

Andrews University
Political Science 366
Terrorism and Political Theory
Spring Semester 2016

Instructor: Gary V. Wood, Ph.D.
Office: Buller Hall 128
Hours: M/W 12:30-2:30, T/R 11:30PM-1:30 or by appointment.
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Required Texts and Materials:

Raymond Ibrahim, ed., *The Al Qaeda Reader*, (New York: Doubleday, 2007).

Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*, (New York: Random House, 2004).

Barry Cooper, *New Political Religions, or An Analysis of Modern Terrorism*, (Columbia. University of Missouri Press, 2004)

Additional materials will be placed on reserve at the James White library and you will also receive a number of handouts on issues covered in class.

Course Description:

This course explores the major theoretical, philosophical, and theological, ideas that gave rise to the development and evolution of international terrorism. It will examine such thinkers as Rousseau, Marx, Lenin, Nietzsche, and Junger in order to understand how late modern political thought inspired the use “terror” as a means to achieving the revolutionary goals of Jacobins, Bolsheviks, anarchists, and fascists. The student will also explore the radical Islamist ideas and doctrines of Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and Hezbollah. In doing so the student will try to determine if Islamist terrorism is best understood as an outgrowth of the radical ideologies of late modernity, or if radical Islamism is rooted in the core teachings of the Islamic tradition. Set in a seminar environment, students are expected to participate in classroom discussions.

Course Requirements:

1. Exams: There will be three exams as indicated in the course outline. Students will bring a blue book and a pen to the exams. Exams will include short 4-5 sentence identifications and one or two longer essays. The two midterm exams will be worth 75 points each and the final exam will be worth 100 points.

2. Terrorist Organization Analysis Paper: The student is required to write a research paper analyzing a terrorist organization. There will be a handout on the 12-15 page paper the second week of the term.

3. Quizzes: There will be seven quizzes worth 10 points each. Since your two lowest quizzes will not be counted, no make-up quizzes will be given.

4. Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, to be current on the readings, and to contribute to classroom discussion. More than **three** absences will result in the forfeiture of the 25 point participation component, as will excessive tardiness, early departure, un-preparedness, disruption, and inattention. Three “tardies” are the equivalent of one absence.

Grading:

Mid-Term Exams:	150 points
Quizzes:	50 points
Participation:	20 points
Final Exam:	100 points
Research Paper:	100 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 420 points

Grading Scale:

A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 76-79%, C 70-75%, C- 65-69%, D 55-64%

Missed Exams and Late Assignments:

In fairness to other students, late exams will be given only in the event of documented medical disability or a death in the student’s immediate family. Present such documentation the first time you broach the subject with the teacher. Conflicts with work schedules, school schedules, vacations, or non-emergency family matters are not valid reasons for missed exams. Late papers will be accepted, but penalized one letter grade per day late.

Extra Credit Work:

The student’s time and energy should be devoted to meeting the requirement of this course. For this reason, extra credit assignments will not be offered.

Disability Accommodation:

If you qualify for special assistance under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

Course Outline:

The following is a tentative outline. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted, but assigned material should be read prior to class.

- Jan. 4: Introduction
6: Rousseau, 101-108
8. Rousseau, 108-116
- 11: Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"
13: Lenin, "What Is to Be Done?"
15. Continued
- 18: NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
20: Strauss, "German Nihilism"
22. Continued
- 25 Moncourt, The Urban Guerilla Concept
27: Continued
29. Review
- Feb. 1: **Exam 1**
3: Boroumand, "Terror, Islam, and Democracy"
5. Continued:
- 8: Ibrahim, pages 1-14
10: Ibrahim, pages 17-62
12. Continued
- 15: NO CLASS: PRESIDENT'S DAY
17: Ibrahim, 63-140
19 Continued
- 22: Ibrahim, pages 141-171,
24: Continued:
26 Ibrahim, 260-282
- 29: Contintued
- Mar. 2: Review
4. **Exam 2**
- 7: Islam and the West: Lewis, pages XV-102
9: Continued
11: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

- 21: Islam, Modernity and the Rise of Terrorism: Lewis, pages 103-169
23: Continued
25. Continued
- 28: Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants"
30: Continued
- Apr. 1. Continued
- 4: Cooper, 1-71
6: Continued
8. Cooper, 72-109
- 11: Cooper, 72-109
13: Cooper, 110-157
15. Cooper, 158-198
- 18: The Future of Terrorism, Spindlove, 546-565
20: **Research Papers Due.** Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 10:30-12:30PM