

3rd Year BA Option

The Politics of Terror

A Brief Course Overview

Curriculum Outline

A research-oriented, advanced level introduction to terrorism, state terror and political violence in global political context. Attending to case studies, academic literatures and primary sources, the curriculum is divided into two sections:

1. **Understanding Terror: Conceptual Issues**: introduction to terrorism and state terror; historical development; relation to other forms of organised violence; terror and ideology; 'suicide terrorism'; counterterrorism.
2. **Cases and Contexts**: case studies attending to terror within changing contexts of state power, international and global politics. Typically, cases will include: anarchism; conflict in Israel/ Palestine, Northern Ireland, contemporary jihadism and extreme left and right-wing terrorism.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- Assessment is by:
 - 3,500k Essay (worth 70% of the mark)
 - 1,000 Essay report (worth 20%)
 - Group Presentation (worth 10%)
- Teaching is by 3-hour seminar comprising lectures, group discussion and analytical exercises.
- Learning materials will include policy documents and other primary sources, academic research and media resources.

Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing the course should be able to:

1. demonstrate critical understanding of the ethical, political and analytical issues of definition associated with the terms 'terrorism' and 'state terror'.
2. demonstrate an overview of debate on the causes of terrorism.
3. demonstrate knowledge of the role of media, mass communication and 'public discourse' in terrorism and counterterrorism.
4. demonstrate knowledge of the policy dilemmas faced and principle methodologies employed by democratic and other states in countering terrorism.
5. be cognizant of the impact of national, international and global politics in shaping terrorism, state terror and counterterrorism.

Indicative Reading

- English, R., *Terrorism: How to Respond* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)
- Poynting, S and Whyte, D. *Counter-terrorism and state political violence* (London: Routledge, 2012)
- O'Kane, R. H. T., *Terrorism* (London: Pearson, 2007)
- Blakeley, R. *State Terrorism and Neoliberalism: the North in the South* (London: Routledge, 2009).
- Guelke, A. *Terrorism and Global Disorder: Political Violence in the Contemporary World* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2006)
- Crenshaw, M. *Terrorism in Context* (Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press, 1995)
- Rapoport, D. *Inside Terrorist Organisations* (London: Frank Cass 2001)
- Sageman, M. *Understanding Terror Networks* (Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004)
- Chaliand and Blin, *The History of Terrorism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007)
- Wilkinson, P. *Terrorism versus Democracy: the Liberal State Response*. (London; New York: Routledge, 2006)

Contact:

- The IR Department is excited to be appointing two new faculty member for the 2020/21 academic year. This module will be taught by one of these appointees. We are unable to name this individual, though, until the appointment is confirmed.
- In the interim, if you have questions about this module, feel free to contact Dr Earl Gammon, Undergraduate Director for IR at e.gammon@sussex.ac.uk