

Physics 599
Counter Terrorism - A Multidisciplinary Course
Proposed Course Syllabus for Spring Semester 2002

Tue. and Thu. 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Physical Sciences College Room 006
<http://www.uscasg.org>

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Course Description

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attack confronted the US with the harsh reality of 21st century terrorism. The Manhattan World Trade Towers atrocity was the first major assault by an enemy on the American homeland since the 19th century. Terrorism is not a recent phenomenon in the American or the international experience of violence. However, in the past century the defense focus and commitment of US armed forces in two world wars and three major regional conflicts can be described as US force projection on foreign soil. Post September 11th, the factor of homeland defense in the balance of the dynamic equation of the President's Constitutional responsibilities to protect the US mainland and its vital interests overseas appears to have been irreversibly altered and weighted. The attack introduced Defense, legal, public safety, public health, political, economic, and societal implications in American life, some not encountered since World War II and some unprecedented. This class analyzes terrorism, its domestic and international implications, and asks, "What are the major terrorist threats?"; "What measures are appropriate to counter terrorism?"

The class will be in a lecture format. A series of guest lecturers from within the USC faculty and among state and Federal agencies will present. Lectures will be followed by a short discussion, question and answer period. The purpose of the class is to further prepare the student as an "informed citizen" and to provide a perspective and framework that will serve a more in-depth study of the issues raised.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to--

- Understand the history, motives and objectives of terrorism
- Identify nationalistic, religious and societal conditions that may provoke and support terrorism

- Analyze and understand some of the major implications to the Nation flowing from the September 11th attack
- Describe types of terrorist threats, *modus operandi*, weapons, and other tools used by terrorists to achieve their objectives
- Understand the international issues raised by the current terrorist threat
- Describe counter terrorism provisions undertaken by the Federal Government, Department of Defense, state and local public safety agencies

Course Materials

There is no prescribed course textbook. Lectures may be supplemented with suggested readings and class notes.

Grading

The final course grade for undergraduate students will be determined by written examinations scheduled in advance. The final course grade for graduate students will be determined by the written examinations and a terrorism-related research paper. The research-paper topic will be coordinated with and the grade determined by the student's graduate department. For graduate students, the relative weights of the two graded requirements in the final course grade will be announced prior to the first written examination.

Exam

Three in-class written examinations will be given the graduate and undergraduate students. Unless the exam is missed due to verifiable illness and other emergency, absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero. In the event of excused absence from an exam, either a make-up will be given or another exam will be weighted more heavily. Each examination will constitute one-third of the total course grade. For graduate students, the research paper will be due at Class 28.

Class Participation

Each student is expected to review suggested readings and to participate in class discussion. Taking class notes is encouraged. Written examination questions will be taken from the lectures. Each lecturer will be asked to prepare several questions related to the lecture, questions that will be candidate examination questions. Regular class attendance and punctuality are expected. Much of the course benefit will be derived from students' critical thinking, challenging of ideas, and courteous posing of issues.

Class Policies

Academic misconduct will be treated consistent with the University of South Carolina policies. Graded work must comply with aspects of scholastic honesty that preclude cheating on examinations, plagiarizing, submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval of all instructors concerned.