Instructor:
Dr. Anton Oleinik (http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~aoleynik/)

Office hours:
Tuesday & Thursday, 15.15-16.00, AA-4071

Course title:

Terrorism and Society

The task of the course consists in exploring sociological roots of a large variety of phenomena commonly described as terrorist activities. Some parallels between the personalities of a criminal and a terrorist are drawn. The ‘bottom up’ approach (e.g. sources of terrorism in everyday life and social action) is compared with the ‘top down’ approach (e.g. focus on power relationships and globalization in its current form). Terrorists are not the only actors involved into activities under study: they interact with intellectuals, media, governmental bodies and security industry. Terrorism can be better understood as a product of their interaction, as an often ‘unexpected result of intentional human actions’.

The teaching heavily relies on case studies (special attention will be paid, in particular, to the cases of Chechnya and the ‘homegrown’ terrorism in the US) and game simulation.

Bibliography:


Frey Bruno, Dealing with Terrorism: Stick or Carrot?, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Pub., 2004


Gambetta Diego, “In the beginning was the Word”… The symbols of the Mafia’, Archives Européennes de sociologie, Vol. XXXII, 1991, pp. 53-77

Gareau Frederick H., State Terrorism and the US: From Counterinsurgency to the War on Terrorism, Atlanta: Clarity Press and London: Zed books, 2004


Howard Russell and Sawyer Reid, Defeating Terrorism: Shaping the New Security Environment, Guilford, CT: McGraw Hill, 2004


Soros George, *The Age of Fallibility: The Consequences of the War on Terror*, Public Affairs, 2006


Method of Evaluation:

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<tr>
<th>Method of Evaluation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation (participation in class discussions and/or</td>
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<td>submitting occasional one-page papers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st writing assignment</td>
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<td>Mid-term test</td>
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<td>2nd writing assignment</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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Course description:

1. Introduction

MARTIN, Chapter 2; TURK; TILLY, 2004

2. Focus on the terrorist’s personality

BANDURA; WHITE, Chapter 2; ANNUAL EDITIONS, pp. 152-161 (article 26); ANDONI; BUTLER; STEWART; BELL

3. Economic approach to terrorism
Explanations based on the model of rational choice. Theorizing threats with the help of game theory. Empirical evidence supporting the thesis about the strategic logic of suicide terrorism. Counterarguments.

FREY; PAPE; BRYM AND BADER, 2005

4. The bottom up approach

ZULAIKA, Chapter 3; SNOWDEN and WHITSEL, Chapter 1; WIEVIORKA, Chapters 1 and 5

5. The top down approach
Embeddedness in the processes of non-democratic globalization. Invidious comparison. Institutional importation.
Predictions about terrorists’ tactics.

GAREAU, Introduction, Chapter 10; OLEINIK, 2005, Section ‘Type of Authority as a Parameter of the Institutional Environment’; ZULAIKA, Chapter 6; TILLY, 1985; TILLY, 2002; CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALIZATION

6. Principal actors and their interlocking interests
Medias (cf. the case of Mafia)
State officials
Power institutions
Security industry

WIEVIORKA, Chapters 2 and 3; WHITE, Chapters 3 and 16; BRYM, 1980, Section ‘Intellectuals and Politics’; HEYBOER; GAMBETTA, 1991; ANNUAL EDITIONS, pp. 120-124 (article 20); HOWARD, RUSSEL AND MOORE, Chapter 22; OLEYNIK, 2004

7. Counterterrorism
Technical solutions. The USA PATRIOT Act debate
Military solutions. The torture debate
Economic solutions
Political solutions
Social solutions

HOWARD, RUSSEL AND MOORE, Chapter 24; HOWARD, SAWYER, pp. 51-73, 119-126; FRISCOLANTI ET AL.; DE SOTO, Preface; ZULAIKA, Chapter 7; BUCKLEY AND MEESE

8. Case studies
The American terrorism

OLEINIK, 2003, pp. 181-187, 267-269 (Postscript); GAREAU, pp. 212-213; ARUTIUNOV; MARTIN, Chapter 12; WHITE, Chapter 14
# Time schedule:

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<td>2. Focus on the terrorist’s personality</td>
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<td>2. Focus on the terrorist’s personality</td>
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<td>3. Economic approach to terrorism</td>
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<td>4. The bottom up approach</td>
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<td>5. The top down approach</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of the 1st writing assignment</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>5. The top down approach</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Winter semester break: No lectures</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>5. The top down approach</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>6. Principal actors and their interlocking interests</td>
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<td>6. Principal actors and their interlocking interests</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>7. Counterterrorism</td>
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<td>Movie Hijacking Catastrophe</td>
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<td>7. Counterterrorism</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>8. Case studies</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Final discussion / make up session</td>
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The outline may be subjected to changes