

# RUTGERS



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**Course Information: Political Terrorism 01:202:311, Section 80**  
**Western Monmouth Campus- HYBRID CLASS,**  
**ALTERNATING IN-CLASS AND ONLINE TUESDAYS**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class reviews the essential features and the international legal framework of terrorism, relying heavily on the attack of '9/11' as its present foundation, while providing comprehensive coverage of all major attempts to define terrorism since the 1920s. We address questions over responsibility for terrorist acts, criminal law framework, lawful constraints on the use of force, and international human rights law. Discussion topics also include states' responsibilities for violations and the failed attempts by the international community and the United Nations, since the 1920s, to define and criminalize terrorism. Specifics are taken from the readings on why the international community should define and criminalize terrorism, how it should define it, and what it should exclude from the definition of terrorism.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the different definitions of terrorism and the drawbacks of each.
2. Identify various terrorist organizations and assign them to general categories.
3. Understand terrorist capabilities and group evolution in several geographic regions.
4. Name some of the counter-terrorist organizations of foreign governments and explain their unique capabilities.

## **Learning Goals: A Statement of Principles**

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach

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that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

## Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

### 1. Competence:

- a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
  - b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
  - c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.

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3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

## **REQUIRED READING (Books are not optional)**

Saul, B. (2008). *Defining Terrorism in International Law*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780199535477

English, R. (2010). *Terrorism: How to Respond*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780199590032

- 2) Throughout the course you may also be required to read journal or newspaper articles, for which you will be responsible. These will be uploaded and are mandatory and if I believe students are not reading the articles, there will be quizzes on the material.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### *1) Attendance & Participation*

This is a hybrid class, which means we rotate between meeting in-person in-class on two rotating Tuesdays a month and the other two weeks you complete online assignments. This will make more sense when looking at the course schedule. Because we ONLY see each other EVERY OTHER week, participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they accrue toward your grade. An absence will only be excused with the proper documentation (hospital stay, death in family, etc.) and participation will be assessed after each class. If you do have one of the approved reasons for an absence just listed, there will be an additional assignment to make-up for the time missed in-class. Roll will be taken during each class. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class and the online week prior. Failing to provide sufficient answers to posed questions will result in a score of zero for that day's participation. Students are expected to fully participate in the lectures and will be called on regularly. No amendments will be made to grades after the class is complete. Do not ask for extra credit beyond what I allow for and I will not change grades at the end of the course.

### *2) Reading Material*

Readings are assigned for every Tuesday, regardless of whether we meet on that Tuesday or if it is our "online" week. The class that we meet at will then cover the material from the online week before and that particular day. If participation and feedback on readings suffers, pop quizzes will be given sporadically.

### *3) Newspaper Article Review/Presentation*

One grade will be a write-up and presentation of a newspaper article dealing with an issue pertinent to terrorism and international law. This article can range anywhere in the topic of how to handle terrorism, new forms, historical accounts, training, and specific situations. The possibilities are infinite and as long as your topic relates to the course, I will not object. If someone presents a newspaper article on something before you, please refrain from choosing the same article. Hard copy newspaper articles can be searched, as well as outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post, which would allow you to search by key

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word. NO WIKEPEDIA. The article should be attached to a 1 page type-written summation. Students should outline the problem or topic in the article and depending on the content, they should offer suggestions, opinions or remedies- DO NOT SIMPLY REGURGITATE THE ARTICLE. The class should also pay attention to grammar, spelling and content, as this contributes to your grade. A sign-up sheet will be provided early in the semester and late assignments will not be accepted, write down the date you choose. Presentation of this newspaper article and your opinions and suggestions are expected to last TEN MINUTES. If you are going to use power point, please arrive early and boot up the computer and load your presentation on the desktop, I will not hold up class if you fail to do so. This is worth 15% of your grade.

#### 4) *Bi-Weekly Online Assignments*

During the weeks that we do not meet in-person (which is every other week- so if we meet today on our 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 1/22 then we won't meet again until 2/5 and the week between 1/26/2013 -2/1/2013 is considered our online week) I will post an on-line assignment through sakai. You must become familiar with sakai if you are not already, and can sign up for training if you choose. That assignment will "open", which means become available for you to complete at any point, from the Saturday following our class session to the following Friday. The assignment will post/open that Saturday morning at 8am and will close at 5pm Friday. You can take it at any point within those 6 days, however, it may be timed. If it is timed, you will know how long you have. You MAY use your books but are NOT allowed to cut and paste from online sources. Please note that I will use Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism and you will fail the course if caught cheating. Because you are allowed to use your book, I expect quality work. This responsibility is worth 42.5% of your grade.

#### 5) *Final Exam*

There is no midterm exam, only a final exam. It is going to be either a mix of multiple choice or essay, or just essay, depending on the size of the class. You will know this within the first few weeks of class. The final exam will include material from the whole semester because there is no midterm. This is worth 42.5% of your grade.

### **COURSE GRADING**

Newspaper Article 15%  
Online Assignments 42.5%  
Final Exam 42.5%

### **GRADING SCALE**

A 100--90  
B+ 89-- 87  
B 86-- 80  
C+ 79-- 77  
C 76-- 70  
D 69-- 60  
F 59 and below

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any violation will be reported to the Dean of Students. No excuse will ever be tolerated for academic dishonesty, but it is even more

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important that students understand the repercussions of this unethical behavior. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, the fabrication or invention of information used in an assignment, plagiarism, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others or denying access to materials and resources.

<b>CLASS SCHEDULE</b>	
January 22, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Class Administrative Issues *Syllabus Review *Newspaper presentation sign-up Introduction to Terrorism- Saul, pgs. 1-10 English, preface
January 29, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 1 *Opens at 1/26 at 8am and closes 2/1 at 8pm Saul 1A- 1F, pgs. 10-68
February 5, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations English, Chapter 1, pgs. 1-27
February 12, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 2 *Opens at 2/9 at 8am and closes 2/15 at 8pm Saul, pgs. 69-105
February 19, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations English, Chapter 2, pgs. 27-56
February 26, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 3 *Opens at 2/23 at 8am and closes 3/1 at 8pm Saul, pgs. 105-128
March 5, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations Journal Article Posted on Sakai Saul, Chpt. 3A-3C, pgs. 129-162
March 12, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 4 *Opens at 3/9 at 8am and closes 3/15 at 8pm Journal Article Posted on Sakai
March 16-March 24	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS
March 26, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations English, Chapter 3
April 2, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 5 *Opens at 3/30 at 8am and closes 4/5 at 8pm Saul, Chpt. 3D-3E, pgs. 169-191
April 9, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations English, Chapter 4

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April 16, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 6 *Opens at 4/13 at 8am and closes 4/19 at 8pm Saul, Chpt.4A- 4C.10, pgs. 191- 230
April 23, 2013 In-Class at WMC	Newspaper Presentations Saul, Chpt.4C.11-4F, pgs. 230- 271
April 30, 2013 ONLINE WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 7 *Opens at 4/27 at 8am and closes 5/3 at 8pm Saul, Chpt. 5
May 7 & 8 READING DAY	NO CLASS WILL ANNOUNCE EXAM DATE

\*This is subject to modification based on our progress