IS/PSCI 3794: Terrorism & Counterterrorism

Terrorism & Counterterrorist Strategy and Policy in the European Union and the United States

Spring 2022

Instructor's Contact Details

Professor: Dr. Yannis Stivachtis
Office: 119 Major Williams Hall
E-mail: ystivach@vt.edu
Tel: (540) 231-5816
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-4:30 pm (virtually or in person but always with appointment
Zoom Link: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Class Information

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:20-1:10 pm
Location: RAND 116 or Zoom depending on the COVID-19 situation

Course Description

Examination of the causes and types of domestic and international terrorism. Discussion of the strategies and approaches to combatting terrorism. Analysis of the counterterrorist strategies and policies of the European Union and the United States. Discussion of the relationship between individual EU member states' counterterrorist policies and their impact on the EU counterterrorist efforts. The impact of state-federal government relationship on the effectiveness of the U.S. counterterrorist efforts. Examination of the impact of counterterrorist-related bureaucratic structures on counterterrorism effectiveness.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze the causes and types of domestic and international terrorism
- Assessing the systemic impact of terrorism
- Identify or design strategies aiming at combatting terrorism
- Analyze the counterterrorist strategies and policies of major international actors, such as the United States and the European Union
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the counterterrorist policies of the United States and the European Union

Required Texts

Cindy C. COMBS (2017). *Terrorism in the 21st Century*. 8th edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Javier ARGOMANIZ, Oldrich BURES & Christian KAUNERT (2017). *EU Counterterrorism and Intelligence: A Critical Assessment*. London: Routledge

Edgar TEMBO (2015). *US-UK Counter-terrorism after 9/11*. London: Routledge

*Additional material will be distributed by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Total numbers of points:	100
In-class Participation:	40 points
Research Papers:	60 points (3X20)

Mid-term & Final Exams

There are no mid-term and final exams for this course.

Attendance Policy

Since in-class participation determines the 40% of the students' final grade, attendance is mandatory. Absences, which would have a negative effect on a student's grade can only be justified by a note sent to the instructor by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Classroom conduct

Classroom discussion should be open, frank, and casual. Please respect the perspectives and inquiries of your peers and instructor. Do not interrupt someone who is speaking and refrain from deliberately demeaning language or intimidating behavior.

If and when on Zoom, students are required to use their cameras.

Research Papers

Students are required to write three (3) research papers.

No extensions will be provided. Late submissions will receive a 0.5 penalization point per day.

Research Paper 1: To be submitted by Friday, February 25

Research Topic:

Analyze domestic terrorism in the United States and the European Union. What are the causes, sources, and actors involved?

Research Paper 2: To be submitted by Friday, March 25

Research Topic:

Identify and discuss the various constraints impacting the effective implementation of the EU counterterrorism policies.

Research Paper 3: To be submitted by Friday, April 29

Research Topic:

How successful has the US counterterrorism strategy and policies have been in addressing domestic terrorist threats? Exemplify and justify your answer.

Author's Guidelines

Assignments should be submitted as email attachments.

The assignment should be typed in single space, justified and presented in Times New Roman 12 format.

The author should use APA style.

The length of the assignment should not exceed the 3,000 word limit (excluding references and bibliography).

The research paper should include at least ten (10) different bibliographical sources.

Research Paper Grading

The following criteria will be used in assessing students' research papers:

1. Definition of the topic

- Has the topic been clearly defined and directly addressed?

2. Structure of the essay

- Does the introduction present a clear statement of the issues to be covered?
- Does the essay have a clear structure or organization in which a) the main points are developed logically; and b) the relevance of the material to the theme or argument is clear?
- Is there an effective conclusion which draws together the main points?

3. Content

- Is there evidence of adequate reading and research?
- Is the breadth of coverage adequate?
- Are the issues and ideas analyzed in sufficient depth?

- Are arguments supported by evidence, examples, sources and quotations?

4. Analysis

- Are the arguments logical and consistent?
- Are opinions based on evidence and/or logic?
- Does the essay show evidence of original or independent thought?

5. Presentation

- Fluency and style of writing
- Spelling, grammar, paragraphing
- Presentation of data: effective use of figures and tables and correct use of units and quantities
- Neatness and legibility
- Sources: are sources acknowledged? Are references cited? Are references presented correctly?

Students with Special Needs

Students who need special assistance with note and exam taking should contact the course instructor within the first week of classes. However, those students should contact the relevant university office to obtain the necessary documentation before they meet with the course instructor. The instructor will do everything to address students' needs.

Course Evaluation

Toward the end of the semester, the online Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire (https://eval.scholar.vt.edu) will be used to gather feedback on particular aspects of the course and instruction. We read and consider all student comments regarding the course and instruction.

Grade Scale

Please note that for this course the applicable grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59
F*	

Please note that grades ending at .5 will be rounded up.

The F represents failure in the course. The "*****" is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech.

A student who receives a sanction of **F*** as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript."

Honor Code

The Virginia Tech honor pledge for assignments is as follows: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment."

The pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments at the university and signed by the student.

The honor pledge represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and an unambiguous acknowledgment that the student has, on the assignment in question, abided by the obligation that the Honor Code entails. In the absence of a written honor pledge, the Honor Code still applies to an assignment.

Your written assignments may be reviewed through the University's plagiarism prevention and detection software called Turnitin- Feedback Studio, which is a resource designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. This software is a tool that works by cross-referencing submitted materials with journals, essays, newspaper articles, papers, books, the internet, and other literary works. Turintin-Feedback Studio does not identify all forms of plagiarism. The software also does not replace my judgement regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with

some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

C. FALSIFICATION

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

D. FABRICATION

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

F. COMPLICITY

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Instructor's Bio

Yannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair. He currently serves as Executive Director of the VT Center for European Union, Transatlantic and Trans-European Space Studies (CEUTTSS) – *A Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*. He also serves as Associate Chair of the Department of Political Science, Director of the International Studies Program, and University Coordinator for the Diplomacy Lab program.

His research and teaching interests include national and international security, strategic theory, strategy and world order, comparative strategy, U.S. and EU strategy, EU's foreign, security and defense policy, EU's external relations, EU's interior policies (Homeland security), European organizations, the evolution of international society, and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East. He was recently awarded (2019) the *Jean Monnet Chair* in recognition of his excellence in European Studies by the European Commission — Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA). He has also been recognized as *National Security Scholar* by the U.S. Department of Defense (2014).

His previous appointments include: Professor of International Relations, Geneva School of Diplomacy (Switzerland); Professor of International Relations, The American College of Switzerland; Visiting Professor, The American University of Paris; Visiting Lecturer, European Institute-University of Geneva; Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies-Austrian Ministry of Defense (Austria); Senior Fellow, Austrian Institute of European & Security Policy; and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He has also taught in various diplomatic and military academies.

He has published numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as several books. He has also presented at several national and international conferences and has given invited talks at the London School of Economics, the Bundeswehr University-Munich, the Pontifican Catholic University of Minas in Brazil, the University of Vienna, The Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, the University of Virginia, Kent State University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, and the University of Central Missouri.

He is currently the editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge), editor of the *Athens Journal of Social Sciences*, and co-editor of the *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. He currently serves as Senior Analyst of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (Greece); Vice-Chair of the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Program Evaluation, European Commission (EC) - Research Executive Agency (REA); External Expert for the H2020 Research Program (EC-REA); External Expert & Evaluator, Accreditation of Internal Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS) and Study Programs of the Greek Higher Education Institutions, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), Greek Ministry of Education; Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue

University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European & American Studies (RIEAS, Greece).

Yannis Stivachtis' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,8826427416# US (Washington D.C)
+13126266799,,8826427416# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
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Find your local number: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/u/kcJPbpafzg

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8826427416@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

Join by Skype for Business
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/skype/8826427416

Class Schedule

Adjustments to the assignment schedule are inevitable. The instructors will make every effort to keep students abreast of changes.

Week 1

- Course introduction and syllabus presentation
- Terrorism in perspective (Combs, chapter 1)

Weeks 2

- The evolution of terrorism (Combs, chapter 2)
- Ideology and terrorism (Combs, chapter 3)
- Terrorists: Criminals or Crusaders? (Combs, chapter 4)

Week 3

- Terrorism by the state (Combs, chapter 5)
- Terrorist operations (Combs, chapter 6)
- *Discussion (Combs, chapters 1-3)*

Week 4

- Terrorist training (Combs, chapter 7)
- Media and terrorism (Combs, chapter 8)
- *Discussion (Combs, chapters 4-7)*

Week 5

- Legal perspectives on terrorism (Combs, chapter 10)
- The use of force to combat terrorism (Combs, chapter 11)
- *Discussion (Combs, chapters 8, and 10-11)*

Week 6

- The use of domestic law and intelligence sources to combat terrorism (Combs, chapter 12)
- Security measures (Combs, chapter 13)
- *Discussion (Combs, chapters 12-13)*

Week 7

- Domestic terrorism in the United States (Combs, chapter 9)
- Counterterrorism assessment in the United States (Tembo, chapter 1)
- *Discussion (Combs, chapter 9 and Tembo, chapter 1)*

Week 8 **Mid-term break – No classes**

Week 9

- Terrorist threat and response in the United States (Tembo, chapter 2)
- Intelligence and counterterrorism in the United States (Tembo, chapter 3)
- *Discussion (Tembo, chapters 2-3)*

Week 10

- Law enforcement and counterterrorism in the United States (Tembo, chapter 4)
- The use of military force in the U.S. counterterrorism (Tembo, chapter 5)
- An assessment of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy (Tembo, chapter 6)

Week 11

- EU Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence (Argomaniz, chapter 1)
- EU's Fight against Terrorist Financing (Argomaniz, chapter 2)
- *Discussion (Tembo, chapters 4-6; US Counterterrorism Strategy; and DoS Counterterrorism Policy)*

Week 12

- EU Police Cooperation (Argomaniz, chapter 3)
- EU policies on the protection of infrastructure (Argomaniz, chapter 4)
- *Discussion (Argomaniz, chapters 1-3)*

Week 13

- EU counter-radicalization policies (Argomaniz, chapter 5)
- Border Controls and the EU's counterterrorism policy (Argomaniz, chapter 6)
- *Discussion (Argomaniz, chapters 4-6)*

Week 14

- The EU as an international counterterrorism actor (Argomaniz, chapter 7)
- The European Parliament and EU counterterrorism (Argomaniz, chapter 8)
- *Discussion (Argomaniz, chapters 7-8)*

Week 15

- Evaluating the impact of EU counterterrorism strategies on domestic arenas (Argomaniz, chapter 9)
- Counterterrorism, security and intelligence in the EU (Argomaniz, chapter 10)
- *Discussion (Argomaniz, chapters 9-10 and EU counterterrorism strategy)*

Week 16

- Current trends in terrorism (Combs, chapter 14)
- Future trends in terrorism (Combs, chapter 15)