

PSY344 Psychology of Terrorism
(3 credit hours)
Course 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

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

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

Prerequisites/Corequisites

PSY101

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

For this course you will need to purchase the following materials:

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

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#). You might consider registering for one of the library's many webinars on library research, source evaluation, copyright, and other topics, at the [Library Events - Upcoming Events](#) web page. For further assistance email a librarian, at: library@tiffin.edu.

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this class you should plan your time wisely. With our accelerated, seven-week term, you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week** to complete readings and assignments. To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial forum discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Wednesdays** and response posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Saturdays**.
4. Major assignments and reflections are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Sundays**.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Activity	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussion	15 15	15	15	15	15 15	15	15 15	150
Case Analysis	-	100	-	100	-	100	-	300
Essay Exam	-	-	100	-	-	-	100	200
Total	30	115	115	115	30	115	130	650

Grading Scale

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

Please see the [Academic Bulletin](#) for grade appeal information.

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Week 1

- ☐ Forum (Due Monday): Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 1.2: Theoretical Issues - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 1.3: Psychological Theories and Theoretical Orientation - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Secondary Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 1.2: Theoretical Issues - Secondary Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 1.3: Psychological Theories and Theoretical Orientation - Secondary Post
- ☐ Review (Due Sunday): Introduction: Case Analysis Paper 1 (due Week 2)

Week 2

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 2.1: Terrorist Organizations - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 2.1: Terrorist Organizations - Secondary Post
- ☐ Assignment (Due Sunday): Activity 2.2: Case Analysis Paper 1

Week 3

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 3.1: Psychological Principles - Introductory Post

- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 3.1: Psychological Principles - Secondary Post
- ☐ Assignment (Due Sunday): Activity 3.2: Essay Exam 1
- ☐ Review (Due Sunday): Introduction: Case Analysis Paper 2 (due Week 4)

Week 4

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 4.1: Terrorist Profile - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 4.1: Terrorist Profile - Secondary Post
- ☐ Assignment (Due Sunday): Activity 4.2: Case Analysis Paper 2

Week 5

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 5.1: Media Coverage - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 5.2: Internet - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 5.1: Media Coverage - Secondary Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 5.2: Internet - Secondary Post
- ☐ Review (Due Sunday): Introduction: Case Analysis Paper 2 (due Week 6)

Week 6

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 6.1: Preventing Terrorist - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 6.1: Preventing Terrorist - Secondary Post
- ☐ Assignment (Due Sunday): Activity 6.2: Case Analysis Paper 3

Week 7

- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 7.1: Counterterrorism - Introductory Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Wednesday): Activity 7.2: Terrorist - Introductory Post
- ☐ Assignment (Due Thursday): Activity 7.3: Essay Exam 2
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 7.1: Counterterrorism - Secondary Post
- ☐ Forum (Due Saturday): Activity 7.2: Terrorist - Secondary Post

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

Your Instructor Will Expect You to:

- Thoroughly review orientation materials (Start Here) within the first 48 hours of the term.
- Monitor your TU email account **daily** for important updates and announcements.
- Take ownership of your learning experience and act in a proactive, self-directed manner. That means:
 - Fully participate in all learning activities.
 - Complete assignments as described in rubrics or other instructions.
 - Submit all work on time and in the specified format (e.g. APA format for citations).
 - Utilize and incorporate instructor provided feedback to improve your work.
 - Ask questions so you can better understand course material or assignments.
 - Use the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity. For details, see the TU Library guide: [Digital Literacy: Netiquette and Internet Safety](#).
 - Treat others respectfully and demonstrate "netiquette" (online politeness and respectfulness) at all times. TU celebrates cultural uniqueness and expects all students to be considerate and thoughtful throughout their learning experiences.

You Should Expect Your Instructors to:

- Post an introductory announcement/email at the beginning of each week to provide updates and help you prepare for the week's activities.
- Maintain an active and engaged presence in all course activities and throughout the course.
- Respond to your emailed questions within 48 hours, if not sooner.
- Clearly communicate any absences or expected non-participation due to extenuating circumstances. For example, "I will be traveling to attend a funeral this week and may not be able to respond to questions or participate in forums for a couple of days."
- When grading your work:
 - clearly indicate their grading approach (what they like to see in submitted work as well as what types of errors they tend to penalize more harshly),

- thoroughly review and evaluate your submissions in a timely manner (in less than 5 days for most assignments), and
- provide constructive feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of your work with suggestions on how you can improve your performance on future assignments.
- Advocate for your success as a learner and help guide you toward successful completion of the course activities and most importantly, attainment of the course learning outcomes.

Accommodations (Disability Services)

The Office of Disability Services supports the institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you need reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability, contact the Office for Equity, Access, & Opportunity via email at disabilityservices@tiffin.edu or by calling 419-448-3021.

Technical Support

For Moodle support, either email moodlesupport@tiffin.edu or call the 24/7 Technical Support Call Center at 855-664-1200 (3430, Option 2, from on-campus). For non-Moodle support, contact the Tiffin University ITS helpdesk at the number above or submit a [support ticket](#).

Veterans

The Veteran and Military Resource Center assists veterans, active Military, and spouses of current service members in utilizing their education benefits. VMRC provides information regarding benefit processes and procedures, as well as support in navigating the transition from military to academic life by facilitating connections with the appropriate support services on campus. More information can be found on the Veteran and Military Resource Center website, at <http://www.tiffin.edu/va>.

Additional Support

If you need to consult an academic advisor refer to TU's [Meet the Team](#) page. For information about TU's peer tutoring program see the Murphy Center's [Tutoring Policies and Procedures](#) page.

Comments or Concerns

TU's online programs are designed to be student *driven*: to empower you with a voice and stake in your learning. Our courses feature multiple and varied ways that you can share feedback, and we invite you to become an active voice and help drive our improvement

efforts. In addition to providing in-course feedback, we encourage you to submit questions or comments directly to the online team at online@tiffin.edu.