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Fall 2007

DIPL 1002 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Diplomacy and International Relations

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Recommended Citation

Fomerand, Jacques PhD, "DIPL 1002 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Diplomacy and International Relations" (2007). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 4.
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JOHN C. WHITEHEAD
SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR IN
DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(DIPL. 1002)

MODULE ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND GLOBAL TERRORISM

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Tu. 5:45 to 8:15pm

All students are reminded that they are expected to read Jane Boulden and Thomas G. Weiss (eds) . *Terrorism and the UN. Before and After September 11*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2004. Additional required readings are listed with an asterisk in the syllabus. All other readings are optional.

SYLLABUS

I-1: Terrorism: Global menace, global response? The definition problem.

Read: Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 1

For background:

→US Department of State. *Country Reports on Terrorism 2006* to be retrieved from <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/>

→ “Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Chronology,” <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm>

→Eric Rosand. *Global Terrorism: Multilateral Responses to an Extraordinary Threat. Coping with Crisis*. New York: International Peace Academy (Working papers Series), April 2007. To be retrieved from http://www.ipacademy.org/asset/file/160/CWC_Working_Paper_TERORISM_ER.pdf

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Is one man's terrorist another man's freedom fighter?
- How fundamentally has September 11 transformed international perceptions of the threat posed by "terrorism" to international peace and security?

I-2: The challenge to the United Nations

Read: → Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 2-3
→United Nations Charter
→ High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility. UN document A/59/565, December 2004. To be retrieved from <http://www.un.org/secureworld/report2.pdf>*

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Can the UN, as an institution comprised of member-states, effectively counter terrorism committed by state *and* non-state actors?

II-1. The UN response. The Security Council: the 1267 Committee; the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee

Read: Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 7.

For Background:

- Sixth Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team Appointed Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1526 (2004) and 1617 (2005) Concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities (UN document S/2007/132 of 8 March 2007).
- Report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to the Security Council on the Implementation of Resolution 1624 (2005) (UN document S/2006/737 of 15 September 2006).
- Report of the Committee Established Pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004) (UN document S/2006/257 of 25 April 2006).

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- How effective has the Security Council's sanction regime?
- Do you think the committees of the Security Council should be strengthened and, if so, how?

II-2. The UN response: the General Assembly: norm-setting through UN Treaties and Declarations

Read: Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 8

UN General Assembly Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 8 September 2006 (to be retrieved from <http://www.un.org/terrorism/strategy-counter-terrorism.html>)*

For background:

→13 International conventions to be retrieved from <http://www.un.org/terrorism/instruments.html>

Questions for reflection and discussion:

→How concretely and realistically should/could the international legal regime developed over the years by the United Nations General Assembly be strengthened?

II-3. The UN response: The Secretary-General and the linkage with human rights

Read: Recommendations for a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Report of the Secretary-General (UN document A/60/825 of 27 April 2006) *

For background:

Kenneth Roth, "Drawing the Line: War Rules and Law Enforcement Rules in the Fight Against Terror," * to be retrieved from the Human Rights Watch website: <http://hrw.org/wr2k4/9.htm>

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Digest of Jurisprudence of the UN and Regional Organizations on the Protection of Human Rights While Countering Terrorism, 2003. <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/lastentrie.htm>.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

→What is the proper balance between freedom and security? Should the Security Council confront states that are violating human rights in the name of fighting terrorism?

→How can the CTC and the UN's human rights bodies --OHCHR, Treaty oversight Committees, Special Experts and Working Groups—combine their respective areas of expertise and mandates more effectively to combat terrorism while respecting human rights?

III-1. The Question of Prevention: National and regional responses to terrorism, the United States, the European Union, developing countries

Read: Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 4-6

For background:

Jonathan Stevenson, "How Europe and America Defend Themselves,"
Foreign Affairs, March/April 2003.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

→ How do states and publics in different regions of the world view the dangers arising from terrorism?

III.2. The Question of Prevention: "Draining the swamp": Addressing the root causes

Read: Boulden and Weiss, Ch. 9-10

For background:

Kim Cragin and Peter Chalk. *Terrorism and Development. Using Social and Economic Development to Inhibit a Resurgence of Terrorism*. Santa Monica, CA: Rand, 2003. To be retrieved from <http://www.rand.org/pub>

Questions for reflection and discussion:

→ Are there any links between terrorism and poverty, underdevelopment and or governance and do you agree with the assertion that failing to include development, aid, education, governance and public information in the mix of anti-terrorist tools is short sighted?
→. What empirical evidence may be cited in support of the view that meeting the Millennium Development Goals will undercut the appeal of terrorists?

IV. Conclusion: Prospects for the Future

Read: Report of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism. UN Document A/57/273-S/2002/875*

For background:

Sebastian Mallaby, "The Reluctant Imperialist: Terrorism, Failed States, and the Case for American Empire," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2002

Questions for reflection and discussion:

→ Should the UN system 1/embrace unconditionally the struggle against terrorism and make it a core priority; or 2/continue to muddle through as a marginal but useful player in the global anti-terrorism effort; or 3/ distance itself from the war on terrorism?

→What specifically could be done by and through the United Nations system effectively to contain and suppress terrorist violence, either through international law, monitoring and exhorting of states, or direct program initiatives?

→Should the Secretary-General appoint a UN czar for counter terrorism charged with developing and implementing a system wide plan for pulling together the UN's scattered institutional resources? Alternatively, would you envisage the creation of a UN counter terrorism agency? How should it be funded and managed?