700089 2017-18: Terrorism and Security

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ECTS: 3 ECTS

Assessment: See the Assessment Details section for information on the following assignments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date*</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Commentary</td>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Peer Review</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>3. Term Paper</td>
<td>December 22</td>
<td>70</td>
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*Due Dates may change, check Blackboard for updates

Course Description:
Ever since 9/11 – and more recently since the attacks in Paris and Brussels – terrorism poses a continuous challenge for the ways in which we organize our societies and our lives. How should we respond when our security and thus also our basic liberties are under attack? Is the ‘war on terror’ justified or has it proven to threaten those very rights and liberties it is meant to protect? What is the appropriate balance between security on the one hand and privacy on the other? We will discuss core texts on the Just War tradition (Walzer), and contemporary works on terrorism (Coady, Held, Goodin, and Jaggar) including influential texts from feminist and anti-colonialist perspectives (Card, Fanon, Mamdani).

Learning Goals:
Following this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the basic tenets of the Just War tradition and apply this framework in order to evaluate (acts in) war, humanitarian intervention, and terrorism.
2. Explain the limits of the Just War Tradition framework and how contemporary conflicts may challenge its applicability.
3. Discuss different definitions of terrorism and consider what, if anything, is distinctly wrong with terrorism.
4. Evaluate the permissibility of terrorism and critically assess different responses to terrorism.
5. Discuss the evaluation of terrorism in different contexts, including liberation and anti-colonial struggles, and in different forms, including rape and racism.

Course Information
This course uses Blackboard to post important information and updates. Please ensure you are enrolled in the Blackboard page for the course and check your email for updates.
Course Reading
(The library has an ebook copy, so you do not need to purchase your own copy)


Recommended
(earlier editions are acceptable)

- **Required:** The readings listed below in the Course Schedule give the required readings for each seminar. They can be found either in the Held’s text, the course Reader, or online via the provided link.
- **Further Reading:** Items included in this list are optional, though may be helpful when writing your term paper. Items flagged with an asterisk (*) are particularly recommended.

### Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Held, Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defining terrorism</td>
<td>Held Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evaluating Terrorism</td>
<td>Held Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Fanon, Frantz., “On Violence” in <em>The Wretched of the Earth</em>, (selections) and Sarte’s Preface</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Security &amp; Realism</td>
<td>Held Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Media and Recognizing Terrorism</td>
<td>Held Chapter 6</td>
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</tbody>
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**Further Reading**

**General Reading**

**Week 2 – Defining Terrorism**

**Week 3 – Evaluating Terrorism**
- Trotsky, Leon. 2006[1920] “Terrorism” *Terrorism and Communism*

**Week 4 – Evaluating Terrorism, continued**
Week 5 – Security and Realism

- Shklar, Judith. 1988. The Liberalism of Fear' in Shklar, Political Thought and Political Thinkers, ed. Stanley Hoffmann (Chicago UP, 1988)

Week 6 – Torture


Week 7 – The Media and Recognizing Terrorism


Media Articles:
- Freedland, Jonathan. 2012. “Anders Breivik is a terrorist, so we should treat him like one” The Guardian, April 20.
- Pieters, Janene. 2016. “Mosque Molotov Cocktail Fire and Act of Terrorism, says Prosecutor” NL Times, March 2

Assessment Details

The evaluation consists of three written assignments. The first consists in submitting an article commentary (worth 15% of the final grade). The second is a short, peer-review assignment (worth 15% of the grade). The third is the term paper, worth 70% of the final grade. Please see below for important details on these assignments

Requirements
- Do NOT include your name in your document, or in the Title field when submitting online. This is to ensure anonymous evaluation.
• Word count: The word count should include footnotes, but exclude the bibliography
  o there is a 10% allowance around the word count requirement. So, if the stated word count requirement is 2000 words, the assignment can be between 1800 and 2200 words long.

Submission

• All assignments must be submitted via Turnitin. You do NOT need to submit a paper copy. Refer to the help guide in the Assignments area on Blackboard for help creating an account.

To enrol in the course in Turnitin, please use Course ID: 16411221 and Password: 700089.

• Make sure you complete all the steps of the submission process, and keep your email submission receipt as confirmation.

Assignment 1 – Commentary

• Write a short (500 word) commentary on one article (or book chapter) from the assigned reading for the course. You are encouraged to select an article that is related to the topic of your Term paper, though you can write on a different topic if you wish.

• The commentary should include:
  o A brief summary of the article’s main points
  o An objection to, or potential problem with, one of these points.

• Assessment Criteria:
  o Accuracy: Does the summary provide an accurate account of the article’s main points?
  o Presentation & Clarity: Is the piece well-written with correct spelling, grammar, and a clear style. Is the piece organized and coherent?
  o Insight: Does the piece demonstrate good understanding of the article and offer an insightful comment/objection?

Assignment 2 – Peer Review

• Provide feedback on TWO Assignments submitted by other students for Assignment 1. You will be randomly assigned two submissions via Turnitin.

• Your feedback (300 words) should include:
  o Comments on the author’s summary of the article
    ▪ Has the author provided an accurate summary?
  o Comments on the author’s objection
    ▪ Is the objection clear? Does the objection relate to the main points of the article? Do you think it is a good objection? Why or why not?
  o Overall comments and suggestions: is the piece well-written and organized? What could the author do to improve in the future?

• Assessment Criteria:
  o Accuracy: Has the reviewer correctly understood the relevant article and the Author’s summary? Are any misunderstandings on the Author’s part noted and corrected?
  o Presentation & Clarity: Is the review well-written with correct spelling, grammar, and a clear style. Is the piece organized and coherent?
  o Insight: Does the review demonstrate good understanding of the article and the Author’s position and offer an insightful objection or response?
  o Constructive: Does the review offer helpful suggestions or corrections?
Assignment 3 – Term Paper

- Word count: 2000 words
- Include a title page that lists your student number, word count and paper title
- Topic: Students may pick one of the suggested questions listed below, or are welcome to write on a paper topic of their choice, provided it directly relates to the issues covered in the course. If you would like to write on your own question, please contact me in advance so I can approve your selection.

Suggested Term Paper Questions:
1. How should we define ‘terrorism’?
2. Can terrorism ever be justified?
3. Should we trade civil rights for security?
4. Can we morally justify the use of torture to combat terrorism?

- Assessment Criteria: Please review the Assessment Form on Blackboard for an indication of the items considered when evaluating an essay.
  - This form reflects the requirements for a thesis-length work. Please adjust accordingly for the length of the assignment. For example, a term paper (2000 words) is not expected to have several research questions, nor consider a wide range of positions from the literature.

References and Bibliography

- You may use any standard referencing format (e.g. MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.) as long as you are consistent. Please refer to the Library’s RefCite for helpful tutorials on citing sources: http://itswww.uvt.nl/lis/es/refcite-uk/index.html
- Be sure you familiarize yourself with the University policy on cheating and plagiarism, as well as what counts as plagiarism.

Late Penalty
A penalty of 0.5 will be deducted from the assignment grade for each day it is submitted after the deadline. The late penalty will be calculated over holidays and weekends as well. If you have concerns about meeting the deadlines, please contact the Lecturer.

Term Paper Resit
It is possible to ‘resit’ the Term Paper assignment, but you must answer a *different* question from the one answered in your first attempt. The deadline for Term paper resits is January 8.
General Resources
Tackling the Philosophy Essay – Writing Guide

Horban, Peter. “Writing a Philosophy Paper.”
http://www.sfu.ca/philosophy/resources/writing.html

Lenman, James. “How to write a crap philosophy essay”:


Writing style and Grammar

Other Resources:

Chomsky, Noam. 2001 The New War Against Terror. Counterpunch, 24 October.

JustWarTheory.com