

# PSYC360

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## Course Summary

**Course :** PSYC360 **Title :** Psychology of Terrorism

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to historic and contemporary terrorist groups and their motives and strategies. The psychological and social impact on individuals, communities and global societies of the achievement of terrorist goals as well as recruitment methods, the influence terrorist groups exert on their members and factors influencing the establishment and dissolution of terrorist groups will be examined.

### Course Scope:

This course focuses on the fundamental attributes of terrorist psychology and guides students as they examine, analyze, think critically, comprehend and articulate knowledge of the behavior of terrorists. It also provides the intellectual foundation for further study in the field of terrorism.

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## Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will have:

1. Examined factors affecting a person's choice of violence to support political ideals.
  2. Delineated the differences between terrorism as a defense and terrorism as a violent choice.
  3. Differentiated various ideologies surrounding terrorist groups.
  4. Examined methods employed by terrorists to achieve their goals including recruiting and tactics.
  5. Analyzed the effect that group mentality has on individual members
  6. Examined psychological concepts applied in the field of counter-terrorism.
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## Outline

## **Week 1: Introduction to the Psychology of Terrorism**

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### Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* (2013) Introduction

Horgan, J. G. (2017). Psychology of terrorism: Introduction to the special issue. *American Psychologist*, 72(3), 199-204. doi:10.1037/amp0000148

### Assignments

Week 1 Forum

## **Week 2: Motivations**

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### Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* (2013) Part 1 Chapters 1, 2, & 3

### Assignments

Week 2 Discussion Forum

Week 2 Assignment

## **Week 3: Radical Political Ideologies**

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### Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* (2013) Chapters 7 & 9

### Assignments

Week 3 Discussion Forum

Week 3 Assignment

## **Week 4: Religious Ideology**

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### Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* (2013) Chapter 13

Strenski, I. (2003). Sacrifice, gift and the social logic of Muslim "human bombers." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 15, 1-34.

### Assignments

Week 4 Discussion Forum

Midterm Exam

## **Week 5: Suicide Terrorism**

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### Readings

Hunter, S. T., Shortland, N. D., Crayne, M. P., & Ligon, G. S. (2017). Recruitment and selection in violent extremist organizations: Exploring what industrial and organizational psychology might contribute. *American Psychologist*, 72(3), 242-254. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/amp0000089>

Assignments

Week 5 Discussion Forum

## **Week 6: Recruitment and Training**

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Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* Chapter 11 & 12 <http://www.tedxcambridge.com/talk/when-i-becomes-we/>

Assignments

Week 6 Discussion Forum

Week 6 Assignment

## **Week 7: Group Psychology**

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Readings

*Moral Psychology of Terrorism* Chapter 5

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/khadr/>

Assignments

Week 7 Discussion Forum

Week 7 Assignment

## **Week 8: Course Wrap-up**

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Readings

**Required**

None

Assignments

Week 8 Discussion Forum

Comprehensive Final Exam

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## **Evaluation**

**FORUMS:** Discussion forums scheduled during all eight weeks of the course. Instructions are located on the classroom Forums link on the classroom left-screen menu.

**Weekly Assignments:** Assignments are required during weeks 2, 3, 6, and 7 of the course. Instructions are in the Assignments link on the classroom left-screen menu.

**EXAMS:** The course Midterm (Week 4) and Final (Week 8) Exams are accessed via the Tests & Quizzes link on the classroom left-screen menu.

### Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	32.00 %
Week 1 Forum	4.00 %
Week 2 Forum	4.00 %
Week 3 Forum	4.00 %
Week 4 Forum	4.00 %
Week 5 Forum	4.00 %
Week 6 Forum	4.00 %
Week 7 Forum	4.00 %
Week 8 Forum	4.00 %
Assignments	40.00 %
Week 2 Review Paper Exploring Radical Ideology in America	10.00 %
Week 3 Developing a Theory of Terrorism	10.00 %
Week 6 Assignment: Recruiting a Terrorist	10.00 %
Week 7 Current Events in Counterterrorism	10.00 %
Exams	28.00 %
Final Essay Exam	14.00 %
Midterm_Essay Exam	14.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** N/A

Reich, W. (1998) *Origins of terrorism: Psychologies, ideologies, theologies, states of mind*. Washington DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press

Jaber, H. (1999) *Hezbollah: Born with a vengeance*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Toolis, K. (1997) *Rebel hearts: Journeys within the IRA's soul*. St. Martin's Press.

Randal, J. (2011) *Osama: The making of a terrorist*. New York, NY, Knoph.

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## Course Guidelines

## Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework in the Psychology Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

## Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

## School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact your instructor before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.

## Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc.) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc.). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

## Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

## Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, you are strongly discouraged from waiting until the due date to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree”, even if wordy and thus, meets the length requirement, is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each other as colleagues. Hateful, aggressive, or hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

## Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your assessments.

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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