
**Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
Syllabus for One-Day Course**

Lead Instructor:

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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

TIME	LESSON	TOPIC
9-10 AM	1	The New Terrorism
10-11 AM	2	Religion and the Intersection with Terrorism
11 AM -12 PM	3	Weapons of Mass Destruction
12-1 PM	--	LUNCH
1-2 PM	4	The Challenges of Terrorism to a Free Society
2-3 PM	5	Organizing to Fight Terrorism
3-4 PM	6	Winning the War on Terrorism

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Course Reader: *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment*, edited by Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer. **All textbook readings are indicated by “(CR)”**.

Please Note: any readings that are outside the recommended course reader will be provided separately in pdf format.

PART I – THE NEW TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What is the new model of terrorism? Compare and contrast the old and new terrorism for indicators relating to capabilities and future trends
- Explore why the shift occurred
- Discuss the implications of the shift from old to new models of terrorism
- What is al Qaeda?
- How and why did al Qaeda evolve as it did?
- How did al Qaeda ascend to power?
- Identify al Qaeda's significant achievements
- Understand the development of a transnational terrorist organization
- What are the implications of the evolution for counter-terrorists?
- How should we think of al Qaeda today?

Assigned Readings:

1. Rohan Gunaratna, "Post-Madrid Face of al Qaeda" (CR)
2. Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism" (CR)

PART II – RELIGION AND THE INTERSECTION WITH TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- How has the role of ideology changed in terrorism?
- What are the dominant ideologies today?
- What is the impact of the shift in ideologies in terms of ways, means, and ends of terrorism?
- What is the implication of the changing ideology in terms of target selection?
- Rise of religious terrorism
- What happens when political goals are conceived in divine terms?
- Supranational aspect of religion

Assigned Readings:

1. Magnus Ranstorp, "Terrorism in the Name of Religion" (CR)
2. Quintan Wiktorowicz, "A Genealogy of Radical Islam" (CR)

PART III – WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- How should we think about CBRN(E) terrorism?
- Is there something fundamentally different about these weapons?
- Why would a terrorist group use these types of weapons?
- What sources exist for acquisition of these weapons?
- What is the probability of acquiring such a weapon?
- What types of groups are most likely to use these devices?
- Are there any constraints on the use of unconventional weapons?
- How do we form public policy based on this threat? How do we view the insurance question?

Assigned Readings:

1. Richard Pilch, "The Threat of Biological Terrorism Reevaluated" (CR)
2. John Ellis, "Terrorism in the Genomic Age" (CR)

PART IV – THE CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM TO A FREE SOCIETY

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- How can we find a balance between freedom, civil liberties and security?
- After 9/11, the U.S. government has become increasingly involved in domestic counter-terrorism. What is domestic counter-terrorism? What is the role of local and state law enforcement officers?

Assigned Readings:

1. Richard K. Betts, "The Soft Underbelly of American Primacy: Tactical Advantages of Terror" (CR)
2. Barry R. Posen, "The Struggle Against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Strategy, and Tactics" (CR)

PART V – ORGANIZING TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- How should we address the terrorism problem?
- Are we winning the war against terrorism?
- How will we know if we have won?
- Can terrorism be defeated?

Assigned Readings:

1. Rob de Wijk, "The Limits of Military Power" (CR)
2. Richard H. Shultz, Jr., "Showstoppers: Nine Reasons Why We Never Sent Our Special Operations Forces After Al Qaeda Before 9/11" (CR)

PART VI – WINNING THE WAR ON TERRORISM

Lesson Questions & Objectives:

- What are the key ideological dimensions of today's global Islamic insurgency?
- How closely aligned are groups in Southeast Asia to Al Qaeda?
- How sophisticated are the associated groups?
- What type of threat do these groups present to both the host nation and the US?
- What types of policies should the US pursue based on analysis of the above items?

Assigned Readings:

1. Dan Byman, "U.S. Counter-Terrorism Options: A Taxonomy," *Survival*, v. 39, n. 3, September 2007. (PDF) pp. 121-150.
2. Russell D. Howard, "Understanding Al Qaeda's Application of the New Terrorism—The Key to Victory in the Current Campaign" *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism*