POLI 476: Terrorism, Winter 2017
Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Instructor Information
Professor Celeste Beesley
Phone: 801-422-7807
Email: celeste_beesley@byu.edu
Office: 730 SWKT
Office Hours: M 9am-12pm, T 12-1pm or by appointment
Class Locations: 280 SWKT
Class Times: T TH 9:30-10:45 am

Course Overview and Objectives
Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Al-Shabaab, Hamas…the headlines are full of the activities of and state responses to violent, non-state actors. They are viewed as among the most serious security threats in the world today. Hardly a state in the international system has not been affected in some way by terrorism. This course focuses on the definition of terrorism, its causes and effects, the tactics of terrorist groups, government responses to terrorism and their effectiveness. We will also discuss changes in terrorism over time, the morality of terrorism and counterterrorism, and its effects on international and domestic politics more broadly. In order to deepen our understanding of the theoretical approaches to terrorism we will discuss a number of different groups, campaigns, and incidents associated with terrorism.

In this course, assignments and activities will include problem sets, writing exercises, a research paper, group work, class discussions, video clips, and lectures. I value and appreciate your participation. I will solicit your feedback on class activities periodically throughout the semester.

The activities and assignments in this course address the learning outcomes of the political science major by encouraging you to 1) gain a knowledge of countries and wars, theoretically and factually; 2) write professional research papers; 3) communicate effectively in a high quality oral presentation, and 4) think critically, analytically and synthetically. A full list of the department learning outcomes can be accessed at https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu.

Requirements
Readings
Two books are required for purchase. Links to the other readings will be placed on the course site in Learning Suite. These readings are just as essential for your coursework as the two main texts. I reserve the right to change the readings by adding, dropping or reorganizing them. I will give you as much advance notice as possible if it becomes necessary to do so.

Your Responsibilities

1) Participation and Attendance. Your primary assignment, without which you will have a difficult time completing all others, is to come to class, be prepared, and speak, ask questions, and otherwise participate in the class. I would like to stress the importance of completing assigned readings by the date that they appear on the syllabus. If your individual attendance or participation becomes problematic, I will ask you to meet with me to work out a plan for greater participation. If participation becomes problematic as a group, I will begin giving unannounced reading quizzes at the beginning of class. 10%

2) Response papers. These are writing activities that will be available each week for the first half of the course and must be completed by 9pm on Saturday. Your responses need to demonstrate an understanding of how the course material applies as you respond to a prompt that I supply. I will make the prompt available each week by midnight on Monday (due the following Saturday by 9 pm). You may submit it electronically at any time before then or you may bring a hard copy to class on Thursday afternoon. You will need to include the readings for that week in the response. You will need to write five (5) such responses by the end of February. (Since there are >5 weeks in between the beginning of the semester and then, this means that you may choose which of the response papers you will complete.) This will allow you to choose the topics you are most interested in and to manage your schedule. 5% (1% per paper).

3) “This week in terrorism.” Sign up for one week during the term, during which you will choose one online news source (NYT, Washington Post, BBC, Deutschewelle, Al-Jazeera or suggest another, but get Professor Beesley’s approval for it before you start) and track all terrorism related stories. These may be accusations of terrorism, coverage of terrorist acts, court decisions, discussion of terrorist groups, terrorism investigations, counterterrorism measures, laws and the like. Keep a diary of articles’ complete bibliographical information and the url of article. At the end of the week, synthesize the material to discuss the similarities and differences in the discussion, the politics of terrorism, the security implications of the events of that week. Do not simply summarize the articles. The write up should be about 5 pages. 5%

4) Quantitative problem set. We will be delving into some data on terrorism. You will be expected to download a dataset, read a codebook, and manipulate the data graphically and statistically (in EXCEL, nothing too fancy) in order to draw some conclusions about terrorism. 5%

5) Report on a Terrorist Group. Five-page white paper on any of the terrorist groups listed on the US State Department List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm). Make an argument about the terrorist group in this paper using information you have learned. A few examples of an
argument may be that this group should be delisted by the State Department, that military counterterrorism is (un)likely to be effective against this group, that countries should pursue financial counterterrorism, etc. To make this argument you may want to include some or all of the following (but only include them in the service of the argument) a brief history and information on its geographical scope, political goals, organizational structure, methods, state sponsorship and means of funding, or disagreement in the international community about their status as a terrorist group. 10%

6) A research paper. You will write a research paper answering a particular question or puzzle about terrorism. You may choose to write a paper based on a quantitative analysis (which must answer a question distinct from the analysis conducted in the problem set above) OR you may conduct a comparative case study to draw a conclusion about terrorism. You will make an oral presentation (2%) about your findings. The paper should be approximately 15 pages (of text). You may co-author the research paper with a classmate (you do so at your own risk). Co-authored papers need to be 20 pages long. While not required, it is highly encouraged that you participate in the annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference, which will be held near the semester’s end. Ira and Mary Lou Fulton have provided generous funds that have enabled students to participate in this annual conference at which students, working with faculty mentors/instructors, present their research methods and findings to an audience of fellow students, faculty, staff, and any interested general public. 35%

7) A Midterm exam will consist of short answer identifications and essays. 10%

8) A Final exam will consist of short answer identifications and essays. 20%

**Course Policies**

**Make up exams and assignments**

Make up exams will only be given in the case of a documented emergency or as otherwise required by university policy. Late response papers will not be accepted. Unless arrangements have been made with the professor prior to the due date, problem sets will be reduced a full letter grade each day it is late. Research papers will be reduced 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late.

**Assignment of Grades**

Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92.9), B+ (88-89.9), B (83-87.9), B- (80-82.9), C+ (78-79.9), C (73-77.9), C- (70-72.9), D+ (68-69.9), D (63-67.9), D- (60-62.9), and F (59 and below).

If you have reason to believe that a grading error has been made, you must make a detailed argument in writing, outlining why you believe your grade to be in error. You must submit your written argument within 10 days of receiving your grade-- after that, I will assume you have accepted the grade assigned.

**Civility**
Please mind your manners in class. This means that you should arrive promptly, avoid surfing the internet or reading newspapers during class, avoid packing up bags prior to the end of class, and refrain from talking on cell phones during class. It also means that you will be civil in all discussions. Each class member should feel free to express an opinion. Lively debate is intellectually stimulating and healthy. Demeaning another class member or making derogatory generalizations about any group of people are unacceptable behaviors.

**Academic Integrity**

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty are found at http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2010-2011ucat/GeneralInfo/HonorCode.php.

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing. The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

**Discrimination**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Opportunities Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

**Access**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student
and instructor by the UAC office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

**Schedule**

**INTRODUCTION TO TERRORISM**

**WEEK 1**

January 9: Syllabus. Terrorism and International Relations.

January 11: What is terrorism?
- Hoffman, pp. 1-41.

**WEEK 2**

January 16: History of terrorism
- Hoffman, Chs 2-3, pp 43-80

January 18: Is terrorism today different from historical terrorism?
- Gottlieb, Ch 1

**CAUSES OF TERRORISM**

**WEEK 3**

January 23: Why terrorism? Psychological Explanations

January 25: Why terrorism? Economic Explanations
- Gottlieb Chapter 2

**WEEK 4**

January 30: Why terrorism? Strategic explanations
• Several authors. “Correspondence: What makes terrorist Tick” International Security 33(4): 180-202

February 1: Why Terrorism? Social Explanations

WEEK 5

CONDUCT OF TERRORISM
February 6: Strategic uses of terrorism
Problem Set posted. Due February 23.

February 8: Tactics of Terrorism
• Hoffman, Ch 8, pp. 229-256

WEEK 6
February 13: Tactics of Terrorism: Suicide Terrorism
• Hoffman, Ch 5, pp 131-171
• Gottlieb, Ch 5

February 15: Targeting Public Opinion
• Hoffman, Ch 6-7, pp. 173-228

WEEK 7
February 20: Monday Instruction, No Class

February 22: Women as a Terrorist Tactic
• Dalton, Angela, and Victor Asal. 2011. "Is It Ideology or Desperation: Why Do Organizations Deploy Women in Violent Terrorist Attacks?." Studies In Conflict & Terrorism 34, no. 10: 802-819
WEEK 8
February 27: Religious Terrorism
- Gottlieb Ch 4
- Hoffman Ch 4, pp 82-130

March 1: Midterm Exam

WEEK 9
March 6: Unconventional Terrorist Tactics
- Gottlieb Ch 6
- Hoffman pp. 267-281

EFFECTS OF TERRORISM
March 8: Economic Effects of Terrorism on Targeted States
- Enders and Sandler, “Economic Consequences of Terrorism in Developed and Developing Countries.”

WEEK 10
March 13: Does Terrorism Work?

COUNTERTERRORISM
March 15: Civil Liberties in the Counter-terrorism Effort
- Gottlieb Ch 11

WEEK 11
March 20: International Cooperation on Counterterrorism
• Gottlieb Ch 9
• Tom O’Connor “Middle East Allies: 68 Nations Involved in Fighting ISIS Gather to Hear Trump Plan” Newsweek 3/21/17

March 22: Military and Diplomatic Solutions
• Gottlieb Ch 7

WEEK 12
March 27: Regime Change and Terrorism
• Gottlieb Ch 8

March 29: Morality of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
• Gottlieb Ch 3
• 3 Nephi 3

WEEK 13
April 3: How big a threat?
• Gottlieb Ch 12

April 5: Oral Presentations

WEEK 15
April 10: Oral Presentations

April 12: Oral Presentations

WEEK 16
April 17: Oral Presentations
   Research Papers Due April 20th at 11:59pm.