

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 123, Terrorism and Security, SP 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.)
Office Location:	(MacQuarrie Hall 525B, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0050)
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Office Hours:	Monday/Wednesday 3 -4 pm
Class Days/Time:	(Online)
Classroom:	(Canvas)

Course Format: Online

Course Description (Required)

JS 123 is an upper-division course focusing on terrorism and security. Terrorism is certainly one of the major problems that endanger human security throughout the world. Since 9/11 the successive US governments have been spearheading a global war on terror which consumes a large chunk of tax-payers' money. The organizations like Hamas in Palestinian territories and ISIS in Syria and Iraq have brought terrorism again to the center-stage of public discourse in USA and the world. Terrorism has been described as "the poor man's air force" and as a tactic used by states to achieve foreign and domestic policy goals. This description of terrorism highlights the complexity of terrorism, which is a tactic used by individuals, groups, and states for a variety of goals. No single course can give you a full understanding of this topic, but this course hopes to provide the tools necessary to become educated consumers of news in a post-9/11 world. We will explore the phenomenon of non-state terrorism. The two central goals of the course are to provide students with an opportunity to study the historical use of political terror and to encourage students to think of terrorist activity not as the work of the mad, but of self-interested and calculating political actors. To accomplish these goals, we will examine a large swath of the literature both in historical scope and theoretical arguments.

Please note that this is an online course in which students will 1) watch videos of my course lectures that have been posted on Canvas, and 2) take online quiz, final exams, and complete assignments that, as noted above, will also be posted on Canvas. Hence this course is essentially located on Canvas, to which enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material, except for the course books, will be available through Canvas. Although I may be available in the campus to meet with interested students in person during the semester, all students are responsible for watching these lecture videos online, taking notes on those lectures, doing the course readings, taking the online quizzes, midterm and final examinations and submitting assignments (paper critiques) online. (A word to the wise: Students who do not watch the course lectures in sequential order as the semester progresses, or do not take notes on the contents, or do not do the required course readings will find it impossible to get a good grade and may well end up failing this course.

Cutting corners or cramming before exams, which is never a good idea for students who are serious about learning, is likely to lead to disaster in an online course!) To reiterate, course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1: Have a clear understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism as distinguishable from other forms of political violence.
- 2: Be familiar with the theories of terrorism.
- 3: Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals.
- 4: Identify the causal factors which drive terrorist violence.
- 5: Understand the risk to human security posed by terrorist violence.
- 6: Learn about different responses to terrorism and strategies to counter terrorist violence.
- 7: Learn to engage in educated discourse of the sensitive issue of terrorism.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

BRUCE HOFFMAN. 2006. INSIDE TERRORISM. NEW YORK: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, ISBN 9780231126991

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

1. **Quiz:** A quiz will be assigned almost each week (10 in total). The students are required to take the timed quiz through Canvas. The questions will be based on previous week's reading and will evaluate students' understanding of the topics of discussion. The due dates are given in the schedule below.
2. **Four Critique papers: In four different weeks,** you should prepare a three-page critique of the week's assigned article. Critiques must be typed, double-spaced, and in a font size no smaller than 11. Critiques are required to be uploaded online through Canvas. **I will evaluate your critiques for critical content. Works that merely summarize the readings will receive poor marks.** When writing your critique, keep in mind the following points: what are the important claims made by the author? What has the author really shown? What are the strength and weakness of the arguments? What are the possibilities for related research? What interesting questions (at least three) can we ask to the author? I will not

accept any critiques after the deadline.¹

3. **Midterm Exam:** The exam will consist of three essay-type questions. The submission date for the midterm exam appears in the schedule below. The exam questions will be given/ uploaded on Canvas one day (24 hours) before the submission date.
4. **Final Exam:** The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm. The final will also consist of three essay-type questions. The submission date for the final exam appears in the schedule below. The exam questions will be given/ uploaded on Canvas one day before the submission date.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%	B plus = 89-86%	B = 85- 83%	B minus = 82-80%	C plus = 79-76%
C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%	D plus = 69-66%	D = 65- 63%	D minus = 62-60%	F = 59-0%	

Determination of Grades

Quiz: 30%

Four Critique papers: 20%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Participation: 10%

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

¹ You are not required to analyze statistical models in case of a quantitative paper.

JS123-01: Terrorism and Security, SP 2021, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	February 1- 5	Definition and Typology Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoffman, Ch. 1, pp. 1-40 • Charles Townsend (2011) <i>Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Ch. 1 (pp.1-20), London: Oxford University Press. <p style="text-align: center;">Quiz 1 due Feb.7</p>
2	February 8-12	Definition and Typology (Continued...) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoffman, Ch. 1, pp. 1-40 • Charles Townsend (2011) <i>Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Ch. 1 (pp.1-20), London: Oxford University Press. <p style="text-align: center;">Quiz 2 (Due on Feb. 14)</p>
3	Feb. 15-19	Rationality/Strategies and goals Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter (2006) <i>The Strategies of Terrorism</i>, <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer, 2006), pp. 49-80.</u> • Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, <i>World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions</i> (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010) Chapter 10, part II.
		<p style="text-align: center;">## First critique paper of Kydd and Walter (2006) article due on Sunday, Feb. 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">## **Quiz 3 (Due on Feb 21)**</p>
5	March 1-5	Origins of Modern Terrorism Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David C. Rapoport, (2004) “The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism,” in Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes, Eds., <i>Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy</i>, pp. 46-73.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martha Crenshaw. (1981) The Causes of Terrorism, Comparative Politics, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Jul., 1981), pp. 379-399 Quiz 4 due March 7
6	March 8-12	Discrimination and Terrorism (Theory) Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piazza J (2012) Types of Minority Discrimination and Terrorism. <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i> 29 (5): 521-546. Sambuddha Ghatak, "Willingness and Opportunity: A Study of Domestic Terrorism in post-Cold War South Asia," <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2016): 274-296. Sambuddha Ghatak. "Challenging the State: Effect of Minority Discrimination, Globalization, and Democracy on Domestic Terrorism," <i>International Interaction</i> Vol. 42, No. 1 (2016): 56-80.
		## Second critique paper of Piazza (2012) due on Sunday, March 14 ## ***Quiz 5 due on Sunday, March 14***
7	March 15- 19	Discrimination and Terrorism (Case Studies) Reading Nandi, Proshanta K. "Socio-political context of Sikh militancy in India." <i>Journal of Asian and African Studies</i> 31.3-4 (1996): 178-196 Neil DeVotta "Control Democracy, Institutional Decay, and the Quest for Eelam: Explaining Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> , Vol. 73, No. 1 (2000): 55-76. Shining Path, Peru: TBD
8	March 22-26	Discrimination and Terrorism (Case Studies) Reading: Basque Country, Spain: TBD Irish/North Ireland, UK: TBD White Supremacy/KKK, USA ***Quiz 6 due on Sunday, March 28*** Midterm Due 11:59 pm; Saturday, March 27
9	March 29- April 2	Spring recess
10	April 5-9	Democracy and Terrorism Reading:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>Hoffman, Ch.6 (Old Media) Schmid A (1992) Terrorism and Democracy. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> Volume 4 (4):15-23. <u>Windsor JL (2003) Promoting Democratization Can Combat Terrorism. <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> 26(3): 43–58.</u></p> <p>Quiz 7 due on April 11</p>
11	April 12-16	<p>Democracy and Terrorism (Cont...) Reading:</p> <p>Hoffman, Ch. 7 (New Media) Li Q (2005) Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents? <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49 (2): 278-97. Choi S-W. (2010) Fighting Terrorism through the Rule of Law? <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>.</p>
		<p>## Third critique paper of Windsor (2003) article due on Sunday, April 18 ## **Quiz 8 on April 18**</p>
12	April 19-23	<p>Development and Terrorism Reading:</p> <p>Berrebi, Claude (2007) Evidence About the Link between Education, Poverty and Terrorism among Palestinians. <i>Peace Science and Public Policy</i> 13(1): 1-36. Sambuddha Ghatak and Aaron Gold. “Development, Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism: Looking Beyond a Linear Relationship.” <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i>. Burgoon, Brian (2006) On Welfare and Terror: Social Welfare Policies and Political-Economic Roots of Terrorism. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 50(4): 176-203.</p> <p>Quiz 9 due on Sunday, April 25</p>
13	April 26-30	<p>Religion and Terrorism Reading:</p> <p>Hoffman, Ch. 4 John L. Esposito, <i>Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam</i>. Ch. 1 & 2 Bruce Hoffman (2004): The Changing Face of Al Qaeda and the Global War on Terrorism, <i>Studies in Conflict & Terrorism</i>, 27:6, 549-560.</p>
14	May 3-7	<p>Suicide Terrorism Readings:</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Hoffman, Ch. 5 Robert A. Pape. (2003) The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. <i>The American Political Science Review</i> , Vol. 97, No. 3 (Aug., 2003), pp. 343-361. Assaf Moghadam (2006) Suicide Terrorism, Occupation, and the Globalization of Martyrdom: A Critique of Dying to Win, <i>Studies in Conflict & Terrorism</i> , 29:8, 707-729.
		## Last critique paper of Windsor (2003) article due on Sunday, May 9 ## **Quiz 10 due on May 9**
15	May 10-14	The Internationalization of Terrorism Reading: Hoffman, Chapter 3 Quiz 11 (Extra) due on May 16
Final Exam		Final Exam Due 11:59 pm May 19