

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 270 A-001, Global Terrorism (Online), Summer, 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Phone number: 865 985 6885 (This is my cell phone number. Please call only in emergency) The best way to contact me is through email. By appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas

Course Format: Online

Course Description (Required)

JS 270A is a graduate seminar focusing on global terrorism. 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. We will explore the phenomenon of non-state terrorism. The two central goals of the course are to provide students with an opportunity to systematically study the phenomenon of political terrorism with empirical evidences and to encourage students to think of terrorist activity not as the work of self-interested and calculating political actors. To accomplish these goals, we will examine a large swath of the literature both in theoretical arguments and empirical research.

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, submit paper critiques and research note, 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 book, will be available through Canvas. (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, 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: Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals.
- 3: Identify the causal factors which drive terrorist violence (theories).
- 4: Identify discernible patterns of terrorist violence and casualty through the evaluation of empirical evidences.
- 5: Learn to engage in educated discourse of the sensitive issue of terrorism.

Graduate PLOs

- 1: Creating assignments that are engaging, meaningful, and challenging.
- 2: Providing students meaningful and relatively quick feedback.
- 3: Having high expectations for writing assignments.
- 4: Offering an academic experience that involves meaningful engagement with the professor and among the students to build an online community.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Bruce Hoffman. 2017. "Inside Terrorism" (Columbia Studies in Terrorism and Irregular Warfare). Columbia University Press, Third edition. **ISBN: 9780231174770**

<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/inside-terrorism/9780231174770>

Other Readings

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

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Quiz: A quiz will be assigned each week (5 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.

Five Critique papers: In five different weeks, you should prepare a two-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.

Group Discussion: On four consecutive Fridays, we will participate in a group discussion on the discussion board. You will write a half-page single spaced (12 font) response to the discussion topic. The response will be based on the readings related to the topic. You are supposed to read one response from other students and critique that in about five sentences each. You are required to upload your response by Friday 11:59 pm (Pacific Time) and the critiques to others' responses must be made by Saturday 11:59 pm (Pacific Time). The critiques should be constructive and based on logic as well as evidence. Please write your full name on top of your response and critiques.

I will assign you to groups – A or B. On the first and third week, each from Group A will write the half-page single spaced (12 font) response to the discussion topic, and each from Group B will read one response from other students and critique that in about five sentences each. For the second and fourth week, Group roles will reverse.

Research Note: From a list of 20 terrorist organizations, you will pick up an organization and write a research note on that organization in about 12 double spaced pages (except the reference section). The note should consist of among others: a brief history of the group, its ideology; demands; grievances; pattern of attacks; evaluation of the groups. You will collect articles related to the group (10 minimum citations required) and evaluate its pattern of attacks based on GTD data (the data part is not mandatory). This is due on August 5, 11:59 pm (PT)

Participation. Participation includes but is not limited to: contributing to group discussions, and working together in groups on discussion. Class Exercises/Activities. As part of your participation grade, you will also complete various class exercises and activities during the course. The objective of the exercises is to practice the concepts needed to write your applied research projects. Some of these class activities/exercises will be submitted, others will be shared in online discussions, and yet others will be for your personal enrichment.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-98%	A = 97-91%	A minus = 90%	B plus = 89-88%	B = 87- 81%	B minus = 80%	C plus = 79-78%
C = 77-71%	C minus = 70%	D plus = 69-68%	D = 67- 61%	D minus = 60%	F = 59-0%	

Determination of Grades

Quiz: 25%

Five Critique papers: 25%

Group Discussion: 20%

Research Note: 25%

Participation: 5%

Classroom Protocol

Students should always be respectful of other students. I will not tolerate insensitive, rude, or abrasive comments. Do not be the student who suddenly has an abundance of attitude when lurking behind the relative anonymity of the online class. I will also not tolerate sexist, racist, homophobic, or any type of remarks that hinder instead of promote class discussion. Please remember that you are a community of professionals, and henceforth you are expected to interact with professionalism, courtesy, dignity, and ethical consideration for

others. After one email from me indicating that your comments or behavior are inappropriate, you will receive a zero on the discussion board for the week.

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/>"

You are responsible for university policies regarding, but not limited to, drop deadlines, plagiarism, and academic integrity.

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.

Dataset:

Global Terrorism Database (GTD):

<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd>

Other START Center Data and Tools:

<http://www.start.umd.edu/data-and-tools/start-datasets>

Big, Allied and Dangerous (BAAD), TORG crosswalk tool:

<http://www.albany.edu/pvc/data.shtml>

University of Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism Suicide Attack Database:

http://cpostdata.uchicago.edu/search_new.php

Mapping Militant Organizations:

<http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/>

South Asian Terrorism Profile:

<http://www.satp.org/>

TWEED Database:

<http://folk.uib.no/sspje/tweed.htm>

U.S. State Department FTOs:

<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents:

<http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents/download.html>

JS 270 A-80, Global Terrorism (Online)/ Summer, 2018, 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	July 5 & 6	<p>Definition and Strategies, goals and logic of Terrorism Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hoffman, Ch. 1: Definition 2. Charles Townsend (2011) <i>Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Ch. 1 (pp.1-20), London: Oxford University Press. 3. Jeffry 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.
1	July 7 & 8	<p>Terrorism in Modern World Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hoffman, Ch. 2: The End of Empire and the Origins of Contemporary Terrorism 2. 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. 3. <u>Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter (2006) <i>The Strategies of Terrorism</i>, International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer, 2006), pp. 49-80.</u>
		<p>## First critique paper of Kydd and Walter (2006) article due on Sunday, July 10 ## ***First quiz due on Sunday, July 10*** ## First Group Discussion topic: Is terrorism a rational act? ##</p>
2	July 11, 12 & 13	<p>Driver of Terrorism: Grievances and Opportunities Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Martha Crenshaw. (1981) <i>The Causes of Terrorism, Comparative Politics, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Jul., 1981), pp. 379-399</i></u> 2. Piazza J (2012) Types of Minority Discrimination and Terrorism. <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i> 29 (5): 521-546

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Sambuddha Ghatak (2017) “Challenging the State: Effect of Minority Discrimination, Globalization, and Democracy on Domestic Terrorism,” <i>International Interactions</i>. 4. Ghatak, Sambuddha, Aaron Gold and Brandon C. Prins. “Domestic Terrorism in Democratic States: The Important Role Played by Grievances.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> (2017): 1-29. DOI: 10.1177/0022002717734285. 5. Ghatak, Sambuddha and Brandon C. Prins. “Homegrown Threat: State Strength, Grievance and Domestic Terrorism.” <i>International Interactions</i> Vol. 43, No. 2 (2017): 217–247.
2	July 14 & 15	<p>Case Studies (Grievances and Opportunities) Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shining Path, Peru: Council of Foreign Research SL Group Profile 2. 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 3. 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.
		<p>## Second critique paper of Crenshaw (1981) article due on Sunday, July 17 ## ***Second quiz due on Sunday, July 17*** ## Second Group Discussion topic: Do we need to combine both grievances and opportunities to explain terrorism? ##</p>
3	July 18, 19 & 20	<p>Terrorism and Democracy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Windsor JL (2003) Promoting Democratization Can Combat Terrorism. <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> 26(3): 43–58. 2. Eyerman J (1998) Terrorism and Democratic States: Soft Targets or Accessible Systems. <i>International Interactions</i> 24(2): 151–170. 3. Li Q (2005) Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents? <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49 (2): 278-97.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>4. <u>Choi S-W. (2010) Fighting Terrorism through the Rule of Law?</u> <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>.</p> <p>5. Hoffman, Chapter 6: The Old Media, Terrorism and Public Opinion</p> <p>6. Hoffman, Chapter 7: The New Media, Terrorism and the Shaping of Global</p>
3	July 21 & 22	<p>Development/Globalization and Terrorism</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ghatak, Sambuddha and Aaron Gold. "Development, Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism: Looking Beyond a Linear Relationship." <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i>, Vol. 34 No. 6 (2017): 618–639. 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>## Third critique paper of Choi S-W. (2010) article due on Sunday, July 24</p> <p>##</p> <p>***Third quiz due on Sunday, July 24***</p> <p>## Third Group Discussion topic: Should US government promote democracy abroad to tackle terrorism? ##</p>
4	July 25, 26 & 27	<p>Terrorism and International Security</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hoffman, Chapter 3: The Internationalization of Terrorism Findley, Michael G., James A. Piazza, and Joseph K. Young. 2012. "Games Rivals Play: Terrorism in International Rivalries." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 74 (01):235-48. Plümper, Thomas, and Eric Neumayer. 2010. "The friend of my enemy is my enemy: International alliances and international terrorism." <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 49 (1):75-96. <u>Boutton, Andrew. 2014. "US foreign aid, interstate rivalry, and incentives for counterterrorism cooperation." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 51 (6):741-54.</u>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	July 28 & 29	State Sponsorship of Terrorism/US Targets Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carter, David B. 2012. "A blessing or a curse? State support for terrorist groups." <i>International Organization</i> 66 (1):129-51. 2. Neumayer, Eric, and Thomas Plümper. 2011. "Foreign terror on Americans." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 48 (1):3-17.
		## Fourth critique paper of Boutton (2014) article due on Sunday, July 31 ## ***Fourth quiz due on Sunday, July 31*** ## Fourth Group Discussion topic: Is international cooperation needed to fight terrorism globally? ##
5	Aug 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Religion and Terrorism Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hoffman, Chapter 4: Religion and Terrorism 2. Hoffman, Ch. 5. Suicide Terrorism 3. Duyvesteyn, Isabelle. 2004. "How New is the New Terrorism?" <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i>. 27: 439-454. 4. Henne, Peter. 2012. "The Ancient Fire: Religion and Suicide Terrorism." <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>. 24(1): 38-60. 5. Moghadam, Assaf. 2009. "Motives for Martyrdom: Al-Qaida, Salafi Jihad and the Spread of Suicide Attacks." <i>International Security</i>. 33(3): 46-78.
		## Fifth critique paper of Moghadam, Assaf (2009) article due on Friday, Aug. 5 ## ***Fifth quiz due on Friday, Aug. 5***
Final Exam		No Final Exam. Your research note is due on Friday, August 5 , 11:59 pm

List of Terrorist Organizations (For Research Note):

Hamas
Boko Haram
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)
Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
Hizballah
Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK, aka Kongra-Gel)
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
Shining Path (SL)
Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)
al-Shabaab
Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
al-Qa'ida (AQ)
Aum Shinrikyo (AUM)
Taliban
Al Fateh
Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
Irish Republican Army (IRA)
Weather Underground Organization (WUO)
Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS)
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC)