the student is expected to pick one side of the debate and critically address why they agree with the author. These should be one-page double spaced written responses that will be due at the end of the week by 5pm. These will be uploaded into BB. These readings are intended to encourage argumentation and should provide additional topics for your paper.

Terrorism Policy Position Paper

Each student will select a significant issue regarding terrorism, such as the threat to civil liberties, intelligence gathering, defense against terrorism, sources of terrorism, the media and terrorism, etc. and
prepare a position paper of at least 12 pages but not more than 16 double spaced typed pages in length. The paper will be worth 200 points.

The paper must include:

a. a concise description of the policy issue (about 2-3 pages)
b. an overview of the policy debate, including major actors and their positions on the issue and/or technical issues involved
c. a statement concerning the significance of the issue for those terrorist events or their consequences for the public
d. the student’s own position on the issue specifying why he or she supports the position
e. papers will use APA style formatting to cite references; at least 12 scholarly references must be used.

Administrative Requirements for the Policy Paper:

This paper should be 10-12 pages; double spaced; Times New Roman; one inch margins; with cover page; don’t number paragraphs; no page number on page one; include page numbers on pages 2 and up, centered at the bottom of the page. Students are expected to use APA style formatting and use a minimum of 12 scholarly references (these may include scholarly journals, books, government reports, court cases, legislation, etc.) See Appendix B for the grading rubric for all research papers for this course.


Make-Up Exams and Assignments

Make-up exams and assignments will be given only if you have an excused absence or documented emergency. Excused absences include: participation in a university-affiliated activity that requires you to miss class, a religious holiday, death or major illness in your immediate family, illness of a dependent family member, participation in legal proceedings that require your presence, injury or illness too severe to allow you to attend class, or required participation in military duties. To be excused, you should notify me in writing (an e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if possible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency), you should provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. If needed, you must provide additional documentation substantiating the reason for the absence within one week of the last date of the absence. Make-up exams and assignments must be completed on the day agreed upon by you and me.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day late. In the event of an emergency or excused absence, a student may be given additional days to complete the assignment without penalty. This must be approved ahead of time.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is offered at my discretion but is not routine. Do not expect extra credit opportunities to be given at the end of the semester to “save” a grade.
Grade Appeals
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, if you believe that you have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, you may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon you to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. If you have a complaint, please first discuss it with me. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs at 825-2612.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within 14 calendar days after the beginning of the next term)

2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.

3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.

5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.

7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)

8. Decision by Provost

9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost is student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Dropping the Class
If you are considering dropping this course, please discuss it with me to be sure it is the best course of action. Should you decided to drop the course, you must initiate the process by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Simply stopping attendance and participation will NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 5, 2011 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
Classroom Policies

Course Communication
All course communication is sent through your university email account (Islander account). You are also expected to routinely check Blackboard for course materials and announcements. If you need assistance with either of these, please contact the Student Computer Helpdesk at 361-825-5618 or visit the website: http://islander.tamucc.edu/. When sending an email to me or your class peers, you are expected to use professional standards, including proper salutations, capitalization, and grammar.

Students with Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to do your own work. As commonly defined, plagiarism is passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, and writings which belong to another. You commit plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of the person. If I discover you have cheated in any way, I will recommend an F as your final grade and contact the appropriate university officials regarding your behavior.

Applying for Graduation
If you are planning to graduate this year, you must apply for graduation with The Registrar’s Office. Please contact Rachelle Stanley at 825-5896 to get this process underway.

Course Schedule for the Semester
This is a tentative schedule for the semester:

Week 1  Introductions
Week 2  Combs, Chs. 1 “An Idea Whose Time Has Come?” and 2 “Not a Modern Phenomenon”
Week 3  Combs, Chs. 3 “Ideology and Terrorism: Rights from Wrongs?” and 4 “Criminals or Crusaders?”
Week 4  Combs, Chs. 5 “Terrorism by the State” and 6 “Terrorism, Inc.”
Week 5  First Exam

Week 6  Combs, Chs. 7 “Terrorist Training” and 8 “The Media: A Weapon for Both Sides?”

Week 7  Combs, Chs. 9 “Domestic Terrorism in the United States” and 10 “Legal Perspectives on Terrorism”

Week 8  Combs, Chs. 11 “Counterterrorism: The Use of Special Forces” and 12 “Terrorism, Intelligence, and the Law”


Week 10 Second Exam

Week 11 Gottlieb, Part I: Terrorism

Week 12 Gottlieb, Part I: Terrorism

Week 13 Gottlieb, Part II: Counterterrorism

Week 14: Gottlieb, Part II: Counterterrorism

Final Paper Due