Political Science 353 - Terrorism - Fall 2015
Instructor: Vincent Auger  Email: va-auger@wiu.edu
Office Hours (Morgan 426): M,W 12-2; Tues 1-3; or by appointment.

Course Description and Goals: This course examines the sources of modern terrorism, and the evolving implications of terrorist activities for international and domestic politics. We will look at the different ways in which “terrorism” is defined and used in political discourse; examine the social, cultural, political, economic, religious, and psychological factors that create contexts that encourage or facilitate terrorism; analyze why some individuals or groups turn to terrorist methods to achieve their goals, and evaluate how successful terrorists are in achieving those goals; and discuss whether terrorism can be prevented, deterred or defeated.

Course Readings: Required readings will be available through Western Online, the Internet, or handouts.

Course Policies and Requirements:

1) Attendance: Class attendance is expected, and will be recorded with an attendance sheet. There is no penalty for the first two unexcused absences; each unexcused absence beyond those two will result in a 5 point reduction in the total number of points for the course.

2) Exams: There will be two in-class exams and a final exam; each will have a mixture of short answer and essay questions, drawn from both the lectures and the assigned readings.

3) Papers: There is one research paper for this course; the details will be posted on Western Online.

4) Electronics in the Classroom: The use of laptops, tablets, iPads, cellphones and other electronic devices is prohibited during class without permission of the instructor.

5) Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the WIU Student Academic Integrity Policy at http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php. It is your responsibility to follow this policy; please ask me if you have questions.

6) ADA Statement: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

7) Student rights and responsibilities: http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php
Grade Composition

Exam # 1  150 points
Exam #2  100 points
Research paper  100 points
Final exam  150 points
500 points

Course Grades: Course grades will be based on the following point totals:

466-500: A
450-465: A-
433-449: B+
416-432: B
400-415: B-
383-399: C+
366-382: C
350-365: C-
333-349: D+
316-332: D
300-315: D-
Below 300: F

Course Schedule:

I. Introduction

Aug. 25 – Introduction and Overview

Aug. 27 - Definitions: Who You Callin' a Terrorist?
- Western Online readings for this date

II. Overview of Terrorism: Historical Development and Terrorist Operations

Sept. 1 – Terrorism: Historical Trends and Development.
- Western Online readings for this date

Sept. 3 – Terrorism in the U.S.
- Western Online readings for this date

Sept. 8, 10 - State Sponsors and State Havens
- Western Online readings for these dates

Sept. 15, 17 – Terrorist Organizations: Ideology and Goals
- Western Online readings for these dates
Sept. 22 - Oct. 1 – Terrorist Organizations: Operations and Methods
- Western Online readings for these dates

**** October 6 - EXAM #1 ****

Oct. 8 – No class meeting

III. The Challenge of Salafi Jihadist Terroism

Oct. 13 -20 – Case: The rise and evolution of al-Qaeda
- Western Online readings for these dates

** RESEARCH PAPER Due No Later Than Friday, Oct. 23 at 4 pm **

Oct. 22 – Nov. 3 – Case: The origins and challenge of the Islamic State
- Western Online readings for these dates

**** November 5 - EXAM #2 ****

IV. Combatting Terrorism: Choices and Challenges

Nov. 10, 12 - Counterterrorism: Strategies and Methods
- Western Online readings for these dates

Nov. 17, 19 - Counterterrorism: Legal and Ethical Dilemmas
- Western Online readings for these dates

Dec. 1 – International Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism
- Western Online readings for this date

- Western Online readings for these dates

****Final Exam - Thursday, Dec. 17 at 10 am****