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Spring 2013

DIPL 6520 The Politics of Terrorism

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The Politics of Terrorism
DIPL 6520 Spring 2013
Date and Time: Wednesdays 7:15pm – 9:45 p.m.

Instructor: Ambassador S. Azmat Hassan (Ret.)

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Duffy Hall 82

Office Hours: By appointment

Course description and objectives:

The course will commence with an in depth study of the David J Whittaker's *The Terrorism Reader* (4th 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.

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 all 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 either after the class or during office hours. 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 21st Century* by Walter Lacquer (a veteran expert of terrorism)
 4. "Terrorism: Theirs and Ours" by Eqbal Ahmed (brilliant man, brilliant pamphlet)
- **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
- Examination
- Research Paper
- Class Presentations
- Class Discussion

Course requirements and grading:

1. There will be a final examination based on essay type questions which will constitute 40% of the grade.
2. A well developed research paper which will constitute 40% 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 by **Wednesday, February 20**. 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 result in the student failing the course. The paper is due on **Wednesday, April 3**. 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, April 10**, the student will get 0 points and forfeit 40% of the grade. Regrettably, this essentially means failing the course. If the paper is submitted between **April 4 and April 9**, please have it date-stamped by Mrs. Susan Malcolm, Secretary of the Whitehead School.
3. Class presentations by the students on the paper written by them, attendance and class participation throughout the course will constitute 20% of the grade. All students are **required** to attend the class presentations.

Grading:

To get a good grade all students are expected to concentrate equally on 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 final exam, well formulated answers demonstrating knowledge and insights about the subject will earn a good grade. Students who work conscientiously throughout the semester in comprehending the material will find their efforts rewarded.

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: January 16th

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: January 23rd

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

Week 3: January 30th

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: February 6th

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

Week 5: February 13th

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: February 20th

Whittaker: Prevention and control of terrorism (pg. 295-345). One paragraph abstract of the research paper is due.

Week 7: February 27th: The film: *The Battle of Algiers* by Gillo Pontecorvo will be shown in class followed by a class discussion.

Week 8: March 6th: Spring Break

Week 9: March 13th: No Class (make-up class TBA)

Week 10: March 20th

After Terror:

Biographies in brief (pg. xii-xxviii)

Introduction: Toward a More Civil Twenty-First Century (pg.3-12)

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

Closing Chapters of Enmity (pg. 29-35)

Benjamin Franklin's Gift of Tolerance (pg. 36-38)

God's Word and World Politics (pg. 39-44)

Week 11: March 27th

After Terror:

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

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

Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures (pg. 72-78)

A Universal Language, without Boundary or Prejudice (pg. 90-93)

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

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

Week 12: April 3rd: Research Paper Due

After Terror:

Turning Enemies into Friends (pg. 112-118)

Clash or Dialogue of Cultures (pg. 157-158)

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)

Risking Hospitality (pg. 186-190)

Week 13: April 10th: Class Presentations

Week 14: April 17th: Class Presentations

Week 15: April 24th

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

Week 16: May 1st

The Scorpion's Tail (Part II) Chapter 5-8 and Conclusion.
Exam Review

Week 17: May 8th: Final Exam

Good luck in the course!