SUICIDE TERRORISM - GOV 365N (85320)
MEZ B0.306
M-F 8:30-10

Prof. Ami Pedahzur	**pedahzur@austin.utexas.edu**	**OH: W, F 7-8:30 MEZ 3.140**
TAs: (Batts 1.118)		
Daniel McCormack	**mccormack@utexas.edu**	**OH: Monday 1-4**
Matt Rhodes-Purdy	**matthew.rhodes.purdy@utexas.edu**	**OH: T, TH 10:30-12**

Subject matter of the course

Suicide terrorism in its modern form appeared in the early 1980s. The first organization to use this strategy was the Hezbollah in Lebanon. Later, it was adopted by many groups in the Middle East, Asia and Europe. The fact that the majority of these groups were either Arab or Muslim led some scholars to emphasize the role of Islam in emergence and spread of the phenomenon.

The general purpose of the class is to reassess the root causes of suicide terrorism at elite, community and rank-and-file levels. It will juxtapose the role of religion, and specifically Islam, in generating suicide terrorism, which is represented by the cultural approach, with coercion theories, power struggle explanations and social networks approach. It will also address the perplexing question of whether suicide terrorism is an unbeatable weapon that will ultimately become a threat for every society.

Procedures

This class meets five days a week for 1½ hour sessions. Please plan to arrive a few moments before class begins. Course lectures will build from the readings; they will not replace or reiterate them. Students can expect to spend 2-3 hours reading/writing for every hour of class. You are responsible for reading all of the assigned materials.

We strongly believe every student is capable of learning the material presented in this course, but the responsibility to make the required effort rests on you. We want to reward hard work and dedication, not just an ability to take tests. Therefore, the course is structured so that regular attendance of lectures, thoughtful reading of the text, responses to posed questions, and assimilation of the concepts are a large part of what determines your grade.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
In compliance with the UT Austin policy and equal access laws, the TA is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (voice: 471-6259 or TTY: 471-4641). Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances.

The University of Texas Honor Code:
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Required Readings
All the readings for the course will be available on Blackboard under Course Documents. It is your responsibility to download and/or print them for your use.

Assignments and Exams

This course combines Quizzes, Exams, Participation, and Reading Questions to allow multiple opportunities to track your learning process. They are spread across the semester and the earlier assignment and test grades should be used as a guide—letting you know if you need to make adjustments in the amount of time you are dedicating to the class or if you need to explore different approaches to increase your performance. The breakdown for the course is as follows:

I. Class attendance and active participation: 20%
Daily class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded, your attendance at, and participation in, lectures is crucial to the success of this course.

II. Reading and Questions: 20%
Course readings are a vital part of this class and should be completed prior to the class meeting listed on the syllabus. You will be responsible for formulating an answer to a weekly question based on the readings. Your answer should be one to two double spaced pages and are due at the end of class every Friday. We will grade your answers on a scale of 0 to 2, with 2 being excellent work and 0 being unacceptable. These are designed as engaging and thought provoking questions to help you navigate the course and the exams. Please note: We do not accept late work.

III. Quizzes: (10% each for 20% total)
There will be two quizzes given during the semester. These will cover some of the basic background and key foundational concepts that will be needed in order to proceed in the course. The format will be a combination of fill in the blank and multiple choice. The quizzes will be administered on Fridays.

IV. Exams (20% each for 40% total):
There will be two exams given during the semester. These will cover the larger conceptual and topical aspects of the course. They will incorporate the ideas we have learned through the lectures and readings and ask you to comment on the contemporary debates and issues in the study of suicide terrorism. The format will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. The first exam will be administered on June 22nd and the second on July 5th.

Other issues that may arise:
If there are specific circumstances relating to your performance in this class that we should be made aware of, please come and talk with one or both of us as close to the beginning of the semester as possible (or as problems arise). Our office hours are a good time for us to touch base with each other and to discuss any problems you might be having with the course material. Please feel free to come by whenever you have the time.

We are looking forward to an exciting semester exploring the many complex and fascinating aspects of suicide terrorism with you.

Introduction

1st meeting Introduction to the course

Topic 1 - Definitions and History

2nd meeting

Martha Crenshaw. “Explaining Suicide Terrorism: A review essay” Security Studies, Vol. 16 No. 1 (2007): pp. 133-162.

3rd meeting
Assaf Moghadam. "Defining Suicide Terrorism" in Ami Pedahzur (ed.). Root Causes of Suicide Terrorism: The Globalization of Martyrdom. London: Routledge, 2006: 1-19.

Topic 2 - Psychological/Individual Approach

4th meeting

Ellen Townsend. “Suicide terrorists: Are they suicidal?” Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, Vol 37 No. 1 (2007): pp. 35-49.

Ami Pedahzur, Arie Perliger and Leonard Weinberg. "Altruism and fatalism: The characteristics of Palestinian suicide terrorists". Deviant Behavior, Vol. 24 No. 4 (2003): pp. 405-423.

David Lester, Bijou Yang, and Mark Lindsay. 2004. “Suicide Bombers: Are Psychological Profiles Possible?” Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 27 (4): 283-295.

Shaul Kimhi and Shmuel Even, 2004. "Who are the Palestinian Suicide Bombers?" Terrorism and Political Violence, 16 (4): 815-840.

5th-6th meetings

Arie W. Kruglanski, Xiaoyan Chen, Mark Dechesne, Shira Fishman, Edward Orehek. “Fully Committed: Suicide Bombers’ Motivation and the Quest for Personal Significance” Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp. 331-357.

Martha Crenshaw. ‘Intimations of Mortality or Production Lines? The Puzzle of “suicide terrorism”’ Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp. 359-364.

Alex Mintz and David Brule. “Methodological Issues in Studying Suicide Terrorism” Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp. 365-371.

Fathali M. Moghaddam. “The New Global American Dilemma and Terrorism” Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp 373-380.

Jerrold M. Post. “Reframing of Martyrdom and Jihad and the Socialization of Suicide Terrorists” Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp. 381-385.

Jeff Victoroff. “Suicide Terrorism and the Biology of Significance” Political Psychology Vol. 30 No. 3 (June 2009): pp. 397-400.

Topic 3 - The Strategic Approach

7th-8th meetings

Robert A. Pape. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”. American Political Science Review, Vol. 97 No. 3 (2003): pp. 343-361

Assaf Moghadam. “Suicide Terrorism, Occupation, and the Globalization of Martyrdom: A Critique of Dying to Win”. Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Vol. 29 No. 8 (2006): pp. 707-729.

Karen Rasler. Review. Perspectives on Politics Vol. 5 No. 1 (March 2007): pp. 118-122.

9th-10th meetings

Scott Ashworth, Joshua D. Clinton, Adam Meirowitz, and Kristopher W. Ramsay. “Design, Inference, and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” American Political Science Review Vol. 102 No. 2 (May 2008): pp. 269-273.

Douglas Macgregor, Marvin Weinbaum, Abdullah Ansary, and Robert Pape ‘The "Global War on Terror": What

Has Been Learned?' Middle East Policy Vol. 15 No. 4 (Winter 2008): pp 1-25.

Topic 4 - The Outbidding Thesis

11th-12th meetings

Mia M. Bloom. "Palestinian Suicide Bombing: Public Support, Market Share, and Outbidding". Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 119 No. 1 (2004): pp. 61-88

Robert J. Brym and Bader Araj. "Palestinian Suicide Bombing Revisited: A Critique of the Outbidding Thesis". Political Science Quarterly Vol. 123 No. 3 (Fall 2008):
pp. 485-500.

Topic 5 – Culture

13th-14th meetings

Raphael Israeli. "Islamikaze and their Significance". Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol. 9 No. 3 (1997): pp. 96-121.

Mohammed Hafez. 2006. "Dying To Be Martyrs: The Symbolic Dimension of Suicide Terrorism". In Pedahzur (ed.). Root Causes of Suicide Terrorism: The Globalization of Martyrdom. London: Routledge. 54-80.

Topic 6 – Communities

15th-16th meetings

Assaf Moghadam. "Palestinian Suicide Terrorism in the Second Intifada: Motivations
and Organizational Aspects". Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Vol. 26 No. 2 (2003): pp. 65-92.

Ami Pedahzur and Arie Perliger. "The Changing Nature of Suicide Attacks." Social Forces, Vol. 84 No. 4 (2006): pp. 1983-2000.

17th 18th meetings – In class watch "Paradise Now"

Topic 7 - The road to 9/11

19th-20th meetings

Assaf Moghadam. "Motives for Martyrdom; Al-Qaida, Salafi Jihad, and the Spread of Suicide Attacks." International Security (Winter 2008/2009).

Marc Sageman. 2006. In Pedahzur (ed.). "Islam and al-Qaeda" Root Causes of Suicide Terrorism: The Globalization of Martyrdom. London: Routledge. 122-131.

Topic 8 - The War on Terrorism and its Outcomes

21st-22nd meetings

Bruce Hoffman. 2008. "The Myth of Grass-Roots Terrorism: Why Osama bin Laden Still Matters" Foreign Affairs (87)3: 133-138.

Marc Sageman. "Does Osama Still Call the Shots? Debating al Qaeda's Containment and Grass-roots Jihad" Foreign Affairs Vol. 87 No. 4 (2008): pp. 1-3.

Yoram Schweitzer. 2006. "Al Qaeda and the Global Epidemic of Suicide Attacks" in Ami Pedahzur, Root

Causes of Suicide Terrorism. 132-151.

Mohammed Hafez. (Sept. 2006). “Suicide Terrorism in Iraq: A Preliminary Assessment of the Quantitative Data and Documentary Evidence” Studies in Conflict and Terrorism. 29(6): 591-619.

Topic 9 - Counter-terrorism and Anti Terrorism

23rd-24th meetings

Max Abrahms. “What Terrorists Really Want; Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy.” International Security (Spring 2008)

Topic 10 - The Future of Suicide Terrorism

25th meeting

Audrey Kurth Cronin. “How al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups” International Security Vol. 31 No. 1 (Summer 2006): pp. 7-48.

26th meeting **Final Exam**