



CPD 023 The Genesis & Sustainment of Terror Organizations

COURSE SYLLABUS

SECTION I: COURSE IDENTIFICATION

Course Number and Title:

CPD 023 The Genesis & Sustainment of Terror Organizations

Course Description:

This course examines the creation, evolution, modus operandi and political savvy of four major terrorist organizations: Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Tamil Tigers. It studies the true momentum behind the causes for which these terrorists fight. This course discusses how these groups raise money, recruit, plan and conduct operations, exploit the Internet and work from within traditional, political structures to gain and maintain public support.

Contact Hours: 12

Time/Day: 24/7

Location: Online

Instructor: Joseph Ruffini

Instructor Email: eena10jo@frii.com

Instructor Phone: 719-930-4776

Technical Assistance Phone: 866-357-0841

Course Format:

- **Readings:** The student will read assigned articles from online resources listed in the online course.
- **Written Assignments:** Each student will download the Topic assignment sheet from the online course, answer the questions on the sheet and

submit the document in the online course. The Topic assignment is to be placed in the appropriate location in Moodle.

- **Weekly Live Instructor Session:** Each Saturday, a live session online using Elluminate will be held with your instructor. This will be an interactive session offering an overview of the latest breaking news in the course topics and a chance to share real world experiences and practices. This session will be held each Saturday at 11:00 Eastern Time and will run for 60 minutes. The link to the session is in the online course.

Course Materials:

- **Required Readings:** All required reading materials are listed in the Topic assignments in the online course and are accessible via the Internet.

- **Recommended, Optional Readings:**

- The following selected reading from: Griset, Pamela L. and Mahan, Sue. *Terrorism in Perspective*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, 2003: Chapter 2: International Terrorism, pages 45-85.
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- The following selected readings from: Howard, Russell D. and Sawyer, Reid L. *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment*. Guilford, Connecticut: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2004:
 - *Al Qaeda: Origins, Goals and Grand Strategy* by Ahmed S. Hashim, pages 9-37.
 - *Al Qaeda: Terrorist Selection and Recruitment*, by Scott Gerwehr and Sara Daly, pages 73-91.
 - *Hizballah* by Danial Byman, pages 195-207
 - *Counterterrorism Policy and the Political Process* by Martha Crenshaw, pages 450-459.
- The following selected readings from: Cronin, Audrey Kurth and Ludes, James M., editors. *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2004.
 - *Sources of Contemporary Terrorism*, by Audrey Kurth Cronin, pages 19-46.
 - *The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism*, by David A. Rapoport, pages 74-97.
- *Hezbollah: A Short History*, by Augustus Richard Norton, Princeton University Press, ISBN -13-978-0-691-13124-5.

- *Inside Hamas: The Untold Story of the Islamic Movement*, by Zaki Chehab, Nation Books, ISBN 978-1-56858-395-2.

Mandatory Equipment/software:

A personal computer with direct access to the Internet, WWW, or a computer service, either the Microsoft Word® or WordPerfect® word-processing program if used to cut and paste into the email box, and a modem with a minimum speed of 28K.

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ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS POLICIES:

This is an e-learning course. All assignments will be submitted to the instructor online in the proper location in Moodle. Assignments are to be submitted in the online course in Microsoft Word format. It is the responsibility of each student to scan their documents for viruses and all other infections before submitting them. Corrupted files will not be reviewed or graded.

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that submitted assignments are in the online course by verifying in the gradebook online that the assignment attachment is in the proper location in the course.

You may contact the instructor at any time by email or telephone if you have questions or need assistance. If you need technical assistance with the course, contact OnLine Training Institute technical assistance phone number- 866-357-0841. It is recommended that you ***phone your instructor on matters of urgency or emergency.***

SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

Instructional Goals: This course reinforces critical workplace skill sets deemed to be an integral and essential part of any college education to include: written and oral communicative skills, the ability to ask well-defined questions and intelligently challenge the instructor and fellow students, personal responsibility, the ability to provide adequate

documentation as necessary, and confidence to both express and defend one's own convictions and opinions. All are essential to successful course completion, as they play key roles in this course's goal to build greater self-confidence, enhance oratory abilities and debating skills, and expand the comprehension and analytical capabilities of each student.

General Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, successful students will have demonstrated an ability to learn and retain knowledge, analyze and intelligently question information and data presented to them, evaluate the significance and current-day applicability of what they have learned, synthesize ideas from multiple sources, organize thoughts and words, and possess the confidence to apply what has been learned in a real-life, operational environment (on the job).

Specific Course Outcomes:

Through assigned readings, online class participation, graded assignments and a final research paper, students will:

1. Possess a sound, working knowledge of the history, evolution, and strategic objectives of four of the world's most infamous terrorist organizations: Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Tamil Tigers.
2. Understand the political and religious factors that fuel each of these terror groups.
3. Comprehend how these terror organizations recruit new members and sustain their rank and file.
4. Know the modus operandi of each terror organization by examining the major attacks carried out by each of them.
5. Understand the major sources of funding that sustain each of these terror organizations.
6. Realize the strengths and weaknesses inherent in each of the terror groups.
7. Gain an appreciation for how the leaders of these terror organizations think by reading their own words.
8. Appreciate how well terror organizations can work within legitimate social and political systems in order to defeat them.

Course Topic Schedule:

1. Knowing Al Qaeda
 - 1.1 History, Key Dates and Events
 - 1.2 Guiding Principles & Strategic Objectives
 - 1.3 Recruiting & Funding
 - 1.4 Training & Tactics
 - 1.5 Leadership
2. Knowing Hamas
 - 2.1 History, Key Dates and Events
 - 2.2 Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives
 - 2.3 Recruiting & Funding
 - 2.4 Training & Tactics
 - 2.5 Leadership
3. Knowing Hezbollah
 - 3.1 History, Key Dates and Events
 - 3.2 Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives
 - 3.3 Recruiting & Funding
 - 3.4 Training & Tactics
 - 3.5 Leadership
4. Knowing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
 - 4.1 History, Key Dates and Events
 - 4.2 Guiding Principles & Strategic Objectives
 - 4.3 Recruiting & Funding
 - 4.4 Training & Tactics
 - 4.5 Leadership
5. The Rhetoric of Terror: From the Mouths of the Leaders
 - 5.1 Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi
 - 5.2 Sheikh Ahmed Yassin
 - 5.3 Hassan Nasrallah
 - 5.4 Velupillai Prabhakaran
6. Terror Web Sites: Perception Management, Funding & Recruiting
 - 6.1 Al Qaeda
 - 6.2 Hamas
 - 6.3 Hezbollah
 - 6.4 Tamil Tigers
7. Nation State Support of Terror
 - 7.1 Iran
 - 7.2 Syria
 - 7.3 Pakistan
8. What Does the Future Hold For:
 - 8.1 Al Qaeda?
 - 8.2 Hamas?
 - 8.3 Hezbollah?
 - 8.4 Tamil Tigers?
9. Course Research Paper

SECTION III: EVALUATION PROCEDURES

This course is designed for you to learn in an independent study environment. By reading the required web site materials, participating in discussions with the instructor and other students, and answering the instructor's assignment questions via email response, and submitting a final paper, each student will experience the maximum benefit from this course.

Grading/Evaluation: Grades will be awarded based upon the following, 1,000 point system:

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- A = 90 – 100 pts.
- B = 75 – 89 pts.
- C = 60 – 74 pts.
- D = 50 – 59 pts.
- F = 49 points and below

■ Points are awarded based upon each student's demonstrated grasp of the salient points of the readings as evidenced by written answers to assigned questions.

■ All assignments will receive a numerical grade based upon that Topic's maximum point value. For example, assignments submitted for Topic 1 can be awarded from 1 to 15 points by the instructor.

■ DO NOT presume that because one Topic's study material may be worth fewer points than some of the others that the subject material is any less important. Think of Topics 4, 5 and 7 as opportunities to maximize scores for those Topics while having additional time begin work on the final paper.

■ Topic point scale is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| ○ 1: Knowing Al Qaeda | 100 points |
| ○ 2: Knowing | 100 points |
| ○ 3: Knowing Hezbollah | 100 points |
| ○ 4: Knowing the Tamil Tigers | 100 points |
| ○ 5: The Rhetoric of Terror | 50 points |
| ○ 6: Terror Web Sites | 50 points |
| ○ 7: Nation State Support of Terror | 100 points |
| ○ 8: What Does the Future Hold | 100 points |
| ○ 9: Course Research Paper | 300 points |

TOTAL

100 points

- **BONUS POINTS:** From Topic 1 through Topic 8, students can be awarded up to 2 bonus points each Topic for their verbal participation and contribution. These additional points – up to 16 achievable -will be added to the student’s final total out of the possible 100. These bonus points could very well result in the student’s final grade being pushed up to higher letter grades. For example, if a student’s final point total for the written assignments and final research paper is 74, that student would be given a grade of “C” for the course. If, however, that student’s weekly, verbal participation was exceptional, and that student was awarded 16 out of a possible 16 points, then that student’s final point total would be raised to 90, bringing the final grade from a “C” to an “A.” Bottom line, **IT WILL PAY TO DO THE READINGS; MAKE NOTES, BE PREPARED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.**

Points will be awarded based upon the *quality* (not quantity) of student’s verbal contributions as follows:

- 1 Point: Demonstrated understanding and in-depth analysis of the assigned readings.
- .5 Points: Willingness to effectively challenge the opinions of the instructor.
- .5 Points: Strength of conviction and ability to “hold one’s own” in the discussions.

Guidance for the Topic Assignments that must be submitted to the online course:

- The instructor DOES NOT specify how long written answers to any questions must be. ALL questions must be answered to the instructor’s satisfaction; specifically, the student must demonstrate to the instructor that he/she had performed the required reading and grasped the important points. Some students are more succinct and to-the-point than others. Some require more words to state their opinions. No matter, as long as the requirements are met.
- It is recommended that before performing the reading assignments, students review the questions that they must answer in order to highlight Topics of the readings and/or take notes most appropriately and expeditiously.

The Research Paper:

The research paper for this class is due one week after completion of Topic 8.

This paper must be a minimum of twelve (12) pages double-spaced in narrative content (not including cover page and bibliography), in Arial, 12 point font, with left, right, top and bottom margins of one inch. There is no maximum length for this research paper.

Students may choose one of the following topics for their research paper:

1. Hezbollah: A Terrorist Organization, A Freedom-Fighting Militia, or an Iranian, State-Sponsored Arm of Persian, Islamist Aggression?
2. Hamas: A Positive or Negative Force in the Struggle to Establish a Palestinian State?
3. The Tamil Tigers: Was it Worth the Fight against the Sri Lankan Government?
4. Al Qaeda: the "Poster Child" for all Islamist Movements

All papers must be of college-level, academic quality. All papers must be grammatically correct and spell-checked. They must flow in a logical sequence, stating an initial premise, presenting an argument with documentation as appropriate, and ending with a logical and substantiated conclusion. Document references using the APA style citations with a separate Reference page. Include no pictures, no flow charts, and no diagrams. Use narrative text only. References obtained from the Internet must be properly cited according to APA style.

All of your homework assignments and papers will be graded based upon what is called the "REOS" method: Strength of your "Reasoning" (Logic); What, and how much "Evidence" (Sources) you present; Your own "Observations" on the material and its meaning; and the "Substance" of the paper (how much significant, new, and innovative information you present).