

DSC 4012 – Terrorism and Homeland Security
Fall 2016 / On-site / 3 Credits Course
Department of Criminal Justice



Florida International University

(The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor, revised 8/26/2016)

Class meetings:	W: 2:00 PM – 4:40 PM, SIPA 125
Course website:	www.fiu.blackboard.com
Professor:	Dr. Brittany Gilmer; Email: bgilmer@fiu.edu
Office:	PCA 369
Office hours:	By appointment
Office Phone:	305-348-7917
Teaching Assistant:	Jessica Rodriguez; Email: jrodr203@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes a critical approach to the study of global terrorism. It examines the history and evolution of terrorism from multiple perspectives and analyzes the national, regional and global effects of particular terrorist groups. It assesses how factors such as ideology, politics, economics, media, technology, and gender contribute to what motivates and facilitates terrorist groups. It explores the use of different radicalization methods and weapons in order to assess terrorist threats globally and within the United States. The course concludes by providing an overview of the history, structure and policies of homeland security in order to better understand contemporary challenges and opportunities for combating terrorism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Three main learning objectives:

1. Broaden the student's understanding of the history and evolution of global terrorism as it relates to contextually-based motivating and facilitating factors
2. Broaden the student's understanding of the multiple technologies of communication and weapons utilized to recruit terrorists and commit acts of terror
3. Develop the student's understanding of the many definitions of terrorism, the multitude of counter terrorism approaches, and the link between terrorism and other social issues within the United States and abroad.

Global Learning objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships between regional, national, and global socio-political and cultural conditions and collective violent behavior.
2. Students will analyze multiple perspectives (e.g. religious, psychological, and sociological) on domestic, transnational, and international terrorism.
3. Students will be able to formulate potential counterterrorism strategies related to domestic, transnational, and international terrorism.

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify the many issues related to defining and conceptualizing terrorism;
- describe the history and evolution of global terrorism;
- critically analyze multiple perspectives (e.g., religious, physiological, and sociological) on global terrorism;
- critically analyze the role of multiple factors (e.g., ideology, politics, economics, media, technology, gender, geography, etc.) in shaping contemporary terrorism and counterterrorism responses;
- recognize the link between global terrorism and other transnational crimes within the context of wider political and economic processes and how this impacts counterterrorism efforts.

COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

This course is taught on-site. All lectures and exams will be delivered on the FIU Modesto Maidique Campus. A Blackboard page is utilized for course announcements and submitting the pop culture assignment and research paper assignment.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

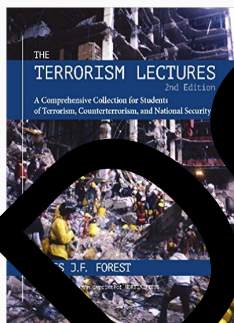
- **Review the syllabus and follow the course calendar**
- **Attend lectures**
- **Submit assignments** by the corresponding deadline
- Interact with instructor/s and peers
- Respond to emails within two days

The instructor will:

- Respond to emails within two days
- Grade assignments within seven days of the assignment deadline

REQUIRED MATERIALS

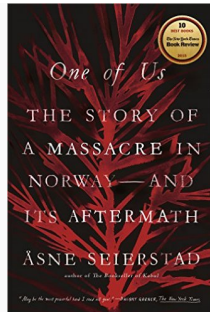
There are three (3) required texts for this course. The required texts are as follows:



The Terrorism Lectures (2nd Edition)

James J. F. Forest
Cengage Learning Press (2015)
ISBN: 97804225293

You may purchase your textbook online at Amazon.com or the [FIU Bookstore](#).



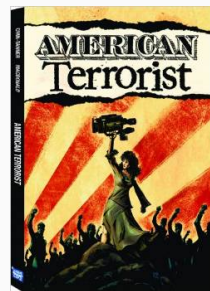
One of Us: The Story of a Massacre in Norway

Asne Seierstad

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Reprint edition (2016)

ISBN: 0374536090

You may purchase your textbook online at Amazon.com or the [Bookstore](#).



American Terrorist

Chin-Tanner, McDonald

Wave Blue World, Inc. (2011)

ISBN: 9780982453926

Please try to support independent authors/publishers by purchasing the text directly from <http://awaveblueworld.com>! If you purchase directly from the publisher, Tyler Chin-Tanner (the author) has agreed to send you an autographed copy of the book. You may also purchase the text from amazon.com.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK

Exams (2)

- There are two exams for this course—a midterm and a final exam.
- The exams are NOT cumulative.
- Both exams will consist of multiple choice, true false, and short answer questions.
- The midterm exam will take place **October 12th** during class period in **SIPA 125**. It will cover the materials from Week 2 through Week 7 (inclusive).
- The final exam will take place **December 7th, 12pm – 2pm** in **Owa Ehan 134**. It will cover the materials from Week 8 through Week 15 (inclusive).

Popular Culture Assignment

Terrorism has had a large impact on cultures and societies throughout the world. In particular, terrorism is increasingly influencing the face of popular culture (aka “pop culture”). What is pop culture? Pop culture is commercial products or activities that are reflective of the tastes, preferences, and/or ideas of the general mass, especially youth and young adults. Examples of pop culture are found in popular music, print, sports, entertainment (television, movies, etc.), leisure, advertising, etc. For this assignment, you are tasked with finding a pop culture item that references terrorism. For example, you may find a song, television show, or movie that includes lyrics or dialogue about terrorism. Or, you may find a t-shirt or poster that references a particular terrorist group or terrorist. You may even find an action figure or bumper sticker promoting counterterrorism efforts. It can be something you find on the internet or in daily life. Also, your example can come from any country as long as you are able to accurately decipher and convey the meaning of it. Once you find your example, take a picture or screen shot of it. Then, write a summary (**300-500 words minimum**) describing your example,

where you found it, how it demonstrates terrorism in pop culture, and any other comments/incite you have. Upload the picture/screen shot of your item and your brief summary to Blackboard under the Discussion Posting titled "Pop Culture Assignment". It may be easiest to convert your documents to a pdf. format and then upload.

This assignment is due **Wednesday, November 9th by 11:59pm** via Blackboard.

Bonus: I challenge you to try to find the most unique/interesting example possible. I will choose a select number of students' examples to discuss during lecture. (Examples will be discussed anonymously.) Students will vote in class on which one they think is the most unique/interesting. The winner will receive 2% extra credit added onto their final cumulative score for the course. The student with the winning example must be present to receive the extra credit. If the student is not present, the extra credit will go to the example with the next highest votes where the student is present.

Note: Nonfiction documentaries or books about terrorism do not count.

GRADING AND MONITORING OF GRADES

Required Course Work	Maximum Points	Weight
Midterm	100	45%
Final Exam	100	45%
Popular Culture Assignment	100	10%
Total Possible Points	300	100%

Percentage Points Earned	Grade
90-100	A
88-89	B+
80-87	B
78-79	C+
70-77	C
60-69	D
Below 60%	F

Early Alert

In an effort to help you succeed in your academic courses, FIU utilizes an Early Alert system. Instructors are now able to notify students' academic advisors if there are concerns about class performance. If an alert is submitted, your academic advisor will send you a message via your Student Dashboard (accessed via your MYFIU page) to discuss ways to improve your performance. Please respond to any communication you receive from your academic advisor about an early alert. Our goal with this program is to help you to be successful by identifying any issues as early on as possible and working to address them.

Incomplete Grade. An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. To be eligible,

written documentation must be provided. The student also must have successfully completed half of the coursework with a passing grade. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible; it should be completed **within** two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course. There is no extension of the two semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. Students who have incomplete grades on their records must remove the incomplete by the end of the fourth week of the term in which they plan to graduate. Failure to do so will result in a cancellation of graduation.

EXTRA CREDIT

Each student has the opportunity to earn 2 *percentage points* to be added onto their *final cumulative* for the course. In order to earn this extra credit you will need to attend one of the Tuesday/Tuesday Roundtables offered by the FIU Office of Global Learning Initiatives. The sessions take place on select Tuesdays from 12:00-1:30pm in Room 150 of the Graham Center (GC). They are free and include lunch! The topics vary by session. Session dates and details are available here: <https://goglobal.fiu.edu/ttr/>. Although the sessions do not specifically cover terrorism, because this is a Global Learning course they will still be of value to your education and intellectual development.

If you attend a session, make sure to let the session attendant know that you are attending for extra credit for this course. They will take down your name and provide me with a list of all attendees at the end of the semester. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you have the session attendant validate your attendance. You can only receive extra credit for attending one session.

Note: Only the MMC Schedule Sessions count for this...the ABC Sessions do NOT count.

POLICIES

Class disruption. Any device that makes noise is strictly prohibited in the classroom. Additionally, students are expected to treat other classmates, speakers, and the professor with respect. As such, any disruptive or disrespectful behavior is unacceptable. The professor reserves the right to ask disruptive students to leave the classroom.

Academic dishonesty. Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University.

There is a zero tolerance policy in terms of academic dishonesty including but not limited to **cheating, plagiarism, receiving and giving help (unless allowed by the professor), falsifying records, stealing exams, and submitting work from another course**. Plagiarism means the use of somebody else's work without citing properly (including copying and pasting from the internet). Please visit the [FIU Plagiarism Prevention](#) site to help you avoid this type of misconduct. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the academic misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

Harassment. The professor seeks to develop a meaningful academic student-professor environment. As such, any perceived unwelcome innuendos and overtures from students to professor or from students to another

student will not be tolerated. In accordance with FIU commitment, students, faculty, and staff are entitled to work and study in an environment free from harassment. "Sexual harassment undermines the integrity of the academic and work environment, and prevents its victims and their peers from achieving their full potential. All members of the University community are entitled to work and study in an atmosphere free from sexual overtures or innuendoes that are unsolicited and unwelcome" (for more information see FIU-104 Sexual Harassment Regulation).

COURSE SCHEDULE

(The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor, revised 8/24/2015)

Date	Topic/Assessments	Assigned Readings
Week 1: August 24	Course Introduction	
Week 2: August 31	What is Terrorism?: Historical Waves of Terrorism	Forest: Chapters 1, 2
Week 3: September 7	Economics and Politics of Terrorism	Forest: Chapters 7, 9
Week 4: September 14	Engagement, Recruitment, Radicalization	Forest: Chapter 4, 5
Week 5: September 21	Left-wing Terrorism Lecture and In-class Video: Weather Underground	Forest: Chapter 11
Week 6: September 28	Ethnonationalist/Separatist and Right-Wing Terrorism	Forest: Chapters 10, 12
Week 7: October 5	Religious Terrorism Lecture and In-Class Video: Terror at the Mall	Forest: Chapter 13
Week 8: October 12	*MIDTERM EXAM* (During regular scheduled class period)	Covers Material: Week 2 – Week 7 (inclusive)
Week 9: October 19	Teams and Actors Lecture and In-Class Video: If a Tree Falls	Forest: Chapter 16
Week 10: October 26	Weapons of Terrorism/Women and Terrorism	Forest: Chapter 18
Week 11: November 2	Introduction to Homeland Security Lecture and In-Class Video: Homegrown: The Counter-Terror Dilemma	Pdf. An Introduction to Homeland Security
Week 12: November 9	Media and Representations of Terrorism Pop Culture Assignment due November 9th via Blackboard*	Forest: Chapter 6; Begin reading <i>American Terrorist</i>
Week 13: November 16	Popular Culture and Terrorism	Chin-Tanner, McDonald: <i>American Terrorist</i> ; Begin reading <i>One of Us</i>
Week 14: November 23	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	Continue reading <i>One of Us</i>

Week 15: November 30	<i>One of Us/Course Wrap Up</i>	Seierstad, Asne: <i>One of Us</i>
Week 16: December 7	*FINAL EXAM* Date: December 7 th , Wednesday Time: 12pm-2pm Location: Owa Ehan 134	Covers material: Week 9 – Week 15 (inclusive)

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