Course Objectives:

a) To develop an understanding of the history of counterterrorism policy (especially US policy)
b) To develop an understanding of the lifecycles of different historical terrorist organizations and the effectiveness of countermeasures
c) To learn and understand the various instruments for conducting counterterrorism policy
d) To acquire an understanding of the current geopolitical and local (target state) political context in which US counterterrorism policy is developed
e) To acquire an understanding of the current terrorist threat (ISIS/ISIL)
f) To explore various policy options to counter contemporary terrorist threats.
g) To learn how to write a good analytical policy memo

Course Requirements:

1) Three short (3-page) papers: (15% x 3) 45%
2) Class Participation: 15%
3) Final (10-page) Long Paper: 40%
Course Policies:

1. **Short Paper Guidelines:**

   Over the course of the semester, the students will be required to write 3 three-page reaction papers to the reading. The instructor will offer five opportunities to write these papers. If the student elects to write on more than three only the top three grades will count. The topics or questions of each paper and its format, which the instructor will provide the students ahead of time, will reflect the cases or issues discussed in the class for which it is assigned. Papers must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins and numbered pages. They may be emailed to the instructor and are due before the start of the class where the issue in question will be discussed.

2. **Long Paper guidelines:**

   The long paper will be a ten-page analytical study of the lifecycle of an historical terrorist group that includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of state counterterrorism strategies/policies. The student will determine the focus of the paper in consultation with the instructor.

3. **Moses Center for Students with Disabilities:**

   If you are student with a disability who is requesting accommodations, please contact New York University’s Moses Center for Students with Disabilities. You must be registered with CSD to receive accommodations. Information about the Moses Center can be found at www.nyu.edu/csd. The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway (second floor).

4. **Religious holidays:**

   NYU’s policy is to accommodate students’ observances of religious holidays. In order to receive accommodation, you must notify the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester of any planned absences related to religious observance. Further details on NYU’s policies may be found at: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html.
5. **Academic honesty:**

Intellectual integrity is the university’s most fundamental commitment. Plagiarism of any kind will be penalized to the fullest possible extent, without warning or exception.

The most common causes of plagiarism are not deliberate dishonesty, but stress and uncertainty. You are encouraged to begin assignments well in advance of the deadline, and to check with the instructor if you have any questions. Whenever you draw upon somebody else’s words or ideas to make a point, give them credit in a note. If you have questions about documentation requirements, don’t guess –just ask.

For further details on university policy, strictly adhered to in this class, see [http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity](http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity).

**Course materials**

All books with an asterisk have been ordered to the NYU Bookstore on Broadway and their purchase is recommended. Materials found on the course website are indicated by a “+”.

* = NYU Bookstore  
+ = Course Website
September 6: Origins of Terrorism/Counterterrorism

Required Reading:


September 13: Revolutionary Left-Wing Terrorism in Cold War Europe

Required Reading (Pick One):

a) Donatella della Porta: *Social Movements, Political Violence and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany* (1995), 9-54; 83-149+


September 20: The Origins of Modern Terrorism and US Counterterrorism


2) Timothy Naftali, *Blind Spot: The Secret History of American Counterterrorism* (2005), 54-149*

September 27: Black September and Israel: Did the Tactics Work?

1) Bruce Hoffman, “All you Need is Love: How the Terrorists Stopped Terrorism,” *The Atlantic*, December 2001

October 4: Reagan and Counterterrorism: Confronting the Problem

Required Reading:

1) Libya 1985-87, documents from the Reagan Presidential Library +


First Response Paper Due: October 4

October 11: Hezbollah: Unintended Consequences and Terrorism as Strategy

Required Reading:

1) Andrew McCarthy and Fawaz Gerges, “Does Islam Play a Unique Role in Modern Religious Terrorism?” Chapter of *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Conflicting Perspectives, Contexts, and Responses* (2010), pp. 100-130+

2) Augustus Richard Norton, *Hezbollah* 11-101*

Second Response Paper Due: October 11

October 18: Hamas

Required Reading:


October 25: Case Studies of Terrorism that Stopped

Required Reading:


Pick one:

a) Yoram Schweitzer and Noam Ophir, “The Rise and Fall of the International Terrorism Strategy of George Habash’s “Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and its Factions”

b) Andrew Black, Why do Terrorists Stop?: The Case of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]”

c) Jonathan Stevenson, “Case Study: The Provisional Irish Republican Army”

d) Peter Waldmann, “The Tupamaros (Uruguay) and the M-19 (Colombia)”

Third Response Paper Due: October 25

November 1: Al Qaeda (Pre 9/11)

Required Reading:


November 8: Afghanistan

Required Reading:

1) David Kilcullen, The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Middle of a Major One (2008), xiii-xix; preface, prologue, 1-114 *

2) Fotini Christia & Michael Semple, “How to Flip the Taliban,” and Steven Simon, “Is
Nation Building Doomed?“ Foreign Affairs, July/August 2009+

November 15: Iraq—Creating Terrorism?

Required Reading:


2) Kilcullen, The Accidental Guerrila, 115-185*

3) Thomas Ricks, Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq (2007), 149-269*

4) Robert Gates, Duty, pp. 25-79; 223-238+

Fourth Response Paper Due: November 15

November 22: Some Techniques of Post-9/11 CT: How Effective?

Required Reading:

Drones—Targeted Assassinations


2) Gates, Duty, p. 128-133; 297-303; 538-546+


De-Radicalization


3) Joshua Snider, “Beyond Performativity: Islamic State (ISIL) and Indonesia’s Counter-
radicalization Challenge,” Middle East Institute (2016)
http://www.mei.edu/content/map/beyond-performativity-islamic-state-isil-and-indonesia.


Enhanced Interrogation Techniques


2) George W. Bush, Decision Points (2011), 152-183 +

3) George Tenet, At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA, (2007), 229-257+

Recommended Reading:


November 29: Yemen

Required Reading:

1) Victoria Clark, Yemen: Dancing on the Heads of Snakes (2010), 1-175.*

2) Michael Morell, The Great War of Our Time: The CIA’s Fight Against Terrorism—from al Qa’ida to ISIS, vii-xvi, 141-42, 177-210, 307-309*


6) 2016 Yemen Crisis Situation Report, AEI, July 2016,
Fifth Response Paper: Due November 29

December 6: ISIS/ISIL/Daesh

Required Reading:

