GAVILAN COLLEGE
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

Course Outline

COURSE: POLS 5 DIVISION: 10 ALSO LISTED AS: AJ 5

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2025 CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 04/08/2025

SHORT TITLE: INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

LONG TITLE: Introduction to Modern International Terrorism

Units	Number of Weeks	Type	Contact Hours/Week	Total Contact Hours
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs:	108.00
Total Learning Hrs:	162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course centers on conceptually defining terrorism (all types-foreign and domestic, left and right-wing, religious, environmental, and political, state and non-state), tracing the history and beginnings of modern international and domestic terrorism, critically examining the various U.S.- global responses to the 9-11-01 attacks, as well as generally evaluating and assessing how countries and people around the world try to cope with, prevent and/or respond to attacks by terrorist organizations, groups, or acts of terrorism perpetrated by nation-states or groups working with nation-states. This course has the option of a letter grade or pass/no pass. This course is also listed as AJ 5.

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES
- L - Standard Letter Grade
- P - Pass/No Pass

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:
- 02 - Lecture and/or discussion
- 05 - Hybrid
- 71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
- 72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Identify and analyze the historical and conceptual frameworks that precipitate terrorism in the modern world

2. Identify, explain, and analyze counter-terrorism strategies employed by governments and communities around the world

3. Explain and analyze the social, political, and economic precedents which cultivate terror and the psychological results that follow terrorist attacks.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Evaluate theories regarding the methods that decision-makers use to resolve conflict and better understand the nature of value judgments.

2. Identify and analyze the structure and significance of domestic terrorism throughout the world

3. Identity and analyze the roots/history of international terrorism

4. Explain and define the concept of International Terrorism

5. Illustrate the ideology, method, and motivation of numerous modern terrorist groups, in both domestic and non-Western societies, including how global problems

impact a group's decision to engage in terrorist activities

6. Recognize the interconnection between actors in the international system and the effects that terrorism in one country can have on other countries.

7. Identify the role of cooperation in solving complex international problems.

8. Employ the methods of research to find information, analyze its content, and incorporate information into written work about international terrorism

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date: 04/08/2025

3 Hours

Students will be expected to identify and define the term terrorism. This portion of the course is an introduction to the Study of Terrorism, which includes definitions of Terrorism as well as an introduction to the syllabus, course requirements, and an introduction to the concept terrorism

3 Hours

Students will be expected to identify, define, and analyze the political, social, and or religious roots of modern terrorism. This portion of the course, is a presentation on how to conceptualize Terrorism, which includes a discussion of the Political, Sociological & Religious underpinnings of modern terrorism.

3 Hours

Students will identify, explain, and analyze terror financing. This portion of the course is a presentation on the Organization and Financing of Terrorism, which includes a discussion of financing of modern terrorism, especially as it relates to Islamic radicalism, IRA terrorism, including an examination of how financing of terrorism relating to money laundering, suspicious activity, bank processes, Hawalas, etc.

3 Hours

Students will explain and examine the relationship between the media and terror organizations. This portion of the course is a presentation on the connection between Terrorism and the Media, which includes a discussion of the old media, terrorism and public opinion as well as how terrorists use the new media as "weapons of mass propaganda"; discussion also centers on how terrorists use the media for maximum publicity to frighten, to dominate, and to control as well as to play for an audience.

6 Hours

Students will identify, define, and explain the concept "force multiplier" and how it relates to modern terrorism. This portion of the class is a presentation on Tactics and Force Multipliers as well as The History of Modern Terrorism, which includes a discussion of Force Multiplier definitions as well as a case study of FM tactics; discussion also centers on the history of modern terrorism, including case studies on terrorism in 19th century Russia, and 20th century Central Europe, Algeria, Ireland, and Israel.

12 Hours

Utilizing the case study method, students will explain and analyze various terrorist organizations around the world. This portion of the world is a presentation of detailed Case Studies on the IRA, the FARC, al-Qaeda, and on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, which includes detailed histories and description of each organization/conflict, on tactics and strategies utilized, on successes and failures, and on the impact these groups/conflicts have had on their communities, regions, and on the world's peoples.

3 Hours

Students will be expected to identify, define, and analyze a different subset of terror networks and so-called international umbrella groups. This portion of the class is a presentation of International Umbrella Groups & International Terror Networks, which includes in-depth analyses of several Umbrella Groups and Terror Networks and their impact on world politics.

10 Hours

Students will identify, explain, and critique the impact of terrorism in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Rim. This portion of the class is a presentation of how Terrorism impacts regions such as Africa, Asia, & the Pacific Rim; as well as Europe, Turkey and Russia, which includes an in-depth evaluation of how terrorist organizations and groups are impacting these regions/countries and how these regions/countries are responding (ie counter-terrorism) to these organizations and groups with a particular focus on models of successful and failed responses.

COURSE CONTENT (CONTINUED):

9 Hours

Students will explain and analyze the root causes of domestic terrorism as well as governmental counter-terrorist responses. This portion of the class is a presentation on Domestic Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism/Terrorism Prevention and Counter-Terrorism's impact on Civil Liberties, which includes case studies on domestic terrorism (i.e. 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, 1993 Um Shinrickyo attacks in Tokyo, Japan, as well as 2008 Mumbai, India attacks) as well as a discussion on how modern states respond to terrorist attacks and how these responses impact our civil liberties and rights. The course wraps up with a discussion of where things stand now and what the future holds for terrorism, terrorist groups, and state/community responses to terrorism.

2 hours

Final exam

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture; small and large group discussion; parliamentary debate; in class simulations; field trip; video and internet

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNEMENTS:

Required Outside Hours 58

Assignment Description

Assigned readings from text and other materials.

Required Outside Hours 50

Assignment Description

Written assignments such as position papers, reading reflections, article analysis, debater prep, and/or research papers.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Research paper evaluation of a domestic or international terrorist organization

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Final exam. Half MC/TF, half essay. Covers content from entire class

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Terrorism and Counterterrorism, 6th edition, Brigitte Nacos, Routledge, 2019 or a comparable textbook/material.

ISBN: 978-1138317635

Rationale: This is the most recent edition of a comprehensive textbook on this subject.

13th Grade Grade Verified by: Marc Turetzky

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Associate Degree:
- GAV D2, effective 202530
- GAV Area 5 = Natural Sci, effective 202530

CSU GE:
- CSU D, effective 202530
- CSU D8, effective 201070

IGETC:
- IGETC 4H, effective 202530

CSU TRANSFER:
- Transferable CSU, effective 202530
- Not Transferable

UC TRANSFER:
- Transferable UC, effective 202530
- Not Transferable

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N
Classification: Y
Noncredit Category: Y
Cooperative Education:
Program Status: 1 Program Applicable
Special Class Status: N
CAN:
CAN Sequence:
CSU Crosswalk Course Department:
CSU Crosswalk Course Number:
Prior to College Level: Y
Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N
Funding Agency Code: Y
In-Service: N
Occupational Course: E
Maximum Hours:
Minimum Hours:
Course Control Number: CCC000521552
Sports/Physical Education Course: N
Taxonomy of Program: 220700