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Academic School / Department: Programme: CASS

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FHEQ Level: 5

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Course Title:

Terrorism and Counterterrorism: US and EU

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Approaches

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Course Code: CRM
5400

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Course Leader: Alex
Seago

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Student Engagement Hours: 120
(standard 3- credit BA course)

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Lectures: 22.5

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Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

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Semester: Fall, Spring,

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Summer

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Credits:

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12 UK

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CATS credits

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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 class 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: None

Aims and Objectives:

To familiarise students with popular attitudes, academic debates and social significance of both terrorism and counterterrorism. To explain the historical origins and evolution of different forms of terrorism between the 19th century to the present day, and to engage in a critical appraisal of the major themes issues relating to terrorism and counterterrorism in Europe and the US. To recognise the impact of terrorism on 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 enhance transferable skills (written, critical and oral) of students through oral seminar presentations, an in-depth written research project and a final written exam.

Programme Outcomes:

This is a stand-alone course.

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- **SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:** Demonstrate a detailed and multidisciplinary understanding of criminology as it pertains to both the drivers of terrorism and different approaches to counterterrorism;
- **SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:** Demonstrate a critical theoretical engagement with conceptual issues regarding both terrorism and counterterrorism;
- **SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS:** Demonstrate the ability to critically assess competing explanations of terrorism and competing practices of counterterrorism;
- **SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS:** 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.

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 as a political and propagandistic weapon
- Policing and media responses, as well as elements of social change
- Methods of countering terrorist threats (supra-national policing and new surveillance technologies)

- Critical asset vulnerability and protection (nuclear energy, aviation, maritime and cyberspace security)
- Radicalisation and de-radicalisation for both individuals and groups
- Emerging trends, tactics and understandings of contemporary terrorism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

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:

