**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**ONLINE SYLLABUS**

**Phone: 307-760-4915**

**SOC 4890: Sociology of Terrorism**

**Spring 2019**

**Instructor: Chikwendu Christian Ukaegbu**

**Office Hours: Drop me an email any time**

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This course examines the concept, history, causes, types, consequences of, and responses to, terrorism across time and space. It analyzes domestic and global dimensions of terrorism embedded in political, economic, and cultural institutions of society including social class, the state, religion, race and ethnicity and the role of the media. Is there any connection between globalization and the incidence and intensity of terrorism? What are the various responses to terrorism in general and global terrorism in particular? And how effective are these responses in the search for a terror- free United States and the world?

**Objectives of the Course:**

1. To introduce students to the history and concept of terrorism

2. To expose students to the debate on the meaning of terrorism

3. To enable students to identify and analyze the causes, types, dimensions, and tactics of terrorism using the sociological perspective

4. To encourage students to explore the trends and transformations in domestic and international terrorism

5. To help students assess the actual and/or potential efficacy of prevailing approaches to counterterrorism

1. To encourage students to conceptualize alternative forms of action
2. Students to develop critical thinking in the assessment of terrorism and counterterrorism through threaded discussions and research papers.

1. Students will discover the link between terrorism and the various aspects of social science knowledge

**Course Requirements:**

There will be 13 weekly discussions, a midterm examination, a term paper, and a final exam.

**Mid-term**: will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, filling in blanks, and short essay questions drawn from topics covered since the beginning of the semester. I will post a revision guide before the exam.

**Term Paper: \*** Write a 10-page paper on any topic of your choice, relevant to the course. Your paper must be your original work, with outside sources. Use a minimum of 8 sources or a maximum of 12. Limit the use of freelance internet resources in your term paper. Scholarly journals and books from the internet are fine. Cite the full particulars of the journal or book. The APA manual of style which I will post on Module provides examples of how to cite information taken from the internet. Read the APA format before your start your paper. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with a carefully and correctly done bibliography. Insert page numbers. Use the bibliographical style posted on this course site. To ensure that your proposed paper is related to the course, send me an email of the title or topic you intend to write on. Avoid use of first person pronoun ‘I’ or ‘we’. The term paper is due on May 9.

\* Graduate Students taking this course for a graduate grade: write a 15-page paper on terrorism and another 10-page paper on counterterrorism specifically. Let me know if you have any questions on this.

**Final Exam:**  will be same structure as the midterm and will consist of topics covered after the mid-term. I will post a revision guide before the exam.

Class Discussion: You will be asked to discuss several questions each week. The questions will be taken from the readings of the week. Each discussion has 10 points. There will be a total of 13 discussions in the semester. There will be primary and secondary postings. Your initial response to the discussion questions is your primary posting. Your secondary postings (three of them) are your reactions to other people’s postings or your reactions to others’ responses to your own postings. In your secondary postings, first mention the person and his/her ideas you are responding to in order to put your response in context. Secondary postings must demonstrate substance in order to merit maximum score. A one or two=sentence secondary posting will not give full score. Each discussion question is posted one week before its due date. You have a full week to post your contribution before another discussion question comes up. Combine the content of the readings and your personal knowledge in the discussion. Citing the readings or other relevant sources to make your ideas more academic is a plus. Remember, the discussion forum is the main class meeting and where most of the teaching and learning takes place. The discussions will be evaluated on coverage of questions, comprehension of content, number and quality of secondary postings, and quality of writing.

. Discussion Scores:

Coverage of questions 3

Comprehension of content 3

Secondary postings 3

Quality of writing 1

**Required Texts:**

Martin, G. 2018. Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues, Fifth Edition, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Badey, T. 2013. Annual Editions: Violence and Terrorism, 14th Edition, Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin

A Few additional readings will be posted on course site. Because terrorism is a primary talking point in the contemporary world, I’ll occasionally post current affairs on the subject.

Course Points:

13 Discussion topics @10 130

Mid-Term 50

Term Paper 20

Final Exam 50

Total 250

**Course Calendar:**

# Week of Jan. 28 Terrorism: History and Definitions

Readings: R. Taylor, “Defining Terrorism; “Zealots, Assassins and the Reign of Terror,” Posted on Course Site

G. Martin, Chs. 1-2;

T. Badey, Pp 9-18

**Week of Feb 4:**: **On the Sociological and Psychological Explanations of Terrorism**

Readings: G. Martin 3;

T. Badey, pp. 139-143.

# Week of Feb. 11: Terrorist Tactics I: Conventional Tactics

Readings: G. Martin, Ch. 10;

T. Badey, pp. 21-30; 35-36

“Conventional Terrorist Tactics.” (On Wyocourse)

R. Gunaratna, “Suicide Terrorism.” (WyoCourse)

# Week of Feb. 18: Terrorist Tactics II: Unconventional

Readings: “Unconventional Terrorist Tactics.” (On WyoCourse)

W. Lacquer, “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” (WyoCourse)

B. Levin, “Cyberhate.” (WyoCourse)

Badey, 31-34; 59-63

# Week of Feb. 25: Terrorism From Above & Below

Readings: G. Martin: Chs. 4 & 5

Badey, pp. 39-56

# Week of March 4: Ideological & International Terrorism

# Readings: G. Martin, Chs. 7; 8;

Badey, pp. 75-84

**Week of March 11**: **Nationalistic Terrorism**

Readings: J.R. White “Middle Eastern Terrorism in Metamorphosis” (Posted on Course Site)

J.R. White, “Nationalistic and Ethnic Terrorism” (On Course Site)

**MARCH 14-15: MIDTERM EXAM**

**MARCH 18-22: SPRINGBREAK**

**Week of March 25: Religious Terrorism**

Readings: Martin, ch 6;

Badey, pp. 67-74; 139-159; 189-192

# Week of April 1: Domestic Terrorism: United States

Readings: G. Martin, Ch. 12

Badey, pp. 94-108

**Week of April 8:** **Gender and Terrorism**

Readings: “Women as Terrorists.” (On Course Site)

R. Morgan, “Token Terrorists.” (On Course Site)

Badey, pp. 162-186

G. Martin, Ch. 9

**Week of April 15: Media &Terrorism**

Readings: G. Martin, Ch. 11

T. Badely, pp. 111-136

# Week of April 22: Counterterrorism: Concepts and Approaches

# Readings: G. Martin, Chs. 13 & 14

Badey, pp. 188-217

# Week of April 29: Future of Terrorism

# Readings: G. Martin, Ch. 15

Badey, pp. 220-227

**MAY 11-12 Final Exam**

**MAY 15: RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

NOTE: Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind earns you an F in the course. And the act will be reflected on your academic record.