

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 123, Terrorism and Security (Online), Winter, 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.)
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Office Hours:	(Phone number: 865 985 6885 (This is my cell phone number. Please call only in emergency) The best way to contact me is through email. By appointment)
Class Days/Time:	(Online)
Classroom:	(Canvas)

Course Format: Online

Course Description (Required)

JS 123 is an upper-division course focusing on terrorism and security. Terrorism is certainly one of the major problems that endanger human security throughout the world. Since 9/11 the successive US governments have been spearheading a global war on terror which consumes a large chunk of tax-payers' money. The organizations like Hamas in Palestinian territories and ISIS in Syria and Iraq have brought terrorism again to the center-stage of public discourse in USA and the world. Terrorism has been described as "the poor man's air force" and as a tactic used by states to achieve foreign and domestic policy goals. This description of terrorism highlights the complexity of terrorism, which is a tactic used by individuals, groups, and states for a variety of goals. No single course can give you a full understanding of this topic, but this course hopes to provide the tools necessary to become educated consumers of news in a post-9/11 world. We will explore the phenomenon of non-state terrorism. The two central goals of the course are to provide students with an opportunity to study the historical use of political terror and to encourage students to think of terrorist activity not as the work of the mad, but of self-interested and calculating political actors. To accomplish these goals, we will examine a large swath of the literature both in historical scope and theoretical arguments.

Please note that this is an online course in which students will 1) watch videos of my course lectures that have been posted on Canvas, and 2) take online quiz, final exams, and complete assignments that, as noted above, will also be posted on Canvas. Hence this course is essentially located on Canvas, to which enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material, except for the course books, will be available through Canvas. Although I may be available in the campus to meet with interested students in person during the semester, all students are responsible for watching these lecture videos online, taking notes on those lectures, doing the course readings, taking the online quizzes, midterm and final examinations and submitting assignments (paper critiques) online. (A word to the wise: Students who do not watch the course lectures in sequential order as the semester progresses, or do not take notes on the contents, or do not do the required course readings will find it impossible to get a good grade and may well end up failing this course. Cutting corners or cramming before exams, which is never a good idea for students who are serious about

learning, is likely to lead to disaster in an online course!) To reiterate, course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1: Have a clear understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism as distinguishable from other forms of political violence.
- 2: Be familiar with the theories of terrorism.
- 3: Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals.
- 4: Identify the causal factors which drive terrorist violence.
- 5: Understand the risk to human security posed by terrorist violence.
- 6: Learn about different responses to terrorism and strategies to counter terrorist violence.
- 7: Learn to engage in educated discourse of the sensitive issue of terrorism.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Andrew Silke (Ed.) (2019) ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM. New York: Routledge.

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

1. **Quiz:** A quiz will be assigned each week (3 in total). The students are required to take the timed quiz through Canvas. The questions will be based on previous week's reading and will evaluate students' understanding of the topics of discussion. The due dates are given in the schedule below.
2. **Three Critique papers: In three different weeks,** you should prepare a three-page critique of the week's assigned article. Critiques must be typed, double-spaced, and in a font size no smaller than 11. Critiques are required to be uploaded online through Canvas. When writing your critique, keep in mind the following points: what are the important claims made by the author? What has the author really shown? What are the strength and weakness of the arguments? What are the possibilities for related

research? What interesting questions (at least three) can we ask to the author? I will not accept any critiques after the deadline.¹

3. **Final Exam:** This will consist of three essay-type questions. The submission date for the final exam appears in the schedule below. The exam questions will be given/ uploaded on Canvas about three days before the submission date.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%	B plus = 89-86%	B = 85- 83%	B minus = 82-80%	C plus = 79-76%
C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%	D plus = 69-66%	D = 65- 63%	D minus = 62-60%	F = 59-0%	

Determination of Grades

Quiz: 35%

Three Critique papers: 35%

Final Exam: 30%

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

¹ You are not required to analyze mathematical stuff in case of a quantitative paper.

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 3 & 4	Definition Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silke, Ch. 2, pp. 13-21
1	January 5 & 6	Conceptualization and Measuring Terrorism Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silke, Ch. 3, pp. 22-33
1	June 7	Strategies and goals of Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter (2006) The Strategies of Terrorism, International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer, 2006), pp. 49-80.</u>
		## First critique paper of Kydd and Walter (2006) article due on Sunday, January 9 ## ***First quiz due on Sunday, January 9***
2	January 10 & 11	History of Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silke, Ch. 4, pp. 34-56
2	January 12 & 13	Root Causes of Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silke, Ch. 5, pp. 57-65
	January 14	Democracy and Terrorism Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Windsor JL (2003) Promoting Democratization Can Combat Terrorism. The Washington Quarterly 26(3): 43-58.</u>
		## Second critique paper of Windsor (2003) article due on Sunday, June 17 ## ***Second quiz due on Sunday, Jan 16***

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	January 17 & 18	Development/Globalization and Terrorism Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Berrebi, Claude (2007) Evidence About the Link between Education, Poverty and Terrorism among Palestinians. <i>Peace Science and Public Policy</i> 13(1): 1-36. 2. Sambuddha Ghatak and Aaron Gold. “Development, Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism: Looking Beyond a Linear Relationship.” <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i>, (2017). DOI: 10.1177/0738894215608511 3. Li, Quan & Drew Schaub (2004) Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 48(2): 230-58.
3	January 19, 20 & 21	Effectiveness of terrorism/Suicide Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15: 174-184 • Chapter 19: 216-225
		## Third critique paper of Ghatak and Gold (2017) article due on Friday, January 21 ## ***Third quiz due on Sunday, January 21***
		Final Exam Due on January 23