Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism from a European Perspective

Copenhagen
Summer 2016
3 Credits

Study Tour: Oslo/London

Disciplines: International Relations, Political Science, European Humanities (History/Philosophy)

Instructor: Jesper Lohmann (jloh@di.dk)
Program Director: Neringa Vendelbo (nb@dis.dk)
Program Assistant: Erin Scally (ersc@dis.dk)

Meeting Location: F24-306
Meeting Time: 10.30-13.30

Description of course: Terrorism and counter-terrorism has been on everybody’s mind since 9/11. However, terrorism didn’t just appear out of the blue on that horrifying September day. This course is a study of terrorism - its causes, aims, and forms - and of counterterrorism measures introduced by the international community and individual states. The course examines the implications of terrorism for international politics in the 21st century.

In order to better understand both the concept and phenomenon of terrorism and the attempts to fight it, we will look at some of the many terrorist attacks and efforts to deal with terrorism from a European perspective.

It is both relevant and important to study terrorism from a European perspective, because (unfortunately) several European countries have a very long history of dealing with terrorism (e.g. Northern Ireland (IRA), Spain (ETA), Italy (Red Brigades), Germany (Red Army Faction), Russia (The People’s Will and The Black Widows)). This perspective will allow us to better understand why terrorism occurs, how terrorists organize and operate, and what some of the consequences are of reacting in different ways to terrorism.

Instructor Biography:
Jesper Lohmann, DIS full-time faculty member.
Email: jloh@di.dk

Learning objectives of the course: By the end of this course students will be able to better understand why terrorism occurs, how terrorists organize and operate, and what some of the consequences are of reacting in different ways to terrorism.

Approach to Teaching: This course will be a combination of lectures and active discussion.

Expectations of the students: Since this is a discussion-based course, it demands a high degree of student participation and engagement. Throughout the course, you will also have to develop and practice your own critical thinking by analyzing texts, concepts as well as specific cases to understand the complexity of the field of terrorism. Furthermore, you will have to give a presentation on a relevant topic as well as write a short paper.
Field Studies:

- **Wed, June 15** - Guided tour at the Exhibition “The Distant War” (On Denmark’s engagement in Afghanistan)
- **Thurs, June 16** - The Jewish community, Krystalgade

**Study Tour to Oslo and London (Mon, June 20 – Fri, June 24):** We will travel as a class to study Anders Breivik and right wing terrorism, the 7/7 2005 bombings, and so-called religious terrorism.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

- Participation and engagement 30%
- Study Tour participation and engagement 20%
- Study Tour assignments/Interview Exercise/presentation 20%
- Paper 30%

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

**Laptops in class:** You may use your laptop for note-taking or fact-checking in my class. Usage not related to the class or our subject is unacceptable to the purpose of this class. Students should also refrain from any activity/behavior that may be disturbing to other students who are making the effort to be attentive. I am relying on your integrity and your respect for our objectives. If you are using your laptop for reasons not related to class, I will reduce your class participation grade significantly.

**Academic Honesty:** DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. The students’ home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

**Disability and Resource Statement:** Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Sean Green (sgr@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.
Schedule of classes, readings (to be completed before class), and assignment due dates:

**WEEK 1**

**Tues, June 14 - Introduction to class and to terrorism. Definitions**

**Wed, June 15 - History of Terrorism**

*Field Study, 14.30: The Distant War.* A guided tour through the exhibition on Danish soldiers in Afghanistan. At Tøjhusmuseet, Tøjhusgade 3

**Thurs, June 16 - The Danish Case and so-called Religious Terrorism**

*Guest Lecture by Dennis Meyhoff Brink 10.30 - 12.00*


*Field Study, 14.00: The Jewish Community Center in Denmark, Krystalgade 12*

**Fri, June 17 - Breivik and Right wing Terrorism – Study tour preparation**


Week 2

Study Tour:

Oslo, Norway: Mon, June 20 – Tues, June 21 | London, United Kingdom: Tues, June 21 – Fri, June 24

We will hold a study tour orientation in class to brief you on the academic visits and logistics of the tour. Note that it is mandatory to travel with the group to Oslo. However, you may choose to travel on your own following the conclusion of our program on Friday, June 24th, although this will be at your own expense and it is expected that you are in class the following Monday, June 27th.

WEEK 3

Mon, June 27- Study tour debrief + Superterrorism & dealing with terrorism
Q: Is there anything new about the most recent wave of terrorism? And how do we deal with it?


Tues, June 28- Terrorism, Media, social media and the internet


Wed, June 29- Issues abroad in Counter-Terrorism: Special Operations, Targeted Killings, Drones and Torture


Robert Becher, “NO, Why torture is wrong”, in Richard Jackson and Samuel Justin Sinclair, ed., Contemporary Debates on Terrorism (Routledge 2012), pp. 159-164
Thurs, June 30- Domestic Issues in Counter-Terrorism: Security vs Freedom, Society of Surveillance

Fri, July 1- Domestic Issues: Remembering, Memorials, and Moving On
Readings: Mette Haakonsen: “Marking time. Introduction to late-modern memorials”, in Power Memory People. Memorials of today, KØS 2014
Info on 7/7 memorial: http://www.creativereview.co.uk/cr-blog/2009/july1/london-77-memorial