



PO/IR 265 TERRORISM: AN INTRODUCTION

IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

Terrorism has been one of the most pressing political problems of the last half-century: almost every continent has experienced the threat of terrorism, from Europe to Asia, from Africa to America, and the incidence of terrorist attacks has more than doubled in the past 30 years. Terrorism has taken a variety of forms and accordingly several typologies, based on its origins, tools, motivations, and effects, have been developed by scholars and analysts. The course focuses on the principal issues associated with modern international terrorism. It starts with an introduction to the concept of terrorism itself. In this first part, a set of crucial and preliminary questions is addressed: what is terrorism? What motivates different types of terrorist groups? Why do terrorists resort to political violence? A wide range of case studies is analyzed, taking into consideration the similarities and the differences between “old” and “new” terrorism. The course provides a special focus on the Italian experience with terrorism during the 1970s and early 1980s, when the country witnessed a dramatic wave of political violence. One section is then devoted to counterterrorism and especially to the responses of democracies to the challenge of terrorism. Finally, the course investigates some relevant issues related to representing and remembering terrorism.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Seminar discussions
- Students’ presentations
- Use of multimedia resources (selected by the instructor.)
- Moodle

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation (10%)
- Midterm exam (30%)
- Book review paper (20%)
- In class presentation (10%)
- Final exam (30%)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Explain the current public debate on terrorism and counterterrorism;
- Interpret the complexity of terrorism as an international phenomenon;
- Identify the main features of modern terrorism;
- Identify the main typologies of terrorism active in the last two centuries and critically engage with the most relevant case studies;
- Acquire a basic knowledge of the possible ways to counter terrorism;
- Discover how different societies handle terrorism and build a shared or a divisive narrative on political violence;
- Understand the historical significance of terrorism for Italy;
- Put Italy’s experiences of terrorism into relation with other national cases.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Readings
Week 1	Introduction to the course	D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i> , Chapter 1 ("Definition of Terrorism"), pp. 3-13
Section 1	Overview of the course	
Session 2	What is Terrorism?	
Week 2	Terrorism: Concepts and Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i>, Chapter 2 ("Motivation for Terrorism"), pp. 14-27 L. Weinberg, <i>Global Terrorism. A Beginner's Guide</i>, Chapter 1 ("Introduction"), pp. 1-21 and Chapter 4 ("Who They Are, Where They Come From, and Why They do it"), pp. 81-110
Section 1	Theories and Perspectives: Approaches to Terrorism	
Section 2	Typologies of Terrorism	
Week 3	History of Terrorism and Case Studies (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D.C. Rapoport, <i>The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism</i>, pp. 3-30 D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i>, Chapter 12 ("Spain"), pp. 150-164 and Chapter 13 ("Northern Ireland"), pp. 165-186
Session 1	The "Four Waves" of Terrorism	
Session 2	Spain and Northern Ireland	
Week 4	History of Terrorism and Case Studies (Part II)	D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i> , Chapter 7 ("Israel"), pp. 79-87; Chapters 9-10 ("Lebanon I" and "Lebanon II"), pp. 106-132; and Chapter 17 ("Germany"), pp. 234-252
Session 1	Middle East and Germany	
Session 2	Cultural Representations of Terrorism: the case of <i>The Baader Meinhof Complex</i>	
Week 5	The "Years of Lead": Terrorism in Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i>, Chapter 18 ("Italy"), pp. 253-270 R. Drake, <i>The Red and the Black. Terrorism in Contemporary Italy</i>, pp. 279-298 L. Weinberg, <i>The Red Brigades</i>, pp. 25-62
Session 1	Red and Black Terrorism	
Session 2	Roots and Causes of Italian Terrorism	
Week 6	Midterm Exam	
Session 1	Midterm Review	
Session 2	Midterm Exam	
Week 7	Al-Qaida and the "War" against Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i>, Chapter 4 ("Jihad: Mission and

Session 1	The Age of Terror?	Campaigning”), pp. 47-59; Chapter 5 (“United States: Ground Zero”), pp. 60-68; and Chapter 6 (“Britain: London as Target”), pp. 69-78 • L. Weinberg, <i>Global Terrorism. A Beginner’s Guide</i> , Chapter 3 (“The First War of the Twenty-First Century”), pp. 51-80
Session 2	al-Qaida and its Satellites	
Week 8	“Old” and “New” Terrorism	• M. Crenshaw, <i>The Debate over “New” vs. “Old” Terrorism</i> , pp. 117-136 • R. Drake, <i>Italy’s Far Right and the Red Brigades</i> , pp. 48-66 ○ P.J. Smith, <i>The Italian Red Brigades (1969-1984): Political Revolution and Threats to the State</i> , pp. 15-28
Session 1	A New Kind of Terrorism?	
Session 2	Similarities and Differences between Italian Terrorism and the Recent Wave of Religious Terrorism	
Week 9	Dealing with Terrorism	• D.J. Whittaker (ed.), <i>The Terrorism Reader</i> , Chapter 21 (“Terrorism: Some Ethical Issues”), pp. 295-305; Chapter 22 (“Terrorism and the Law”), pp. 306-323; and Chapter 23 (“Counter-terrorism: Programmes and Strategies”), pp. 324-344 • L. Weinberg, <i>Global Terrorism. A Beginner’s Guide</i> , Chapter 5 (“Reacting to Terrorism”), pp. 111-144
Session 1	Terrorism, Counter-terrorism and the Law	
Session 2	Italian Responses to Terrorism	
Week 10	Representing and Remembering Terrorism	• W. Laqueur, <i>Interpretations of Terrorism: Fact, Fiction and Political Science</i> , only pp. 15-42 • O’Leary, <i>Locations of Moro: The Kidnap in the Cinema</i> , pp. 151-170 • O’Leary, <i>Italian Cinema and the “anni di piombo”</i> , pp. 243-257
Session 1	Writing on Terrorism: Literature and Representations of Terrorists	
Session 2	Collective Memories of Terrorism	
Week 11	How Terrorism Ends	• L. Weinberg, <i>Global Terrorism. A Beginner’s Guide</i> , Chapter 6 (“The End of Terrorism”), pp. 145-167 • A.K. Cronin, <i>Ending Terrorism. Lessons for Defeating Al-Qaeda</i> , Chapter 2 (“Historical Patterns in Ending Terrorism”), pp. 23-50 and Chapter 3 (“Ending Al-Qaeda”), pp. 51-70
Session 1	Does Terrorism End?	
Session 2	Presentations of Book Reviews	
Week 12	Presentations of Book Reviews and General Review	
Session 1	Presentations of Book Reviews	
Session 2	General Review	
	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Sites of relevant/recent terrorist episodes in Italy
- A government/institutional structure which deals with security issues or terrorism
- Italian analysts/experts on terrorism

REQUIRED READINGS:

- D.J. Whittaker (ed.), *The Terrorism Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2012 (fourth edition), Chapters: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23
- L. Weinberg, *Global Terrorism. A Beginner's Guide*, Oxford: Oneworld, 2005, Chapters: 1 ("Introduction"); 3 ("The First War of the Twenty-First Century"); 4 ("Who They Are, Where They Come From, and Why They do it"); 5 ("Reacting to Terrorism"); and 6 ("The End of Terrorism")
- A.K. Cronin, *Ending Terrorism. Lessons for Defeating Al-Qaeda*, Abingdon: Routledge for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, 2008, Chapters: 2 ("Historical Patterns in Ending Terrorism"), pp. 23-50; 3 ("Ending Al-Qaeda"), pp. 51-70
**on reserve shelf in the IES Library
 - *Course Reader*, including:
 - D.C. Rapoport, *The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism*, in Id. (ed.), *Terrorism. Critical Concepts in Political Science*, New York: Routledge, 2006, pp. 3-30
 - R. Drake, *The Red and the Black. Terrorism in Contemporary Italy*, in "International Political Science Review", 5, 3, 1984, pp. 279-298
 - L. Weinberg, *The Red Brigades*, in R.B. Art, L. Richardson (eds.), *Democracy and Counterterrorism: Lessons from the Past*, Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007, pp. 25-62
 - M. Crenshaw, *The Debate over "New" vs. "Old" Terrorism*, in I.A. Karawan, W. McCormack, S.E. Reynolds (eds.), *Values and Violence. Intangible Aspects of Terrorism*, New York: Springer, 2008, pp. 117-136
 - R. Drake, *Italy's Far Right and the Red Brigades*, in A. Reid (ed.), *Taming Terrorism. It's Been Done Before*, London: Policy Exchange, 2005, pp. 48-66 (available on-line)
 - P.J. Smith, *The Italian Red Brigades (1969-1984): Political Revolution and Threats to the State*, in J.H. Norwitz (ed.), *Armed Groups*, Newport: U.S. Naval War College, 2008, pp. 15-28
 - W. Laqueur, *Interpretations of Terrorism: Fact, Fiction and Political Science*, in "Journal of Contemporary History", 12, 1 1977, only pp. 15-42
 - A. O'Leary, *Locations of Moro: The Kidnap in the Cinema*, in R. Glynn, G. Lombardi (eds.), *Remembering Aldo Moro. The Cultural Legacy of the 1978 Kidnapping and Murder*, London: Legenda, 2012, pp. 151-170.
 - A. O'Leary, *Italian Cinema and the "anni di piombo"*, in "Journal of European Studies", 40, 3, 2010, pp. 243-257

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Antonello P. and O'Leary A. (eds.), *Imagining terrorism: The Rhetoric and Representation of Political Violence in Italy 1969-2009*, London: Legenda, 2009
- Aust S., *Baader-Meinhof: the Inside Story of the R.A.F.*, Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2009
- Burleigh M., *Blood&Rage. A Cultural History of Terrorism*, New York: Harper, 2009;
- Crenshaw, *Terrorism in Context*, University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995
- Cronin A.K., *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009
- Drake R., *The Aldo Moro Murder Case*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995;
- Drake R., *The Revolutionary Mystique and Terrorism in Contemporary Italy*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989
- Griffin R., *Terrorist's Creed. Fanatical Violence and the Human Need for Meaning*, New York: Palgrave, 2012
- Hewitt Ch., *Understanding Terrorism in America: from the Klan to al Qaeda*, New York: Routledge, 2003
- Hoffman B., *Inside Terrorism*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2006
- Horgan J. and Braddock K. (eds.), *Terrorism Studies: a Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2011
- Horgan J., *The Psychology of Terrorism*, New York: Routledge, 2005
- Laqueur W., *No End to War: Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century*, New York: Continuum, 2003;
- Laqueur W., *Voices of Terror: Manifestos, Writings, and Manuals of Al Qaeda, Hamas, and Other Terrorists from Around the World and Throughout the Ages*, New York: Reed Press, 2004

- Law R., *Terrorism. A History*, Oxford: Polity Press, 2009
- Orsini A., *Anatomy of the Red Brigades: the Religious Mind-set of Modern Terrorists*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011
- Pape R.A., *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2006
- Schmid A.P. (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Terrorism Research*, New York: Routledge, 2011