

Seton Hall University

eRepository @ Seton Hall

---

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

---

Fall 2014

## DIPL 6520 The Politics of Terrorism

S. Azmat Hassan Ambassador  
*Seton Hall University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Hassan, S. Azmat Ambassador, "DIPL 6520 The Politics of Terrorism" (2014). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 171.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/171>

**The Politics of Terrorism**  
**DIPL 6520 Fall 2014**  
**Time: Wednesdays 7:35 pm – 9:50 pm**

Instructor: Ambassador S. Azmat Hassan (Ret.)

E-mail: [hassanaz@shu.edu](mailto:hassanaz@shu.edu)

Office Hours: Every Wednesday and Monday 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm at McQuaid Hall Room 101C

**Course description and objectives:**

The course will commence with an in depth study of David J. Whittaker's *The Terrorism Reader* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed). This is one of the best Readers currently available for its depth and scope. The second part of the course will see us studying Akbar Ahmed and Brian Forst's book *After Terror*, which has attracted favorable reviews. The final portion of the course will see us examining violent extremism in the regions bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, analyzed in *The Scorpion's Tail* by Zahid Hussain. We shall also discuss the latest developments regarding violent extremism in the Middle East.

I will give my own insights on international terrorism, based on my involvement with this issue in 1992-94 as Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for foreign affairs and defense matters.

I will circulate articles from newspapers and magazines relevant to the course. I also expect students to share material they have found relevant with me for possible onward transmission to the class. Credit will be given to those students who can cite relevant books and articles during class discussions. The careful reading and absorption of the material will advance the understanding and comprehension of students about international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Course Strategy:**

The best strategy for students to do well in the course is to complete all reading assignments before hand, come punctually to class, listen attentively to my lectures and **take notes**. I want an interactive class, asking questions and making comments.

Class participation will count towards the grade. If any points discussed in the class are not clear to any student she/he should not hesitate to approach me during office hours or during the class break. I can also be reached by email. I hope that by the end of the course all students will have a comprehensive grasp of different facets of international terrorism.

**Course Materials:**

**Compulsory Reading:**

1. *The Terrorism Reader*: edited by David J. Whittaker
2. *After Terror*: edited by Akbar Ahmed & Brian Forst
3. *The Scorpion's Tail* by Zahid Hussain

### Background Reading:

1. *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat* by Louise Richardson
2. *On Suicide Bombing* by Talal Asad
3. *No End to War: Terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by Walter Lacquer (a veteran expert of terrorism)
4. "Terrorism: Theirs and Ours" by Eqbal Ahmed

\*\*There are innumerable articles on terrorism in journals and on the internet. I encourage students to locate these and study those that are of relevance.

### Course Activities:

- Lectures
- Examinations
- Research Paper
- Class Presentations
- Class Discussion

### Grade Break up:

Mid- term Exam 30%

Research Paper 30%

Final Exam 30%

Class Presentation, participation and attendance 10%

### Grading:

To get a good grade all students are expected to concentrate equally on the mid-term exam, the research paper and final exam. For the paper, I give credit for sustained efforts to locate appropriate material on the chosen topic from scholarly books and journals, and to analyze and present it in an effective manner. The writing of the paper should not be left to the last minute as this will inhibit your performance. Similarly, for the mid-term and final exams, well formulated answers demonstrating knowledge and insight about the subject, will earn a good grade. Students who work conscientiously throughout the semester in comprehending the material will find their efforts rewarded.

### Course requirements:

1. There will be a mid- term examination and a final examination based on essay type questions/short answers. Both examinations will constitute 30% of the grade respectively. More details about the format and requirements of these examinations will be given in class.
2. Students will be required to write a well-developed research paper which will constitute 30% of the grade. The research paper will make an in depth analysis of the topic selected after its approval by me. The paper should be not less than **16** pages (not including the cover page and bibliography) and no more than **22** typed double spaced pages. Please remember to page number your paper. Only hard copies of papers are acceptable. Please **do not** send me

your papers by email as they will not be considered by me. A one paragraph abstract of the topic will be proposed by the student and approved by the Instructor. The topic should be submitted to me in hard copy at the beginning of the class on **Wednesday, October 1**. An approved topic cannot be changed. If a paper is submitted on any topic other than the one approved, it will receive 0 points and is likely to result in the student failing the course. The paper is due on **Wednesday, November 5**. If the paper is not submitted by the deadline, **2 points per every late day** will be deducted from the grade. If the paper has not been submitted **within 7 days** of the expiry of the deadline, **i.e. by 5pm on Wednesday, November 12**, the student will get 0 points and forfeit 30% of the grade. If the paper is submitted between **November 6 and November 12**, please have it date-stamped by Mrs. Susan Malcolm, Secretary of the School of Diplomacy.

3. Class presentations by the students on the paper written by them, attendance and class participation throughout the course will constitute 10% of the grade. All students are **required** to attend the class presentations.

### **General Comments:**

I expect all students to perform to the maximum of their ability. Cultivation of good study habits will contribute to the achievement of this goal. These are **punctuality** and **regularity** in attendance, concentration in class, taking of lecture notes by hand and **not** on the laptop, regular and methodical study, turning in the research paper on time and not trying to do a rushed last minute job. Submission of the research paper is necessary for the student to participate in the class presentation. Attendance of all students in the two class presentations is mandatory. Absentees will be penalized.

I **discourage** my students from using their laptops during my lecture because it distracts them from comprehending the material under study. They cannot achieve their potential grade. Regular attendance will be counted towards class participation.

Absence from the final exam will result in 0 points for that examination. No makeup will be given except under extraordinary circumstances supported by documentation. Dates for the Final examination cannot be changed. All students are requested to undertake travel **after** taking their Final examination.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Week 1: August 27

General introduction about the parameters of the course – explanation of syllabus, grading, readings. Why we must be aware of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and how the course will improve the students' comprehension of world affairs.

Week 2: September 3

Whittaker: Characteristics of terrorism (pg. 1-44)

Week 3: September 10

Whittaker: Terrorism case studies – Jihad (pg. 47-59), United States: Ground Zero (pg. 60-68), Britain (pg. 69-78), Israel (pg. 79-88)

Week 4: September 17

Whittaker: Terrorism case studies – Lebanon I & II (pg. 106-132), Algeria (pg. 187-200)

Week 5: September 24

Whittaker: Terrorism case studies – Peru (pg. 201-215), Columbia (pg. 216-233), Spain (pg. 150-164), Conclusion of case studies (pg. 288-292)

Week 6: October 1 One paragraph abstract of the research paper is due

Whittaker: Prevention and control of terrorism (pg. 295-345).

Week 7: October 8:

The film: *The Battle of Algiers* by Gillo Pontecorvo will be shown in class followed by a class discussion.

Week 8: October 15:

Mid- Term Examination. Details will be provided later during class.

Week 9: October 22:

After Terror:

Biographies in brief (pg. xii-xxviii)

The Simple Power of Weakness, the Complex Vulnerability of Power (pg. 15-20)

Endless Enemies or Human Security (pg. 66-71)

The Productive Airing of Grievances (pg. 98-105)

Celebrating Differences on our Melting Pot Planet (pg. 149-154)

Week 10: October 29:

After Terror:

The Role of the Media in Promoting Tolerance (pg. 47-54)

Turning Enemies into Friends (pg. 112-118)

The Fellowship of Dialogue (pg. 159-165)

Hard Power and Soft Power (pg. 166-170)

Getting to Peace: Awakening the Third Side (pg. 179-185)

Week 11: November 5: Research paper is due

Contemporary Terrorism as analyzed in the writings of Eqbal Ahmed, Ronald Spiers et al. Contemporary issues relating to Iraq, Syria and Yemen

Week 12: November 12: Class Presentations followed by discussions

Week 13: November 19: Class Presentations followed by discussions

Week 14: November 26:

The Scorpion's Tail (Part I) Introduction & Chapters 1-4

Week 15: December 3: Last day of classes. Wrap up of the course material.

The Scorpion's Tail (Part II) Chapters 5-8 and Conclusion

Review of course for the Final exam (this class should not be missed by students)

Week 17: Wednesday December 10: Final exam in the usual classroom 7.35pm – 9.05 pm.

**Good luck in the course!**