

GOV 365N: Suicide Terrorism, Spring 2013

Instructor: Professor Ami Pedahzur

TA: Kim Gouz

Unique #: 38949

Office: MEZ 3.140

Contacts: 232-7278, pedahzur@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: T and TH 7 AM-8.30 AM

Class Time/Place: TTH at 9:30 AM-11 AM

DESCRIPTION:

Suicide terrorism in its modern form appeared in the early 1980s. The first organization to use this strategy was the Shiite 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 many scholars to emphasize the role of Islam in suicide terrorism's emergence and spread. 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.

FORMAT AND PROCEDURES:

This class meets twice a week for 1½ hour each session. 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.

REQUIRED READING:

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:

Class Attendance and Active Participation	20%
Weekly Readings and Questions	20%
Quiz #1	10%
Quiz #2	10%
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%

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.

Weekly Response Papers: 20%

Course readings are a vital part of this class and should be completed prior to the class meeting listed on the syllabus. Each week you will be responsible for formulating an answer to a question based on that week's readings. Your answer should be one to two double-spaced pages and will be due at the end of class every Thursday. These assignments are designed to help you engage the material and navigate the course and exams. Please note: We do not accept late work.

Each summary will be graded on the following scale:

- √- (0 points): The response paper included mostly summary and did not isolate the thesis and/or tie it into the rest of the course.
- √ (1 points): The response paper adequately identified the thesis and described how it relates to the course, but was overly vague and/or included more summary than analysis.
- √+ (2 points): The response paper provided a clear and concise analysis of the article, including being able to isolate the thesis and explain how it relates to the lectures and other texts.

Quizzes: 10% for each, 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.

Exams: 20% for each, 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.

Grading Policy Percentage

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

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.

Academic Integrity

Each student is expected to uphold the University of Texas at Austin 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.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

By UT at Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

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 when ever you have the time.

We are looking forward to an exciting semester exploring the many complex and fascinating aspects of suicide terrorism with you. The following section outlines what you can expect the schedule of the course to be. Some weeks are a bit heavier than others are, but we have tried to make sure that the schedule does not leave you overloaded at the end of the semester and be assured that all of the readings are essential to our time together.

Lecture Schedule and Readings

Topic 1: Definitions and History

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

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: Culture

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 3: Psychological/Individual Approach

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

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.

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

Lankford, Adam, and Nayab Hakim. "From Columbine to Palestine: A Comparative Analysis of Rampage Shooters in the United States and Volunteer Suicide Bombers in the Middle East." *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 16, no. 2 (2011): 98-107.

Topic 4: The Strategic Approach

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.

Horowitz, Michael. "Nonstate Actors and the Diffusion of Innovations: The Case of Suicide Terrorism." [In English]. *International Organization* 64, no. 1 (Win 2010): 33-64.

Topic 5: The Outbidding Thesis

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 6: Communities

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

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

Week 7: The Road to 9/11

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.

Week 8: The War on Terrorism and its Outcomes

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.

Week 9: The Impact of Suicide Terrorism

Canetti-Nisim, Daphna. Mesch, Gustavo. Pedahzur, Ami. 2006. "Victimization from Terrorist Attacks: Randomness or Routine Activities?". *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Vol. 18. No. 4. Pp. 485-501

Berrebi, Claude, and Esteban F. Klor. "Are Voters Sensitive to Terrorism? Direct Evidence from the Israeli Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 03 (2008): 279-301.

Feniger, Yariv, and Ephraim Yuchtman-Yaar. "Risk Groups in Exposure to Terror: The Case of Israel's Citizens." *Social forces* 88, no. 3 (Mar 2010): 1451-62.

Topic 10: Counter-terrorism and Anti-Terrorism

Perliger, Arie. Pedahzur, Ami. 2006. "Coping with Suicide Attacks: Lessons from Israel". *Public Money and Management*. Vol. 26 No. 5. Pp. 281-286.

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

Chenoweth, E., N. Miller, E. McClellan, H. Frisch, P. Staniland, and M. Abrahms. "What Makes Terrorists Tick." [In English]. *International Security* 33, no. 4 (Spr 2009): 180-86.

Dugan, Laura, and Erica Chenoweth. "Moving Beyond Deterrence: The Effectiveness of Raising the Expected Utility of Abstaining from Terrorism in Israel." [In English]. *American Sociological Review* 77, no. 4 (Aug 2012): 597-624.

Topic 11: The Future of Suicide Terrorism

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.