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Special Topics: Terrorism Syllabus

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**Syllabus for
Special Topics: Terrorism
GOVT 497 – Summer 2002
Dr. Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University
School of Business and Government**

- I. Course Description** A seminar on the intellectual, historical, and political aspects of modern terrorism as a political phenomenon.
- II. Rationale** This course directly supports Aims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.
- III. Prerequisite** GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, preferably both
- IV. Materials List**

Purchase:

Davies, James Chowning, ed. When Men Revolt and Why [D]
Esposito, John L. Unholy War [E]
Ortega y Gasset, José. The Revolt of the Masses [O]

Handouts:

Billington, James. Fire in the Minds of Men [Bi]
Brinton, Crane. Anatomy of Revolution [Br]
Henderson, Harry. Global Terrorism [He]
Hoge, James F., Jr., and Gideon Rose, How Did This Happen? [H-R]
Jenkins, Brian M. "Anatomy of a Terrorist Attack"
Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. Leftism Revisited [K-L]
Miller Center Report
Minogue, Kenneth. Politics: A Very Short Introduction [M]
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. From Under the Rubble [S]
Tocqueville, Alexis de. Democracy in America [T]

Internet:

www.fpri.org
www.ipl.org/reading/news/
www.stratfor.com

V. Course Objectives/Requirements

- 1. Students will be exposed to a variety of philosophical, historical, and social science perspectives that have contributed to an understanding of terrorism.
- 2. Students will learn how to analyze and compare the history, social psychology, and political behavior of mass movements generally and the role played by political violence.

VI. Graded Requirements

- 1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments prior to class and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials.
- 2. Participation is an essential part of class. Textbook chapters, collateral readings, and current events will be the subject of class commentary and discussions. On

some days, each student will be given reading to summarize. Students should always be prepared to discuss textbook readings and current events.

3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of two take-home essay and short answer tests that should be returned at the scheduled date and time. All make-up work must be completed before the last class period.
4. Each student will research and write an original term paper (8-12 pages double-spaced) or book review on a topic related to terrorism and then present a summary of it to the class. The bibliography contains suggested resources. Barnes & Noble carries some recent titles, such as Peter L. Bergen's Holy War, Inc., Steven Emerson's American Jihad, Walter Lacqueur's The New Terrorism, Benjamin Netanyahu's Fighting Terrorism, Osterholm and Schwartz's Living Terrors, and Simon Reeve's The New Jackals. Only one person may report on any single book. Several works, such as James Billington's Fire in the Minds of Men, Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn's Leftism Revisited, and Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy's Out of Revolution, are available in the library for research purposes.
5. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

VII. Attendance Students are supposed to arrive **on time** for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician's note), or a family emergency. **Four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.** Persistent tardiness will have a detrimental effect on grades.

VIII. Dress Code Observe the Liberty Way. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will **not** be admitted to class. Caps will **not** be worn in class. Other than drinks, there will be **no** eating in the classroom.

IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

School of Business and Government, DH 130

Phone: 582-2640

E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu

Hours: MWF 8-9, 1:15-2:15; T 9:30-11:30; by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

May		
Mon.	13	Introduction: The Passing of Traditional Society Suggested film: The Tree of Wooden Clogs (at Cleary's).
Tues.	14	Responses to Modernity D. Introduction, The Russian Monk (Masaryk), The Village Community in Collision with Capitalism (Boeke); Zacharia in H-R
Wed.	15	Ideology and Dependency D. The Threat of Abandonment, National Independence; M. Foreword, chs. 12-13.
Thu.	16	The Leftist Mind K-L. Introduction, 1-4. Suggested: review Bastiat on legal plunder.
Fri.	17	Equality vs. Liberty D. Tocqueville, Bourgeois and Proletarians (Marx and Engels); T. 12-13
Mon.	20	Minorities and Multitudes D. Riots and Rioters (Wada and Davies); Politics, Nichomachean Ethics (Aristotle); O. 1-2
Tue.	21	Rule of the Masses O. 3-7
Wed.	22	Liberal Democracy vs. Primitivism O. 8-11
Thu.	23	The State O. 12-14:5 First Test: Return Monday
Fri.	24	Loss of Roots O. 14:6-15
Mon.	27	Revolutionary Faith Fabian Society stained-glass window; Shafarevich in S;

		Bi. Introduction; Br.
Tue.	28	The Explosion Jenkins in H-R; Bi. 14; D. A Summary of Revolutions (Brinton)
Wed.	29	Theoretical Frameworks Doran in H-R; D. Toward a Theory of Revolution (Davies), Slavery and Personality (Elkins)
Thu.	30	D. Aggression Follows Frustration (Dollard, et al.), The Study of Urban Violence (Berkowitz)
Fri.	31	Ajami in H-R; D. Rapid Growth as a Destabilizing Force (Olson), Political Violence in Venezuela, 1948-1962 (Gude)
June		
Mon.	3	Terrorism and Its Context He; Miller Center Report; E. 1
Tue.	4	E. 2 Second Test: Return Friday
Wed.	5	E. 3
Thu.	6	E. 4
Fri.	7	Reports

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Berkeley, Bill. The Graves Are Not Yet Full: Race, Tribe and Power in the Heart of Africa. New York: Basic Books, 2001.

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