The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

APPROACHES & THEORIES IN POLITICAL TERRORISM - 56830

Last update 26-10-2014

HU Credits: *2*

Degree/Cycle: *2nd degree (Master)*

Responsible Department: *Political Science*

Academic year: *1*

Semester: *1st Semester*

Teaching Languages: *Hebrew*

Campus: *Mt. Scopus*

Course/Module Coordinator: *Eitan Alimi*

Coordinator Email: eitan.alimi@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: *Monday 13:30 - 14:30*

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Eitan Alimi

Course/Module description:
  The course is about scholarly research on political terrorism, as developed and accumulated since September 9, 2001, with special attention to several distinctive, often rival, approaches and theories in the field.

Course/Module aims:
  In depth familiarity with and knowledge of central approaches and theories in the study of political terrorism.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  1. increased familiarity with scholarly works on political terrorism, 2. to use approaches and theories to analysis of instances of political terrorism, 3. to evaluate critically the strengths and weaknesses of theories in the field.

Attendance requirements(%):
  _80%_

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: frontal and discussion

Course/Module Content:
  A theory of terrorism
Behavioral Explanations
Cognitive Explanations
Interactive-Relational Explanations

Required Reading:
 Is there a theory of political terrorism?

Bergesen, Albert J. 2007. "A Three-Step Model of Terrorist Violence," Mobilization, 12(2): 111-118.
Gibbs Jack. 1989. "Conceptualization of Terrorism," ASR, 54(3): 329-340
Goodwin, Jeff. 2006. "A Theory of Categorical Terrorism." Social Forces, 84(4): 2027-2046.
Berman, Eli and David Laitin. 2007. "Review Symposium: Understanding Suicide

Terror." *Perspectives on Politics, 5(1): 122-129.*

Behavioral explanations of political terrorism:

Stern, Jessica. 2003. Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill. New York: HarperCollins (introduction + Ch. 1).
Post, Jerrold. 1998. "Terrorist Psych-logic: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Psychological Forces," in Origins of Terrorism, Walter Reich (ed.), Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, pp. 25-40.
Piazza, James. 2006. "Rooted in Poverty?: Terrorism, Poor Economic Development, and Social Cleavages," Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 18:159–177.

Moive: Fifty Dead Men Walking

Cognitive Explanations of political terrorism:

Rapoport, David. 1998. "Sacred Terror: A Contemporary Example from Islam." In Origins of Terrorism, (ed.) Walter Reich. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 103-130.
Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2005. Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Terrorism. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Ch. 1, 2.
Pedahzur, Ami and Arie Perliger. 2009. Jewish Terrorism in Israel. New York: Columbia University Press. Introduction and Ch. 3.

Strategic-Interaction explanations of political terrorism:

Crenshaw, Martha. 1998. "The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist behavior as a product of strategic choice." In Origins of Terrorism, (ed.), Walter Reich. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 7-24.
Brym, Robert J. and Araj Bader. 2006. "Suicide Bombing as Strategy and Interaction." Social Forces, 84(4): 1969-1986.
Hafez, Mohammed M. 2004. "From Marginalization to Massacres – A Political Process Explanation of GIA Violence in Algeria," in Quintan Wiktorowicz, (Ed.), Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach, Bloomington, Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
Tilly, Charles. 2005. "Terror as Strategy and Relational Process," International Journal of Comparative Sociology, 46: 11-32.

Movie: Michael Collins

 Additional Reading Material:
  _Braungart, Richard, and Margaret Braungart. 1992. "From Protest to Terrorism –
The Case of SDS and the Weathermen." In B. Klandermans and D. Della Porta (Eds.),
Social Movements and Violence, Greenwich, Connecticut: JAI Press, 45-78._

_Asal, Victor, and Karl R. Rethemeyer. 2008. "The Nature of the Beast: Organizational
Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks," Journal of Politics, 70:437-449._

_Alimi, Eitan Y. 2011. "Relational Dynamics in Factional Adoption of Terrorist Tactics:
A Comparative Perspective," Theory and Society, 40(1): 95-118._

 Course/Module evaluation:
 End of year written/oral examination 80 %
 Presentation 20 %
 Participation in Tutorials 0 %
 Project work 0 %
 Assignments 0 %
 Reports 0 %
 Research project 0 %
 Quizzes 0 %
 Other 0 %

Additional information:
 None