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School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2017

DIPL 6520 The Politics of Terrorism in the Middle East

Maureen Quinn Ambassador
Seton Hall University

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The Politics of Terrorism in the Middle East - DIPL 6520
Fall 2017, Tuesdays, 7:35-9:45pm
Instructor: Ambassador (ret.) Maureen Quinn
Email: maureenquinn356@aol.com
Office Hours by appointment from 630-730pm Tuesdays

Course Description and Objectives

This course will investigate the politics of the broader Middle East and the use of terrorism for political purposes. Students will develop an understanding of Islam, political Islam, Islamic resistance movements, and terrorist organizations. The course will include in-depth coverage of the modern origins of terrorism in the Middle East, its current and recent practice, its costs and consequences. Areas covered include the debate about what/who constitutes a terrorist movement or organization, the use of religious justifications for terrorism, terrorist financing, state-sponsored terrorism, the exploitation of/by the media, and the abilities of governments, security services and intelligence agencies to prevent, monitor, and combat terrorism.

Case studies of specific country situations, terrorist organizations, terrorist incidents, and how terrorism ends will be discussed and analyzed. Policymakers' rhetoric, responses, strategies, and the tools to combat terrorism will be covered.

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Inside Terrorism by Bruce Hoffman

Deadly Connections by Daniel Byman

Hamas in Politics by Jeroen Gunning

Saudi Arabia in Transition, Insights on Social, Political, Economic and Religious Change edited by Bernard Haykel, Thomas Hegghammer, Stephane Lacroix

The Many Faces of Political Islam by Mohammed Ayoub

Some required readings will be given out in class, such as chapters from Egypt, Islam and Democracy by Saad Eddin Ibrahim and How Terrorism Ends by Audrey Kurth Cronin.

Optional Background Reading/References

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The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid
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Until We Are Free by Shirin Ebadi
In the Land of Israel by Amos Oz
The Taliban by Ahmed Rashid
The Corpse Exhibition and Other Stories of Iraq by Hassan Blassim
The Ashes of Hama by Raphael Lefebvre (Syria)
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The Battle of Algiers (movie)
The Control Room - documentary movie on Al Jazeera

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (25% of grade): Attendance and participation in class discussions are essential. Students will complete one page written summaries on class readings as assigned. Students will present material in class as assigned during the course of the semester. Class participation also means actively contributing during class discussions and respecting the participation of others.

Book Report, a 4-5 page typed written summary & analysis of a book (20% of grade): Students will select a book from the list on the syllabus (first come/first choice). All selections must be approved in advance and by September 26th. All book reports will include an analysis/explanation of why the book is relevant to the course material and ideally to the student's selected research topic. Written book reports are due on October 17th. Book reports will be presented/discussed in class on the same day.

Research Proposal, Presentation, and Paper (35%): Students will pick a topic of their choice related to the course and prepare an original research paper. The research paper should be 15 pages, double-spaced. It will include a bibliography of at least 10 sources and relevant footnotes. The paper will provide an in-depth analysis of the topic selected. **Research proposals, consisting of a 3-5-paragraph abstract (3/4 to one paged long) of the proposed research**

question/topic and an annotated bibliography of at least 8 sources, including at least two primary sources, will be submitted on October 3rd. An annotated bibliography means each source is explained in a few sentences. Students will receive grades on their research proposals. Each student will present their research in class at the end of the semester. **Research papers are due on November 28th.** Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography.

Final Exam (20% of grade): There will be a final take home exam of essay questions. The exam will consist of at least four essay questions. Each question will be answered type written and be one to two pages long, double-spaced. It is due by email on December 19th.

Grading

All assigned work will be graded for clarity, factual content, and analysis. Each written assignment should be checked for spelling and grammar, carefully proof read prior to submission.

Grades will be lowered on any materials that are submitted late. Grades will be lowered half a letter grade per day late.

Other Policies

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:

<<http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>>

<<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>>

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Policy on Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the

Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

August 29

Course Introduction
Review of Requirements
Overview of the context of the Middle East

Sept. 5

Definitions: Terrorism, State Sponsorship,
Case Study of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and its evolution to the
Palestinian Authority
Inside Terrorism – Pages 1-80
Deadly Connections Pages 1-26 and Pages 117- to top of page 150

Sept. 12

Islam and Politics, Self-Declared Islamic States – Saudi Arabia and Iran
Islam the Straight Path (Fifth Edition) pages 1-middle of page 51; 63-67 on Islam
and the West, and section on Islamic Law pages 99 – 121 (stop at Muslim Family
Law)
The Many Faces of Political Islam, Chapter 3, pages 42-63 - Self Declared
Islamic States

Sept. 19 – Book Selection Due

Saudi Arabia: Islam, Politics, and Governance
Deadly Connections, Chapter 8 (section on Saudi Arabia in Chapter 8 pages
219-238)
Saudi Arabia in Transition, Chapter 1 – Introduction, Pages 1-12; Chapter 2 – Oil
and Political Mobilization in Saudi Arabia, Pages 13-30, and Section on Islam
and Islamism Chapters 8-11, Pages 151-228

Sept. 26

Case studies on Governance, Dissent, & Political Islam – Egypt and Pakistan
The Many Faces of Political Islam, Between Ideology and Pragmatism, Chapter
4, Pages 64-89
Inside Terrorism, Chapter 4 Religion and Terrorism, Pages 81-130

Egypt, Islam, and Democracy By Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Revisiting Egypt, Islam, and Democracy A Note from Prison and Islamic Activism and the Western Search for a New Enemy, pages 267-269 and 81-91 (given out in class/emailed)
Islam the Straight Path, Contemporary Islamic Movements, Pages 182 – bottom of 209 and section on Pakistan, pages 226 - bottom of 229

(For additional background see the profiles of Hasan al Banna, Sayyid Abul-Ala Mawdudi, and Sayyid Qutb from Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought on reserve in the library)

Oct. 3- Research Proposal Due

Islamic Resistance Movements - Connecting Iran, Lebanon, & Hezbollah
The Many Faces of Political Islam Chapter 6 on Islamist National Resistance Movements, pages 112-130
Deadly Connections – Part of Chapter 2 & chapters 3 and 4 pages 26-115
Islam the Straight Path – Sections on Iran and Hezbollah pages 207-221

Oct. 10 Mid-Semester Break – no class

Oct. 17 Book Report Due/Book Report Presentations,

Islamic Resistance Movements, Hamas
Inside Terrorism – Suicide Terrorism pages 131-171 (skip 137-145 on the Tamil Tigers)
Required Reading - Hamas in Politics – Pages 1-94

Oct. 24

Islamic Resistance Movements Hamas
Required Reading Hamas in Politics – pg. 143-240

Oct. 31

Islamic Resistance Movements – the Taliban and the Rise of Al Qaeda/Transnational Islam
Deadly Connections Chapter 7, pages 187-218
Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought, Chapter 17, The Taliban, pages 407-421
(available on reserve in the library/handed out in class/other material to be handed out in class/by email)

Nov. 7

Al Qaeda - Media, Politics, and Terrorism in the Middle East
The Many Faces of Political Islam, Transnational Islam, Pages 131-151
Inside Terrorism pages 173 – 228, Chapter 6 & 7
Islam the Straight Path pages 236-252

Nov. 14

Transnational Islam after 2011

Islam the Straight Path, pages 253- 258 on ISIS/DAESH
Articles by Mohammed Ayoub and Bruce Hoffman in Foreign Affairs on
ISIS/DAESH
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2016-04-03/myth-islamic-state>
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Profile of Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr from Chapter 7 of Princeton Readings in
Islamist Thought to be handed out in class/emailed
Other material to be provided in class/by email

Nov. 21 Preventing and Countering Terrorism/Politics of the Middle East
Strategies, Tactics and Case Studies
Deadly Connections – Chapter 9 & 10 pages 259-311
Inside Terrorism Chapter 8 pages 229-256
Case study on Libya as a state sponsor & one terrorist organization; handouts to
be provided in class as needed

Nov. 28 Research Presentations/Research Paper Due

Dec. 5 - How Does Terrorism End in the Politics of the Middle East
Final exam to be given out in class
Inside Terrorism Chapter 9 -Terrorism Today and Tomorrow - pages 257- 295
Islam the Straight Path Pages 259-304 (Chapter 6)
When Should We Talk to Terrorists, USIP Special Report, by Audrey Kurth
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Some materials to be given out in class/sent by email

Dec. 12 Reading Day

Dec. 19 – Final Exam Due

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