Course Description

The first part of this seminar course will start with a brief overview of fundamental terrorism issues – The definition of terrorism, the strategy of modern and post-modern terrorism, the current trends of Global Jihadi terrorism, etc. The second part of the course will address topics related to counter-terrorism, focusing on the typical dilemmas at the heart of the debate. By drawing on a substantial amount of reading material, the seminar will present both practical and theoretical perspectives on a range of topics, such as intelligence gathering, targeted killings, international cooperation, and the balance between liberal democratic values and effective counter-terrorism measures. Students will engage in the dilemmas facing decision-makers and counter-terrorism experts by participating in a group simulation exercise. Focusing on real-life scenarios in counter-terrorism, students will individually prepare policy papers that will include recommendations and analysis based on testimonies by expert witnesses, relevant literature, and outside research. In addition, the class will have the opportunity to hear from guest lecturers specializing in the field of counter-terrorism.

Students are required to attend all classes and any assigned supplementary activities related to the course. Classes will consist of lectures, guest speakers, and simulations.

Course Goals

The scope of terrorist attacks launched in the US post-September 11, the growing threat of the use of unconventional weapons, and the spread of a radical-Islamic network of terrorism have transformed the once localized threat of terrorism into an international problem. By intentionally targeting civilians while exploiting the freedom embedded in liberal-democratic values, terrorism presents a difficult and complex challenge to decision-makers and counter-terrorism experts. In order to effectively deal with the phenomenon of terrorism, decision-makers must address various dilemmas related to counter-terrorism: coping with the threat on an offensive, preemptive, and defensive level; collecting intelligence; and responding to terrorism through deterrent, punitive, and legislative measures.

Grading

1. 4 Short policy papers: Students are required to individually write three-four short policy papers (maximum 5 pages) on the following topics:

   A. Policy Paper I
      a. Media & Terrorism or
      b. Public Resilience
   B. Policy Paper II
      a. Suicide Attacks or
      b. Non-Conventional Terrorism or
      c. Terrorist use of the Internet
   C. Policy Paper III
      a. International Cooperation or
      b. The Structure of Al Qaeda (Sageman vs. Hoffman) or
The policy papers must be written individually. It should consist of an executive summary, a brief discussion of the main school/s of thought regarding the topic, the main dilemmas surrounding the topic and policy recommendations. Further guidelines will be provided in class as well as posted on the website. In addition to the readings and research related to a student’s assigned topic, every member of the class is responsible for preparing themselves for discussion and debate related to their peers’ topics, and will be assigned related readings accordingly. **Guidelines for writing policy papers are available on the course website (How to write a policy paper).**

**Grading Criteria:**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Policy Paper I</th>
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* Please note that only the three highest grades will count towards your final grade. If you are satisfy with your three first grades, you can thus skip the fourth policy paper.

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**Tutor Office Hours**

By email (stevie@ict.org.il)

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**Reading List**

**Required Reading**


**Media and Terrorism**


**Public Resilience**


**Targeted Killings**

- HCJ 769/02 - The Public Committee Against Torture v. The Government of Israel, Israeli Supreme Court, December 11, 2005

**Suicide Attacks**


**Racial Profiling**


**Torture and the Ticking Bomb**

- Dershowitz, Alan M. "Chapter Four: Should the Ticking Bomb Terrorist be Tortured?" *Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge.* (Page 130-164).
- Bufacchi, Vittorio and Jean Maria Arriaga. "Torture, Terrorism and the State: a

**International Cooperation**

**Intelligence Warning**

**Structure of Al Qaeda**

**Motivation vs. Capability**

**Non-Conventional Terrorism**

**Terrorism & the Use of Internet**

**Additional Readings**

**List of Selected Useful Websites**
- The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) - www.ict.org.il
- Intelligence & Terrorism Information Center - http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/site/home/default.asp
- The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) - www.memri.org
- The Long War Journal - http://www.longwarjournal.org
- National Counter Terrorism Center: World Wide Incidents Tracking System (WITS)