

His 482/GLS 400: Seminar: Twentieth Century Terrorism Spring 2009

There can be no final victory in the fight against terrorism, for terrorism (rather than full-scale war) is the contemporary manifestation of conflict..... Walter Laqueur (2004)

Terrorism is a means, not an end, and very different groups and countries are using it toward very different goals. Joe Biden: (2006)

Professor Geraldine Forbes

M 6-8:40 PM Campus Center 237

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Course Description:

In this seminar, we examine examples of political violence labeled terrorism. The key objective of this seminar is to develop and enhance our understanding of movements that use terrorism as a method to achieve their goals. The second objective of the seminar will be to learn how to write a research paper. Doing so will involve formulating a project, locating and evaluating sources for historical research, and writing an analytical paper.

The key questions for the seminar are: What is terrorism? What do terrorists want to accomplish? Who becomes a terrorist? What strategies and tactics do they use? What are the social and political results of terrorism?

We will begin with a series of common readings and discuss how scholars have used the word “terrorism” and how the word has changed over time. In addition to reading the works of men who advocated terrorism as the most effective method of achieving goals, we will discuss different types of terrorism, goals, strategies and weapons, theories of who becomes a terrorist, and gender and terrorism.

Students will pursue individual research projects on a wide range of topics. In the last weeks of the semester, students will present their research to the class.

Readings:

HIS 482 is a web-enhanced course, which uses Angel, managed by the SUNY Learning Network (SLN). For Angel, use your Oswego.edu email name and your Oswego.edu password. Readings for each class will be posted on Angel and you are expected to complete them before class. I have posted both **Required** and Suggested Readings. For useful websites, see Angel.

Course Requirements:

1. Responses to assigned reading	30%
2. Research Paper	50%
First draft	10%
In-class presentation	10%
Final draft	30%
3. Written critiques of two student papers	10%
4. In-class discussion	10%

Course Outline: Reading Assignments for each class are on Angel

1. Jan 26 **Introduction to the Class**
2. Feb 2 **Definitions, Current Debates, & New Forms of Terrorism**
3. Feb 9 **Terrorism in the Nineteenth Century**
4. Feb 16 **Library class - Meet in Penfield Library Room #1**
5. Feb 23 **State Terrorism, State-sponsored Terrorism, and State Complicity in Terrorism**

- 6. Mar 2 **Freedom Movements and Terrorism: Ireland, Algeria, and South Africa**
- 7. Mar 16 **Religious Terrorism and Revolutionary Terrorism**
- 8. Mar 23 **Goals, Strategies, and Weapons**
- 9. Mar 30 **Who Becomes a Terrorist?**
- 10. Apr 6 **Gender and Terrorism**
- 11. Apr 13 **Presentation of Papers**
- 12. Apr 20 **Presentation of Papers**
- 13. Apr 27 **Presentation of Papers**
- 14. May 4 **Presentation of Papers**

DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS:

All written work must be printed in blue or black ink, using a standard font, 12 pt, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and numbered pages. References must be in Chicago style for the Humanities. Proofread all work for grammatical and spelling errors. Always title your work and include your name.

1. RESPONSES TO THE ASSIGNED READING (5 x 6 pts): You are required to write paper #1, and on 4 of the following 7 topics for a total of 5 papers. Each response must be 1200 words minimum and answer the question posed. Include footnotes and a list of references. **Details of the PAPERS are on Angel**

2. THE RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper will involve extensive research, using primary source materials to the fullest extent possible. The paper will be at least 18-20 pages [4,500-5,000 words] in length before bibliography.

Papers should focus on a terrorist incident or set of incidents to allow for a discussion of organization, ideology, goals, strategy and tactics, and success. **(Details are on Angel)**

- Progress Report (brief oral report, in class) A brief report on the topic and sources
- Research Proposal: (due Mar 2) Topic, main questions and tentative answers, bibliography
- Pre-presentation Draft (due one week before presentation)
- In-Class Presentation (dates: Apr 13, 20, & 27; May 4) You will have 20 minutes to present your major research findings, followed by Q & A.
- Final Draft (Due May 14) Your final draft must incorporate professor and student comments.

3. WRITTEN COMMENTS ON TWO STUDENT PAPERS (due when the paper is presented)

4. IN-CLASS DISCUSSION

You will be graded on your contribution to class discussion.

Terrorist organizations/ possible topics- list is on ANGEL

PLEASE NOTE

* Attendance is required.

**Students who have a disabling condition, which might interfere with their ability to successfully complete this course, are encouraged to speak to the class instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services

***Office Hours: I will hold regular office hours at the Metro Center. Please come and see me if you have any concerns or problems. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, send me an email and we can meet another time.

****It is important to understand SUNY-Oswego's Policy on Intellectual Integrity:

http://www.oswego.edu/administration/registrar/policy_text.html#cpji. Also, look at the Plagiarism Tutorial

<http://www.oswego.edu/library/instruction/plagutut/>