

THE ROBERTSON SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Terrorism & Homeland Defense

GOV 677

PROFESSOR:

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“Things are going to get worse”

Marvin Cetron

Co-author of *Terrorism 2000: The Future Face of Terrorism*

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

Since 9/11, the United States has focused most of its internal and external political energies toward finding and destroying the perpetrators of the most heinous attack on American soil in history and simultaneously coming up with plans to improve its own internal security. After a very thorough and largely bi-partisan review by a special commission that investigated the 9/11 attack, it has become clear that the US preparedness to such a possible attack was severely lacking on a number of fundamental levels. Moreover, following the attack, the President of the United States, George W. Bush embarked on a new and largely unilateralist foreign policy that is “both worldview changing and world changing.” Speaking to the Joint Session of Congress on 20 September 2001, President Bush eloquently noted that “Americans have known the casualties of war – but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks – but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day – and night fell on a different world.”

Terrorism as a political tool came into fashion in the midst of the Cold War and the advent of modern media telecommunications. However, in recent years, predominately due to the religiously inspired advent of Al Qaeda and its extreme animus toward the United States and western culture, terrorism is growing in lethality and destructiveness as time progresses and the world emerges into the post-Cold War era. Moreover, with the growing reality that terrorists are actively seeking access to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and its associated technology, the defense of US national territory and citizens has become the greatest political issue to face the United States since its founding as a nation. Whereas the airplane hijackings of the 1970s and 80s used to have an immediate media impact, today, they are regarded as more of an anachronism of a by-gone era. Instead, terrorism has now been elevated to the horrific where such present and future events are being designed to shock and terrorize whole nations by inducing high levels of fear and casualties against random civilian populations that are conveniently (for the terrorists) packed together in large urbanized formations.

This course is designed to broaden individual understanding of the ever changing nature of international terrorism and its consequences on American society at large. Further, the course will also cover the present-day US domestic and external responses to terrorism and focus on the rise of the US Homeland Security Agency. We will begin by studying the definition and nature of terrorism, the US national security policy response to this phenomenon, and the development of programs and policies by the federal government to prevent or thwart such 9/11 like attacks in the future. We will focus on the rise of Islamic terrorism but also briefly cover terrorism in other regions of the world. Finally, we will focus on trends in modern terrorism, especially the proliferation of WMD and what the US can do (or is doing) to counter such trends. This course will emphasize student understanding of the evolving issue of terrorism and make some projections as to its future direction and what the world can and must do about it.

CONNECTION TO PROGRAM OF STUDY:

This course is designed to train leaders to help develop the divine foundations of US national security policy, national defense, and the present and future response to the phenomenon of terrorism. The foundations and concepts of the course will help formulate national and international policies based on justice and peace, the safeguarding of basic human rights and the balancing national security policy, national interests, and homeland defense.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To acquaint students with more of the theoretical foundations of US national security policy and the rise of modern international terrorism.
2. To understand the rise of modern international terrorism and its impact on US domestic and foreign policy.
3. To understand why the Department of Homeland Security was developed and the direction it is presently headed in.
4. To understand the role of the Director of Homeland Security and how and why Chief Executive in Presidential decision making and how those decisions get made.
5. To understand US counter-terrorism policy and the present state of the war on terrorism from both domestic and international perspectives.
6. To enhance each student's ability to understand Islamic terrorism and how and why their animus is directed against the West and especially the US.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, students should have a thorough understanding the theoretical basis for US national security policy and the rise of modern international terrorism. Further, students will be able to understand the roles of Department of Homeland Security to include the roles of various federal, state and local agencies that support this effort. Finally, students will be able to understand and adequately analyze the future direction of modern terrorism, especially that emanating from the Middle East.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Title: *The New Global Terrorism: Characteristics, Causes, Controls*

Author: Charles W. Kegley, Jr.

Publisher: Prentice Hall

ISBN: 0130494135

Edition: Sept. 2002

This is a required book.

Title: *Understanding Terror Networks*

Author: Marc Sageman

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press

ISBN: 0-8122-3808-7

Edition: 2004

This is a required book.

Title: *Power, Terror, Peace, and War*

Author: Walter Russell Mead

Publisher: A. A. Knopf

ISBN: I-4000-4237-2

Edition: 2004

This is a required book.

Title: *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*

Author: Mark Lowenthal

Publisher: CQ Press

ISBN: 1933116021

Edition: 3rd edition, Oct. 2005

This is a required book.

Title: *The 9/11 Commission Report*

Author:

Publisher: W.W. Norton Publishers

ISBN: 0393326713

Edition: 2004

This is a required book.

Title: *Terrorism in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*
Author: Jessica Stern
Publisher: Ecco Publishers / HarperCollins Publishers
ISBN: 006050532x
Edition: Sept. 2003
This is a required book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Read the weekly assigned reading and participate in classroom discussion.
- B. All students will be required to submit (2) ten page research papers. The first research paper, due at mid-term, will deal with a theoretical problem of US national security policy as it relates to the phenomenon of modern terrorism. Topic selection should be submitted and approved by the professor not later than the end of the second week of class. Topics can be submitted to me for approval via email. The second research paper will deal with a problem of the future direction on national security policy and the direction that terrorism appears to be headed in. Topic approval may be submitted to me via email and approval should be gained from the professor no later than mid-term.

Midterm Paper is due 15 October 2006. The Final Paper is due 8 December 2006

- C. Students will also be graded on their weekly classroom participation levels.
- D. All written assignments and out of class questions or comments can be emailed to (cneimeyer@regent.edu) with the subject line GOV 677. For example, GOV 677 John Doe, Paper One, etc.
- E. All email attachments must be submitted as a Word document and please ensure that you place your name on the first page of your attached document.

GRADING:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

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|---|-----|
| A. The quality of your first research paper | 40% |
| B. The quality of your second research paper | 40% |
| C. The quality and level of activity in the classroom | 20% |

Grading Scale

94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+

82-86	B
80-81	B-
76-79	C+
72-75	C
70-71	C-
65-69	D
Below 65	F

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Academic Honesty: Students at Regent University shall abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism cannot be tolerated and are contrary to the mission of the University and the tenants of Christianity. Transgressions shall be investigated by the professor and appropriate punitive action taken (including expulsion from the course) if found culpable of such offenses.
- B. Classroom Decorum: Students at Regent University are expected to treat each other and their opinions with mutual respect and Christian civility at all times. Failure to do so could result in expulsion from the class by the professor.
- C. Incomplete Grades: An incomplete grade (I) may be given only for legitimate and extenuating circumstances due to illness or emergencies and shall be given only upon approval by the professor. For further details, please refer to current school wide regulations found in the on line catalog regarding the awarding of incomplete grades.
- D. Student Feedback: At the end of the course, students will be invited to submit written comments to the teacher regarding the conduct and content of the course. These comments are designed to assist the teacher in being a more effective classroom instructor and to be able to adjust the course to better suit the needs of the student – especially concerning course organization and text selection.

SELECTED BIBIOGRAPHY:

Bamford, James. *The Puzzle Palace: Inside the National Security Agency*. New York: Penguin Books, 1983.

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Cordesman, Anthony H. *Defending America: Redefining the Conceptual Borders of Homeland Defense*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2000.

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Polk, William R. *The Arab World Today*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.

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