

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and Political
Violence
Fall 2019

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Course site: jimbutterfield.org/3510.html



What is terrorism?

- If someone kills in the name of religion?
- If someone kills in the name of race or ethnic identity?
- If someone kills in the name of political beliefs?
- If someone shoots a bunch of people in a theater because they're pissed off at the world?
- If someone destroys property in the name of religion, race/ethnicity, or political beliefs?
- If someone blows up a business known for environmental damage?
 - What if it is non-lethal – i.e., no one is around?
- Does it matter if the victims are civilians or soldiers?

Small Group Exercise

- To talk about terrorism, we have to talk about
 - religion(s)
 - ideologies
 - partisanship (especially as concerns counter-terrorism)
 - other controversial issues
- How can we discuss and even disagree without being offensive and getting offended?
- What should our ground rules for discussion be?

Course Content

- The emphasis is on terrorism.
 - Choice of depth over breadth.
- Comparative analysis.
 - Includes US but is global in scope.
- Combines *comparative politics* and *international relations* subfields.



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Course Components

- Attendance, participation and quizzes: 30%
 - Quizzes occasional and usually unannounced.
 - Always based on assigned readings for the day and previous class session.
 - Up to six quizzes.
 - Multiple choice, T/F, and short answer.



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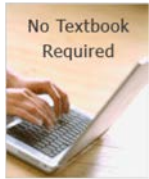
Course Components

- Two essay exams, midterm (15%) and final (20%).
- Diplomatic simulation (35% total).
 - Two preparatory research and writing assignments.
 - Four class sessions for the sim.



Course Components

- No text. Readings are from scholarly journals, media articles, and reports.



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The first quiz is Tuesday, September 10.
It is over course policies.

<http://jimbutterfield.org/3510-syl.html>



Course Web Site

- jimbutterfield.org/3510.html
- If you forget, go to the Political Science web site, click on the directory link, find me, then find my site.



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