

Insurgency, Rebellion, and Terrorism
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
POLS 479: Spring 2018

Instructor Information:

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Course Description: This course is designed to give students an introduction to the causes, methods, and justifications for the use of terrorism. This is not a simple task; politicians, pundits, and media reports routinely treat terrorism as if every listener has a clear understanding of the behaviors and activities that are encapsulated within. However, there are a host of varying, and oftentimes competing, definitions that mitigates the efficacy of counterterrorism policies. For this reason, this class will include a review of the definitions of terrorism, as well as the tactics these groups employ and their motivations for doing so. The goals of this course are to provide a greater understanding of terrorism as a political phenomenon with the ultimate goal of creating a solution to this behavior.

Required Texts:

- Crenshaw, Martha. *Explaining Terrorism: Causes, Processes, and Consequences*. Routledge Publishing. 2010.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. University of California Press; Fourth Edition. 2017.
- Combs, Cynthia. *Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century*. Pearson Education; Seventh Edition. 2012.

These are the *required* texts for the class; additional readings and videos may be assigned to supplement the core texts.

Grades: The grades for this class will use the following grading rubric:

A = 100-93%	C = 76-73%
A- = 92-90%	C- = 72-70%
B+ = 89-87%	D+ = 69-67%
B = 86-83%	D = 66-63%
B- = 82-80%	D- = 62-60%
C+ = 79-77%	F = < 59%

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this class. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day, including weekends, after the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after four days and a zero will be given.

These grades will come from three primary areas:

1. **Weekly Reading and Lecture Quizzes.** (14 quizzes; 45% of total grade) Each week a quiz will be posted that covers content from both the weekly reading and the online lecture. The quizzes will open at 12:00 A.M. on Sunday morning and will close at 11:59 P.M. the following Saturday. Students will have 20 minutes to complete the 5-10 question multiple choice quiz. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes.
2. **Reaction Papers:** (20% of total grade) There will be a total of 3 short reaction papers. The papers will be 2-3 page book critiques that will be due on Saturday at 11:59 p.m. of the week we are finished reading that particular book. These papers should be written double spaced with 12-font and 1-inch margins all around. I do not require a specific citation style as long as you are consistent (although I do prefer APA) *I do not expect you to write a summary of the book; rather I want you to critically examine the argument of the author and provide me with a well thought out critique of what you liked, disliked, what you thought the author missed, what you thought he/she did well, etc.* The due dates will be posted in this syllabus. The papers need to be submitted to the appropriate upload place on Canvas. Please refer to the Reaction Paper FAQ for additional requirements.
3. **Final Paper:** (35% of total grade) The final paper will be 12-15 pages long on a topic that you clear with me by Week 10. The topic will be largely your choice and can range from a discussion of the academic understandings of terrorism to a detailed examination of a particular group or action. There are a plethora of good topics and I will be more than happy to work with each of you in developing yours; having said that please refer to the syllabus often for specific due dates including the date that you must propose your final paper topic for approval. An outline of the final paper is due on Saturday night of week 13. The final paper will be due on April 28th at 11:59 p.m. The final paper will not be accepted late.

Learning Environment: Topics such as terrorism, insurgency, and rebellion are inherently contentious and tend to provoke some strong opinions and emotions. This class is structured to provide opposing viewpoints and perspectives in order to offer a broad range of viewpoints; as such it is likely that some of us in the class will have very different opinions on these topics. This is a learning environment where these opinions are welcome but I expect courtesy and professional reactions to those opinions. Be respectful in your reaction papers to the sensitive nature of this topic and certainly avoid derogatory or hateful statements concerning certain groups, ethnic backgrounds, gender, or people or religious affiliation. I want to foster an atmosphere where all viewpoints can be discussed without malicious response; while I do not expect this sort of behavior to occur I will take appropriate corrective measures if necessary.

Communication: Communication is critical in any class but especially so in an online format. The best way to reach me is through my university email (sschneider8@unl.edu). I check my email at 8:30 AM, 12:00 PM, and 5:00 PM. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours; however, please understand that there will be times that I am unable to reply that quickly. If you have ANY problems or are confused about the class or assignments please email me as soon as possible. If you are emailing me right before an assignment is due I may not have the time to reply prior to the deadline; *please* do not procrastinate on your work. I am much more likely to grant extensions or work with you to avoid late penalties if you contact me in a timely fashion. If you are on campus or in the Lincoln area, I will be happy to meet by appointment.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty in all forms is unacceptable and has serious repercussions. If you are unclear on what exactly constitutes academic dishonesty I encourage you to view the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Affairs website at <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml>. It is expected that you know what academic dishonesty is and how to avoid it. If I suspect plagiarism or any form of cheating I will first contact the student for an explanation and try to resolve the issue. At this point the consequences for academic dishonesty range from the student working with me to fix the problem (if it was accidental), to a failing grade in the course, and/or the situation will be taken to the Dean of Students to determine an appropriate response. Of course, there are safeguards in place for students to challenge the claim (once again please read the Code of Conduct on the Student Affairs website so you are familiar with this process). If you ever have any questions please email or come see me.

***Writing Expectations and Frequently Asked Questions:**

All papers for this class will be double spaced with standard 1” margins, 12-point Times New Roman font (in .docx format if submitted online) and stapled. There is no need for a cover page and it does not count towards the final page number. I do not require a specific citation style (although I prefer APA) as long as it is consistent. A bibliography is required for the final paper but not the reaction papers. The bibliography does not count towards the final page number.

This is an academic paper; as such, the use of “I” is not appropriate. The papers should be free, or nearly so, of spelling and grammar errors. In this era of spelling and grammar checking tools, rampant mistakes are a sign of either apathetic or last minute work. Either way, this will negatively impact your grade. If a paper is received that the instructor deems to be grossly violating any of the above instructions, the paper will be returned to the student ungraded until it is corrected. In these cases, the paper will be treated as late and will be subject to the penalties laid out for late assignments.

Papers that do not meet the page requirements will be pro-rated according to the length specifications of the assignment (i.e. If the assignment requires a 12 page paper and the student submits an 8 page paper (67% of the total assignment, the best possible grade the student will receive is a 67%). If the papers are submitted in any font other than Times New Roman or if the margins are not appropriately specified, the instructor reserves the right to return the paper for revisions (and the paper will be considered late with all of the attending penalties) or, if submitted electronically, change the font and/or margins to the specified parameters prior to grading to check for paper length. If the papers are submitted electronically in any format other than a .docx format, or if the papers are submitted in a format that does not allow the paper to be accessed, it will be considered late until the issue is resolved.

There are not a specific number of sources that are required for the papers as long as the included material is appropriately cited. The only sources that are acceptable are peer-reviewed academic sources or primary news sources. This means sites such as Wikipedia are explicitly forbidden, as are blogs, and assessment of events by pundits. When including information from organizational websites be aware that more often than not, there is agenda that is being promoted and should be carefully assessed prior to inclusion. If the validity of the information included in the paper is questionable or overly subjective, the instructor retains the right to penalize the paper due to the inclusion of inaccurate, or unverifiable, information.

The final paper will be submitted to TurnItIn, a program designed to check for overlap with other students work, academic articles, books, websites, etc. If information is taken from any of these sources without proper citation, the student will automatically fail the course (exceptions can be made at the instructors’ discretion) and the case will be submitted to the dean of students for further review and possible punitive action. Carefully read the “Academic Dishonesty” section of this syllabus for further clarification.

Weekly Schedule

Week One: January 8-13

Watch Lecture #1: Introduction to POLS 479

Quiz #1: Syllabus Quiz

Week Two: January 14-20

Reading: Crenshaw Introduction and Part I (Pgs. 1-66)

Watch Lecture #2

Content Quiz #2

Week Three: January 21-27

Reading: Crenshaw Part II (Pgs. 69-134)

Watch Lecture #3

Content Quiz #3

Week Four: January 28-February 3

Reading: Crenshaw Part III (Pgs. 137-190)

Watch Lecture #4

Content Quiz #4

Week Five: February 4-10

Reading: Crenshaw Part IV (Pgs. 193-222)

Watch Lecture #5

Content Quiz #5

Crenshaw Reaction Paper due on Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

Week Six: February 11-17

Reading: Combs Preface-Chapter 3 (Pgs. xiii-53)

Watch: Lecture #6

Content Quiz #6

Week Seven: February 18-24

Reading: Combs Chapters 4-6 (Pgs. 54-130)

Watch Lecture #7

Content Quiz #7

Week Eight: February 25-March 3

Reading: Combs Chapters 7-9 (Pgs. 131-217)

Watch Lecture #8

Content Quiz #8

Week Nine: March 4-10

Reading: Combs Chapters 10-13 (218-326)

*No lecture or quiz; material covered in #10

Week Ten: March 11-17

Reading: Combs Chapters 14-15 (327-380)

Watch Lecture #10

Content Quiz #10

Combs Reaction Paper due on Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

Final Paper Topic Due (5% of Final Paper Grade)

Week Eleven: March 18-25

Spring Break!!

Week Twelve: March 26-31

Reading: Juergensmeyer Chapters 1-3 (Pgs. 1-67)

Watch Lecture #12

Content Quiz #12

Week Thirteen: April 1-7

Reading: Juergensmeyer Chapters 4-6 (Pgs. 68-146)

Watch Lecture #13

Content Quiz #13

Final Paper Outline Due (10% of Final Paper Grade)

Week Fourteen: April 8-14

Reading: Juergensmeyer Chapters 7-9 (Pgs. 147-229)

Watch Lecture #14

Content Quiz #14

Week Fifteen: April 15-21

Reading: Juergensmeyer Chapters 10-11 (Pgs. 230-302)

Watch Lecture #15

Content Quiz #15

Juergensmeyer Reaction Paper due on Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

Week Sixteen: April 22-28

No Reading/Lecture/Quiz

Work Week

Final Paper Due on Saturday April 28th at Midnight