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*Office Hours:* 12-2 MW, or by appointment.

**“INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE MASS MEDIA”**

**Course Description:** This course examines the impact mass communication has on forging globalization of issues, trends and patterns in the contemporary world. Focus topics will be set for each quarter that reflect a relevant, current aspect of globalization.

This quarter’s offering will focus on the issue of “International Terrorism and the Mass Media.” It will examine how both news and entertainment media, such as film and television, portray terrorists, as well as how terrorists perceive and use mass media, particularly the news, as a tool of information, propaganda intended to impact publics and governments beyond the immediate site of the terrorism.

The course will examine terrorism from both a historical and contemporary perspective, and provide a context for learning and discussion of the interplay between terrorism and communication in the contemporary world.

Students are expected to maintain pace with the reading schedule and be prepared to discuss the material in class with the instructor and other students. Each student will complete a term paper, and will also be graded on four short essays drawn directly from the readings and class discussion (see description of assignments at end of syllabus).

**Disability Statement:**

***Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.***

**Required Texts:**

Isaac Cronin, *Confronting Fear: A History of Terrorism* (2003)

Walter Reich and Walter Laqueur, *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*

Nancy Palmer, *Terrorism, War and the Press*

Pippa Norris, Montague Kern and Marion Just, *Framing Terrorism: The News Media, the Government and the Public*

**Course Requirements:** Each student's grade will be based on the following:

10-15 page research term paper	30%
4 5-page essays (15% each)	60%
Class discussion and participation	10%

**Schedule of Readings and Due Dates for Papers:**

- Week 1      *Terrorism in Historical Perspective, Part 1* – We will look back on the history of terrorism and its interaction with the communication media of its time.
- Reading:** Confronting Fear (Chapters x-x (1st half))
- Week 2      *Terrorism in Historical Perspective, Part 2*
- Reading:** Confronting Fear (Chapters x-x (2nd half))
- Essay #1 Due**
- Week 3      *The Ideas Behind Terrorism, Part 1* – We will examine the ideological, political, and religious roots of terrorism along with how the media portray those idea systems and the ethnicities and nations associated with them.
- Reading:** Origins of Terrorism (Chapters x-x (1<sup>st</sup> half))
- Week 4      *The Ideas Behind Terrorism, Part 2*
- Reading:** Origins of Terrorism (Chapters x-x (2<sup>nd</sup> half))
- Essay #2 Due**
- Week 5      *The News Media and Terrorism, Part 1* – We will examine the interplay between the news media's need for news and the terrorists' need to publicize their actions. The part of the course will take a case study approach and utilize original news coverage, in print and broadcast, of terrorist acts as a means of stimulating discussion.
- Reading:** Terrorism, War and the Press (Chapters x-x (1<sup>st</sup> third))
- Week 6      *The News Media and Terrorism, Part 2*
- Reading:** Terrorism, War and the Press (Chapters x-x (2<sup>nd</sup> third))

Week 7 *The News Media and Terrorism, Part 3*

**Reading:** Terrorism, War and the Press (Chapters x-x (3<sup>rd</sup> third))

**Essay #3 Due**

Week 8 *Media Images and the Manipulation of Understanding, Part 1* – We will examine how media portrayals of terrorism and terrorists are manipulated, not only by terrorists, but also by governments opposed to terrorism.

**Reading:** Framing Terrorism (Chapters x-x(1<sup>st</sup> third))

Week 9 *Media Images and the Manipulation of Understanding, Part 2*

**Reading:** Framing Terrorism (Chapters x-x(2<sup>nd</sup> third))

Week 10 *Media Images and the Manipulation of Understanding, Part 3*

**Reading:** Framing Terrorism (Chapters x-x(3<sup>rd</sup> third))

**Essay #4 due**

**Week 11 Final Exam week – Term paper due Monday of final exam week**

**Note on Essays:** Each of the four essays you are assigned will coincide with the topic, reading, and discussion for that particular segment of the course. The essay question will be distributed in class and will be posted on the website. Your papers must be typed, double-spaced, and submitted either in hard copy, or by e-mail attachment (format in Word for PCs).

**Note on Term Paper:** Each student will research and write a 10-15 paper complete with footnotes/endnotes and references. Students may use any of the established reference styles, such as Chicago Manual or APA. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, and submitted either in hard copy, or by e-mail attachment (format in Word for PCs).

Students may choose a paper topic that is a case study and analysis of an actual terrorist incident, from the past or present, and the media treatment of it, or how media, such as film or TV portray terrorists and the ethnic group, ideology or religion the terrorists are associated with. Students will be encouraged to discuss their paper ideas with the instructor. Also, class time will be set aside so that students can present their paper ideas to the class for comment.

**Plagiarism**, or the presenting of others' work as your own in one form or another, will not be tolerated. All sources for written assignments must be properly cited and credited. This includes not only published material such as books and periodicals, but also material available via the world wide web. Follow this rule "When in doubt, cite it." All cases of plagiarism will be reported to Student Misconduct for action.