

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Social Sciences
Programme:	International Relations Political Science
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Terrorism and Counterterrorism: US and EU Approaches
Course Code:	CRM 5400
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

In the wake of 9-11 Islamist attack and the 22 July 2011 Norway 'lone wolf' radical right massacre, terrorism and counterterrorism have come to dominate political agendas and media discourse across the US and Europe. Through a comparative analysis of the history of US and EU responses to 21st century terrorism this course studies the nature of the threats to Western security by examining types of terrorism and the development, strategies and theories surrounding terrorism. Given special attention in this class are: victims and perpetrators; processes of violent radicalisation; typologies of terror (religious extremism, political violence, regional separatism, state-sponsored terror and animal rights/ecological activism); and what can be done to counter and/or limit terrorism (surveillance/policing/de-radicalisation/education/social media); as well as how effective such practices are.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with the historical origins and evolution of both terrorism and counterterrorism, with an emphasis on the USA and the EU
- To critically engage the impact of terrorism on contemporary US and European policing, politics, economics, law, society and culture, and to learn about the latest developments and advances in the field of terrorism studies and counter-terrorism practices
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear thinking individuals with a grasp of terrorism and counterterrorism as contemporary social issues
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st Century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

International Relations: 5A(i); 5B(i); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(iii)

Political Science: 5A(i); 5B(i); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specifications. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate a critical theoretical engagement with conceptual issues regarding both terrorism and counterterrorism;
- Demonstrate a detailed and multidisciplinary understanding of criminology as it pertains to both the drivers of terrorism and different approaches to counterterrorism;
- Demonstrate the ability to critically assess competing explanations of terrorism and competing practices of counterterrorism;
- Demonstrate the ability to use the methods and technical skills of the social sciences to address criminological issues raised in the study of terrorism and counterterrorism.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course.

Indicative Content:

- A critical examination of the history, features and definitional debates surrounding

terrorism and counterterrorism

- Different terrorist ideologies (Jihadist/extreme right/animal rights/ecological)
- Criminological, psychological, cultural and economic motivating explanations
- Critical assessment of the impact and effectiveness of terrorism over time as a political and propagandistic weapon and responses to this (including from the media)
- Methods of countering terrorist threats (including supra-national policing, new surveillance technologies and emerging tactics)
- Critical asset vulnerability and protection (nuclear energy, aviation, maritime and cyberspace security)
- Radicalisation and de-radicalisation for both individuals and groups

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course is taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to provide an overview of issues and problems relating to a particular manifestation of terrorism, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class debates, including sub-groups and short individual presentations. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. Where possible the course will make use of guest lectures and class visits. Students are expected to use the class visits as an opportunity to apply concepts and ideas developed in lectures, as well as to collect further information and impressions to provide a basis for subsequent class discussion.

Indicative Text(s):

Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism* NY: Columbia University Press, 2006

Richard English, *Does Terrorism Work?: A History*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Steve Hewitt, *The British War on Terror*, London: Continuum, 2007

Charles Townshend, *Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: OUP, 2007

Marc Sageman, *Turning to Political Violence: the Emergence of Terrorism*, Philadelphia: Univ of Pennsylvania Press: 2017

Journals

Terrorism and Political Violence (Taylor & Francis)

Perspectives on Terrorism (online)

Studies in Conflict and Terrorism (Taylor & Francis)

Critical Studies on Terrorism (Taylor & Francis)

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Updated programme outcomes, learning outcomes, aims and objectives, assessment norms and indicative content	Social Sciences HoD Chair's Action 21/01/22	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	