



Syllabus

**CJ 397 (Section 01W):
TERRORISM**

On-Line Course

**Fall 2012
(August 27 to December 14, 2012)**

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Professor**

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Office Phone: Please e-mail me and send me your phone # if you needed to talk on the phone, and I will call you, if needed.

COURSE INFORMATION

- I. Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**
Required Textbook: R. N. Singh, *Terrorism: Its Global Overview, Explanation, and Prevention*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publications, 2012. ISBN#: 978-81-269-1693-1. You can contact the Texas Book Store located in 115 Sam Rayburn Student Center on our campus in Commerce. Visit the book store, or call at 903-886-5215, to buy it.

I will also be guiding you to selected materials on-line. For example, to begin with during Week 1, please log in through Google to: cct@criticalthinking.org and click on Critical Thinking Concept and Tools; also log in to : www.criticalthinking.com and get ideas in understanding concepts of analytical thinking, conceptual thinking, and critical thinking.

II. Course Description:

Welcome to the CJ 397: Terrorism class! I am confident that we will have a productive Fall semester term in learning issues related to a serious form of violence, termed as 'terrorism.' This is a general survey course on terrorism with particular emphasis on the criminal justice perspective (criminology is a research/teaching field in sociology). Issues related to terrorism at the global level will be examined without focusing on any specific nation, political group, or religion per se. However, I will have an assignment for you to address some specific terrorist incident or issue to demonstrate application of ideas and concepts involved.

III. Topical Outline as a Study Guide for Reading Your Textbook for Each Chapter & Relevant Topics Involved for Various Exams in the Course:

1. Introduction : Overview of Contents and Approach (Read Chapter 1)

- **Expected Contribution of the Book**
- **Theoretical Perspectives Used**
- **Developing Typologies and Characteristics**

2. Reality and Types of Violence (Read Chapter 2):

- **Violent Tendencies.**
- **Legitimacy of Violence.**
- **Categories of Violence**
- **Degrees of Violence**
- **Factors Related to Violence**

3. Terrorism: The Dirty Violence (Read Chapter 3)

- ✓ **Define Terrorism**
- ✓ **Characteristics and Types of Terrorism**
- ✓ **Terrorism: A Serious and distinct Form of Violence**
- ✓ **Types of Terrorism**

4. PATHOLOGY OF TERRORCIDE (Read Chapter 4)

- **Typology of Terrorcide**
- **Effectiveness of Terrorcide**

5. TOWARD EXPLAINING TERRORISM (read Chapter 5)

- ❖ **Selected Explanations**
- ❖ **Sociological Interpretations**
- ❖ **Profiles of Terrorists**
- ❖ **Consequences of Terrorism**

6. RELIGIOUS JUSTIFICATION OF TERRORISM (Read Chapter 6)

- **Meaning and Origin of Religion**
- **Functions of Religion**
- **Degree of Religiosity**

7. PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TERRORISM (Read Chapter 7)

- ✓ **Meaning of Prevention**
- ✓ **Prioritizing Prevention of Terrorism**
- ✓ **Strategies for Preventing Terrorism**
- ✓ **Secularism**

8. NONVIOLENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND (Read chapter 8)

- **Ideology of Nonviolence**
- **Assumptions for Advocating Nonviolence**
- **Three principles of Nonviolence**

IV. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Through textbook readings and other materials, we will pursue the following **course objectives**.

We will study concepts and ideas involving a global look at concepts, typologies, and analyses of contemporary issues involving terrorism, both domestic and international. Terroristic tactics, approaches and concepts will be examined. State sponsors and other supporters of terrorism will need to be thought about. Terrorism and its supporting ideologies will also be considered, as are motivations for terrorism and suicide bombings.

Specific goals of the course will include:

1. Understand meanings, forms or types, elements and styles of violence and terrorism;
2. Provide familiarity with the tactics and targets of terrorism;
3. Learn the ideologies of dealing with terrorism;
3. Examine economic, political, legal, and law enforcement implications, explanations, and consequences of terrorism; and
4. Explore preventive measures for terrorism.

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENTS:

1. Be able to think clearly about meanings and types of terrorism;
2. Think critically about terrorism is (and is not), how it is a unique form of violence against the humanity, why it happens, why it is increasing at the global level, how we can prevent it, and so forth. Think about examples but do not necessarily focus on each and every terrorist incident. Develop a general understanding of this pathological issue we need to deal with during the 21st century.
3. Articulate various forms, styles, and sources of terrorism; and
4. Realize ways terrorism can be addressed and its impact minimized.

V. Student Responsibilities

You must regularly read the syllabus and all announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all

instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, and other guidelines given therein.

- 1. Read instructions given on-line in the eCollege website under each topic carefully.**
- 2. It is important that you log into the course on line regularly. It is necessary that you plan your work on the course on a regular weekly basis to succeed in making the highest grade. I will monitor how often and for how long you do log into the course.**
- 3. You can post your questions and concerns about the course and its requirements at **VIRTUAL OFFICE** in the Home Page of this course. The virtual office will serve our learning needs of being in touch with not only me but with also with all persons in the class whenever you have questions or comments about the course. I will post my response to your questions. That way all other students become aware of what course and its issues are being discussed in the Virtual Office.**
- 4. You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates. Only use the e-mail address given on the first page of this syllabus. **Provide in your e-mail info on: your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I check your record before responding to your need or question.****
- 5. Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the eCollege. If you have problem with your e-mail system, please contact the Instructional Technology office. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading will be based upon **total 500 points accumulated from 2 out of 3 exams scores (for 200 points) and 300 points for three assignments.**

At the end of the course, an “A” will be equal to 90+%, a “B” will be equal to 80-89%, a “C” for 70-79% and a “D” for 60-69% of the total. points accumulated on exams and an assignment stated below.

- 1. Closed-book Exams (worth 200 total points):** There will be three exams including the final. All exams will consist **of short answer essay questions only** (the so called ‘objective’ questions are usually based on memorization, which is not considered important in this course).
 - You will be required to take any TWO out of THREE exams** (if you take more than two of them, I will drop the lowest score). By having an opportunity to drop one exam, you will have an opportunity to make up. No other make-up exams will be given.
 - The major goal of each essay exam will be to test your critical thinking and clear understanding rather than a mere memorization of specific info.** Specific instructions for each exam will be provided under announcements and e-mails later.
 - Dates for each exam are given below (each exam will be available only on the specified date all day on-line):**
 - First exam based on Chapters 1 to 4 from the textbook available on line on Monday, **October 1, 2012.****
 - Second exam based on Chapters 5 to 8 available on line on Monday, **November 19, 2012.****
 - Final-comprehensive-makeup exam based on ALL 8 chapters available on Monday, **December 10, 2012.****
 - THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE AVAILABE IN THE GRADEBOOK ON LINE ON **December 13, 2012.****

Special Instructions for Taking Exams:

- **Each exam will be timed by the computer for **one hour on dates given above** . You must write dates for exams on your calendar. I am teaching large classes and will not be able to change dates for students. Since I have already allowed flexibility to you of dropping one out of three exams, you should do fine.**
- **You will be logged out of each exam after 1 hour. Do not take any break. Once you start the exam, you must complete it in one sitting. It will be a good idea if you take the exam at one of the computer centers on Commerce or Metroplex campuses particularly if your computer is older or if you might get disrupted at home. We cannot control circumstances if your computer freezes at home or if you have other technical problems. So time yourself carefully and make sure that no one will distract you while taking the exam.**
- **If you log out of the exam (due to technical or whatever reasons), you will have to just wait for taking the next exam. Please plan taking your exams very carefully. Since you are required to taking 2 out of 3 exams (final-comprehensive being optional-make up), you will do fine even if you missed one of the first two exams for any reason. However, do your best of not missing any of the first two exams as you may want to keep the final only for making up in case you do not do well in any exam.**
- **Your grade in the final exam will not be first counted in your total grade to begin with. I will replace any one of your scores in one of the first two exams if it is lower than (or if you had missed) one of those exams.**
- **IF YOU MISS BOTH OF THE FIRST TWO EXAMS, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP THE COURSE BY THE DEADLINE GIVEN IN THE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL 2012. I WILL NEED A MINIMUM OF TWO EXAMS TAKEN & THE MAJOR**

ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED TO CALCULATE YOUR FINAL GRADE.

HOW TO DO WELL IN ESSAY EXAMS:

- **I want you to do well in answering essay questions. If you lose some points in essays, reasons for that could include: 1) you may not have answered a question correctly (2) you may not have answered all parts of each question; (3) you may have been too brief in your answer and might not have elaborated on your answer demonstrating your understanding; (3) you may have included irrelevant materials in your answers; (4) you may have lacked clarity or (5) you may not have provided examples illustrating your points, where needed.**

2. MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

a) ASSIGNMENT I. (worth 100 points).

Review of any two books or two research papers (or one book and one paper) on terrorism selected from the list of references given at the end of your textbook. You are responsible for locating books/papers from library of your choice. The review of each in about two pages will include the following:

- 1. summary of each book or paper (about 1/2 page;**
- 2. its contribution or importance to the study of terrorism;**
- 3. its limitations or criticism from a criminology perspective**
- 4. your own comments on each**

(DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE DROP BOX: October 29, 2012.

b) ASSIGNMENT II. (worth 100 points)

Analysis of a Current Issue & an Event involving a terrorist situation in the U. S. or anywhere in the world: Select any one issue & one event relevant to terrorism. If you have any question about the assignment, please post it on the Virtual Office as others may benefit from your question or my response. E-mail me only if you have a personal issue that you would not want to share with others in the class.

Examples of issues include the following (of course, you may think of other examples too):

- **increasing role of women in suicide terror,**
- **increasing role of particular religious fanaticism in the history of terrorism,**
- **role of social class (occupation/unemployment, income, and education) of the terrorists,**
- **role particular media around the world might have played in sensationalizing and publicizing terrorism,**
- **particular states or countries supporting terrorism,**
- **impact of Iraqi and Afghanistan war on terrorism at the global level,**
- **continuing terrorism in countries such as India, Pakistan, and Israel, or**
- **specific needs for non-violence strategies in the world today.**

Examples of events may include (of course, you may think of other examples too):

- ✓ **Oklahoma City Federal Building incident,**
- ✓ **9/11 incident,**
- ✓ **Tamil Tiger's assassination of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi,**
- ✓ **Sikh terrorists' assassinating Prime Minister Indira Gandhi,**
- ✓ **Kama kaze suicide attacks on American ships by Japanese pilots in World War II,**

- ✓ **Other particular suicide attacks (such as in Kashmir, Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan)**
- ✓ **Poison train incident in Japan, or**
- ✓ **Lone terrorist who sent anthrax by mail in the U. S.**

Consult newspapers (Star-Ledger, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post or local newspapers), as well as popular news magazines (Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report), articles and books in criminology, and terrorism materials available on line through Google.

In a typed, double-spaced paper of approximately four to five pages, analyze the issue and the event selected. Discuss the issue/event. Do express your own opinions or assessments showing critical thinking.

Do not attach articles to your paper. Instead, be sure to include the sources consulted in your bibliography at the end of your paper. Paper will be graded on content, clarity, organization, and grammar.

Your paper should consist of the following outline:

- **Brief summary of the issue and event selected (no more than about one page);**
- **Interpretation of the issue and event through criminology/sociology theories or perspectives; and**
- **Your personal comments and appraisals of the issue/event.**

The paper will be due on December 3 (submission on-line in the drop box).

c) ASSIGNMENT III.

I will post various discussion questions on a number of issues at least once a week. Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during each week. You will be able to earn points

for your participation in EACH discussion (up to 10 points for each week's topic depending on the following criteria:

- **how meaningful you are through your reading of materials assigned that week in your comments,**
- **how much critical thinking you demonstrate in your discussion comments based on logical arguments, and**
- **how much and how meaningfully you respond to other students' posted comments.**
- **Your score achieved in discussions out of a total of 100 points in 10 discussions will be calculated and added to your total score.**

REMEMBER THAT EACH DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES OF EACH WEEK (AS STATED IN SYLLABUS AS WELL AS UNDER EACH WEEK'S DATES) IN ORDER TO EARN POINTS.

I will be able to find out through eCollege which one of you spent how much time on discussions and were meaningful and relevant in your comments. Elaborate in your discussion so that every one of you in class can understand what you are talking about. If someone in your class gives some arguments in discussions that you agree or disagree, be sure to be courteous and state your views accordingly. This is meant to be a debate to promote critical thinking. I will give you credit for your discussions accordingly. Please take weekly discussions seriously as this will help you relate to our important issues and express views on them.

I may post additional instructions later on exams and the assignments.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

You can e-mail me whenever you have questions. Only use this address: raghu.singh@tamuc.edu

My goal is to guide each of you in every possible way to succeed in the learning process in this course. Please remember that your success in the course will also determine my success in teaching it. Develop a positive attitude toward learning basics in human violence, particularly terrorism. I will do my best in being objective, reasonable, encouraging, and fair. I will reward to the maximum those of you who will do their best in following the guidelines given in the syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

- ❖ **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of **common decency** and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Please make sure you use professional language in discussions, even when disagreeing with each other.**

- ❖ **A Note on Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor’s actions. I will use the technology to scan your answers and discussions to determine if anyone has copied contents from other students, on-line sources, and from published works. No credit will be given to anyone for giving or taking help toward any form of plagiarism beside punitive action in serious cases. While I

trust my students, precautions are needed to protect those who genuinely work on the course.

As an example of academic honesty and professionalism, I will trust you but a few students who are unethical spoil reputation of all of us. It is my experience that students who cheat do not succeed in doing well in school and in developing meaningful careers.

❖ **Special Needs: ADA Statement**

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu**

CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS, EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Monday, 8/27 to Sunday, 9/2: Read Chapter 1, as well as materials on critical thinking, and work on Discussion 1.

Week 2: Monday, 9/3 to Sunday, 9/9. Read Chapter 2 & work on Discussion 2.

Week 3: Monday, 9/10 to Sunday, 9/16: Read Chapter 3 & work on Discussion 3.

Week 4: Monday, 9/17 to Sunday, 9/23: Read Chapter 4 & work on Discussion 4.

Week 5: 9/24 to Sunday, 9/30: Study for Exam 1.

Take EXAM 1, covering chapters 1 to 4, on Monday, October 1.

Week 6: Monday, 10/1 to Monday, 10/7: Read Chapter 5 & work on Discussion 5.

Week 7: Tuesday, 10/9 to Sunday, 10/14: Read Chapter 6 & work on Discussion 6.

Week 8: Monday, 10/15 to Sunday, 10/21: Read Chapter 7 & work on Discussion 7.

Week 9: Monday, 10/22 to Sunday, 10/28: Read Chapter 8 & work on Discussion 8.

Submit your Assignment # 1 Books/Papers Review by October 29 deadline through drop box.

Week 10: Monday, 10/29 to Sunday, 11/4: Read assigned paper and work on Discussion 9.

Week 11: Monday, 11/5 to Sunday, 11/11: Work on Discussion 10.

Week 12: Monday, 11/12 to Sunday, 11/18: Work on Exam 2 prep.

***Take EXAM 2, covering chapters 5 to 8, on November 19.
(Thanksgiving Break: 11/21-11/25)***

Week 13: Monday, 11/26 to Sunday, 12/2: Work on issue/event assignment.

Submit your Assignment on Terrorism Issue & Event by December 3 deadline.

Week 14: Monday, 12/3 to Sunday, 12/9: Work on the optional-make-up final exam.

Take FINAL COMPREHENSIVE-Make-Up EXAM, covering chapters 1 to 8, on December 10 (Final Grade available to you on December 13)