

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM

PAD 5935

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.
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Attendance & Participation

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

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	5 points
Midterm Exam	20 points
Response Paper	10 points
Syria Role Paper	20 points
Syria Activity	30 points
Participation	5 points
Presentation	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

Students will be asked to choose a conflict and any one major participant (Domestic, foreign, NGO, etc) involved. Students will describe this participant's role in resolution of the conflict and provide insight into how this can be made more effective.

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.

Purpose of this paper: Upon completion of your research, you will have gained an example driven understanding of who they are representing in the conference, their goals in the conference, and how these goals could be achieved.

Presentation (Grad students only)

Graduate students will be required to do a 20 minute presentation on a conflict (involving terrorism) of their choice. Guidelines and rubric will be posted in the assignments section of Blackboard.

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.

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.

If you know ahead of time you're going to miss dates let us know, we can be flexible before a day is missed, not after.

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.
