

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM**

**PAD 4936**

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### **Required Texts**

**No outside texts required.** Article assignments – as found in BB library. Readings will be located in the course library on a week by week basis.

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the relationship between international conflicts and the terrorism that may result. Students will understand the drivers of conflict, the influence of conflict on terrorism, and how conflict resolution can be used to end terrorism.

### **Course Structure**

The class format will consist of lectures (including guest lecturers), facilitated discussions, class and group exercises, and evaluative tools. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed during the course to incorporate or respond to new information or events.

### **Course Objectives**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify modern conflict zones that have spawned terrorism.
- Define terrorism and how it differs from other forms of violence, including but not limited to war and genocide.
- Describe and discuss the different types of terrorist organizations; to include but not limited to transnational, international, state sponsored, and dissident.
- Understand the different international actors in conflict resolution; including but not limited to the United Nations, Doctors Without Borders, and other NGOs.
- Understand the theories in the fields of International Affairs and Psychology that attempt to understand and predict the origins of conflict and terrorism.
- Discuss the historical drivers of conflict using case studies of resolved and ongoing conflicts.
- Discuss the tools of conflict de-escalation and resolution using case studies of resolved and ongoing conflicts.
- Discuss how modern conflicts started and how they can be resolved.
- Describe and discuss the legal and political relationships among national and multinational organizations, states, and NGOs.
- Discuss the complex issues involved in resolved an ongoing conflict in real-time.

### **Attendance & Participation**

Attendance will be taken each day, and students are expected to participate in class discussions.

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Please also note the cutoff dates, published by the registrar, for dropping the class or late withdrawal. Incomplete grades (I) will not be issued after the midpoint of the semester without extenuating circumstances and instructor approval.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Top	Bottom	Spread
A	100	94	7
A-	93	90	4
B+	89	86	4
B	85	82	4
B-	81	79	3
C+	78	76	3
C	75	72	4
C-	71	69	3
D+	68	66	3
D	65	63	3
D-	62	60	3
F	59	0	59

### Evaluation Criteria

Conflict Map Quiz	10 points
Midterm Exam	20 points
Response Paper	10 points
Syria Role Paper	20 points
Syria Activity	30 points
Participation	10 points

## Assignment Details

### Conflict Map Quiz

Students will fill in a partial map of the world. This map will focus on the modern conflict areas that are spawning terrorism.

### Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover material presented in weeks 1-6 and will contain questions based on the course slides, lecture points, anything that is discussed in class, and any assigned readings. A study guide for the course slides will be given to students ahead of the exam.

### Response Paper

You will be given a question of controversy that you will have to choose a position on and defend that position using research and citations. An example might be “Do you think torture is acceptable means of interrogation, why or why not?”

### Syria Role Paper

At the end of the semester students will participate in a mock conference attempted to resolve the ongoing Syrian conflict. This paper is designed to familiarize students with the role they will be playing and how they intend to approach the conference, and their desired goals at the end of the conference.

### Syria Activity

Students will engage in a multi-day conference attempting to create a path towards resolving the conflict, ending the resultant terrorism, and create a lasting peace. Good luck.

Students are expected to understand their roles--with the help of the Syria Role Paper--and participate accordingly. Students must be present for all meetings, follow the rules of the conference, and actively participate in the activity.

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Students will be graded on their presence in the activity--physical and actions--not on the successful conclusion of the conference's goal. Students may fail to achieve all their goals and still earn a 100% for the assignment. This activity is about the experience, not the conclusion.

### **Participation**

Attendance will be taken each day, and students are expected to participate in class discussions.

### **Extra Credit Opportunity "Resource Briefs"**

At the beginning of the semester students will be assigned weeks (this process will be explained in class) in which they have the *option* of presenting a short brief on a resource relating to that week's topic.

The resource can be an article, a paper, a television piece, or any source of valid information. Students must contact their instructors with their intended resource on the Monday of their given week for review. Resources that are too short, too biased, or not connected enough to that week's topic will not be accepted.

On the Wednesday of their given week students will present a brief of their resource to the class at the beginning of the class meeting. Students will be expected to have discussion ideas ahead of time to drive class participation.

A rubric with expectations will be posted to BlackBoard. Successful completion is worth 2% onto your final grade.

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