

Subject overview

This subject provides an introduction to the politics of terrorism and counter-terrorism considering the historical, philosophical, and psychological triggers that have shaped their contemporary manifestations. Emphases include epistemological and historical issues included in the analysis of terrorism and political violence in general. A particular emphasis will be placed on the changing role of the United States in the post-Cold War era of globalization and on the nature and implications of current government policies designed to counter the terrorist threat.

Assessment overview

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| • Seminar participation | 10% of total assessment |
| • Essay (approx. 3,000 words) | 30% of total assessment |
| • Simulation Participation OR a second essay | 40% of total assessment |
| • Final examination | 20% of total assessment |

Subject modules

- Introduction to the Course, Background Information and Definitions of Terrorism and Limitations of the Course
- The History of Terrorism, its Philosophical Underpinnings
- The Socio-Economic and Psychological Causes of Terrorism at the level of the individual
- Rogue Regimes and State Sponsored Terrorism
- The distinction between secular and religious terrorism
- Methods of Counter-terrorism in democratic and non-democratic societies
- Terrorism as a media event
- Uses of Terrorism in the Israel-Palestine Conflict
- Terrorism in Europe and the Americas
- Terrorism: The Australian Dimension
- The Al-Qaeda Network
- The Invasion and Insurgency in Iraq, and the Attempt to Remake the Middle East
- The War on Terror, and can we win it?

Required readings

- Students will read a variety of journal articles assigned by Academic Teaching Staff.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.