

PSY344 Psychology of Terrorism (3 credit hours) Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive review of the scientific and professional literature analyzing key research findings on the “psychology of terrorism.” The course will identify, describe, and evaluate what contribution psychological theory and research have made to understanding terrorists and terrorism and the impact on victims. Typologies and group differences in terrorism will be explored. Current and future research directions in studying terrorism and counterterrorism are offered.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

By the end of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. To examine the question of "What is terrorism?" As part of that examination, we will evaluate the problems associated with defining terrorism.
 2. To explore the question of what motivates an individual terrorist to commit an act of terrorism. We will look at questions such as "Is there a terrorist psychology?" and "What motivates a suicide bomber?" and examine what enables individuals to perpetrate acts of terrorism.
 3. To examine the psychological impact of terrorism on victims and witnesses and the various treatment strategies needed to facilitate recovery from trauma.
 4. To explore and evaluate the role of the behavioral sciences to deter terrorism and aid counter-terrorism efforts.
 5. To provide students with the opportunity to engage in psychosocial analyses of a particular instance of terrorism.
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Course Topics

Introduction to terrorism
Psychology of counterterrorism: Critical issues and challenges
Understanding terrorist psychology
Social psychology
Group behavior in terrorism
Psychological issues, mental illness and terrorism
The evolutionary logic of terrorism
Suicide terrorism
Profiling terrorists
Terrorist ideology
Impact of the media on terrorism and counterterrorism
Psychological impact of terrorism
Counterterrorism: Disengagement, prevention, and deterrence

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

PSY101

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

These are the materials you will need to purchase for the course:

Silke, A. (Ed). (2010). *The psychology of counter-terrorism*. London/NY: Routledge.
ISBN: 978-0415558402

Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements. Where applicable, Tiffin University has obtained permission to use copyrighted material.

Minimum Student Technology Requirements

In order to have a quality learning experience in your online courses, the University requires that your primary computer (the computer used to access course materials and on which you will be required to install course-specific software) meets or exceeds certain specifications. Click on the following link to view the specifications:

- [PC Recommendations](#)
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Time Management

Time management is an important part of academic success. Please refer to the approximate (average) times noted below for readings and assignments to help plan your time accordingly.

Course Content

Please refer to individual activities for assessment guidelines.

WEEK 1			
Course Topics	Introduction to terrorism Psychology of counterterrorism: Critical issues and challenges Understanding terrorist psychology		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapters 1, 2 Lecture Borum pp. 1-21 Hudson pp. 1-21 Victoroff article Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		2 hrs. 0.25 hrs. 1 hrs. 1 hrs. 1 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Introductory Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): n/a	Monday	1 hrs.
Discussion 1: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion 2: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.

Discussions: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1.5 hrs.
Introduction to Week 2 Assignment	CLO(s): n/a	Week 2	0 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			12.75 hrs.

WEEK 2			
Course Topics	Social psychology Group behavior in terrorism		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapter 3 Borum pp. 22-29 Hudson pp. 22-26; 34-42 Lecture Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		1 hrs. 0.5 hrs. 1 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1 hrs.
Assignment: Case Analysis 1	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sunday	13.5 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			19.75 hrs.

WEEK 3			
Course Topics	Psychological issues, mental illness and terrorism The evolutionary logic of terrorism Suicide terrorism		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapters 4, 5 Borum pp. 30-36 Hudson pp. 25-34 Lecture Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		2 hrs. 0.25 hrs. 0.5 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	0.5 hrs.
Assignment: Essay Exam 1	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sunday	12 hrs.
Introduction to Week 4 Assignment	CLO(s): n/a	Week 4	0 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			18 hrs.

WEEK 4			
Course Topics	Profiling terrorists Terrorist ideology		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Borum pp. 36-52 Hudson pp. 43-66 Vaisman-Tzachor article Terrorists in Love video Lecture Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		0.75 hrs. 0.75 hrs. 0.5 hrs. 1.5 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time

Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1 hrs.
Assignment: Case Analysis 2	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sunday	13.5 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			20.75 hrs.

WEEK 5			
Course Topics	Impact of the media on terrorism and counterterrorism Psychological impact of terrorism		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapters 6, 7, 13 Lecture Mathewson article Neria article Tanielian article DiGrande article Fostering Psychological Healing video The Mothers Who Found Forgiveness video Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		3 hrs. 0.25 hrs. 1.5 hrs. 1.5 hrs. 0.75 hrs. 0.75 hrs. 1 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion 1: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion 2: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1 hrs.
Introduction to Week 6 Assignment	CLO(s): n/a	Week 6	0 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			15 hrs.

WEEK 6			
Course Topics	Counterterrorism: Disengagement, prevention, and deterrence		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapters 8, 11, 12 Borum pp. 52-64 Lecture Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		3 hrs. 0.5 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time
Discussion: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1 hrs.
Assignment: Case Analysis 3	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sunday	13.5 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			20.75 hrs.

WEEK 7			
Course Topics	Additional Issues and Future of Psychology of Terrorism Conclusion and review		
Read/Review			Approx. Time
Textbook, Lectures, and Other Resources	Silke Chapters 9, 10 Borum pp. 64-69 Lecture Some lectures/activities may contain additional resources. See individual lectures/activities for those requirements.		2 hrs. 0.25 hrs. 0.25 hrs.
Activity Type	Course Learning Outcomes	Due	Approx. Time

Discussion 1: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	2.5 hrs.
Discussion 2: Initial Post	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3	Wednesday	1 hrs.
Discussion: Secondary Posts	CLO(s): as noted	Saturday	1 hrs.
Assignment: Essay Exam 2	CLO(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Thursday	12 hrs.
Approximate Weekly Time on Task (includes resources and activities)			19 hrs.
Approximate Time on Task for Entire Course			126 hrs.

Grading Structure

Activity	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Introductory Discussion	n/a							0
Discussion 1	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	105
Discussion 2	15				15		15	45
Case Analysis 1		100						100
Case Analysis 2				100				100
Case Analysis 3						100		100
Essay Exam 1			100					100
Essay Exam 2							100	100
Total	30	115	115	115	30	115	130	650

Activity Categories	Percentage of Total Points
Discussion	23%
Case Analysis	46%
Essay Exam	31%
Total	100%

Grading Scale	
Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Please see the Course Policies document for grade appeal information.

Course Policies and University Services

Course Policies

Additional requirements for the course can be found in the Course Policies document. Please read the document and familiarize yourself with those policies to guide you through the course.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student information. Other than directory information, such as name, address, phone number, etc., students must give consent for individuals to gain access to a student's educational record,

including grades, transcripts, and behavior reports (unless the student is under the age of 18). Students also have the right to review their educational records. For a more detailed explanation, please see the Student Handbook.

Office of Disability Services

Please refer to your Moodle Home page for Office of Disability Services contact information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Veterans

Please refer to your Moodle Home page for services for veterans, service members, and their families.

Moodle and Non-Moodle Technical Support

Blackboard Student Services will provide 24x7 Moodle helpdesk support for all Tiffin University students and faculty. Locate contact information for Blackboard Student Services (Moodle-related issues) and for Tiffin University ITS helpdesk (non-Moodle related issues) on your Moodle Home page.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the University.