

**Freedom From Fear: America's Response to Terrorism  
SYLLABUS**

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MWF: 9-10:50  
Tu-Th: 2:20 –4:20

Ron Mock  
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Tu-Th: 11-12, 2 - 4  
or by appointment

Mark Hatfield  
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By Appointment

**Course Description:**

This is a course on terrorism. One of our authors defines terrorism as “premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.” In this class we will consider for ourselves what terror is, try to understand what the sorts of conditions encourage terrorism, what sort of motivations terrorists have, and what our response to terrorism should be. In doing so, we will pay special attention to the religious motivation of terrorists and what a Christian response to terrorism should be.

In approaching these questions, we recognize that answers may or may not be generally applicable. That is, it might be the case that terrorists groups vary widely, that different conditions encourage people to become terrorists, that they have very different motivations, that solutions will differ from situation to situation, etc. Accordingly, our strategy for this course is to move from the general to the specific. We will read and discuss in class works on terrorism in general. We will then have students apply the principles gained from our reading to specific case studies through the vehicle of a simulation, which is discussed below.

**Texts:**

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy

Mark Juergensmeyer, Terror in the Mind of God (updated edition)

Ron Mock, manuscript (photocopied)

The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>) Subscribe to and bookmark this page; you will be required to read all the major stories dealing with terrorism, and stay abreast of key international conflicts.

Additional readings as assigned.

**Assignments:**

Midterm Exams	60 points
Terrorist Group Projects	65 points
Critique of Prof. Mock's Manuscript	20 points
Class Participation	15 points
Final Exam	40 points
<u>485 Only: Book/Article Review</u>	<u>25 points</u>

**Total Points Possible, 285**  
**Total Points Possible, 485**

**200 points**  
**225 points**

**Approximate Grading Scale:**

A = 180 - 200	(203 – 225)
B = 160 - 179	(180 – 202)
C = 140 - 159	(157 – 179)
D = 120 - 139	(135 – 156)

This scale may be adjusted as justice and proportion require. “+” and “-” grades will generally be from the top and bottom thirds of the grade range, roughly.

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**Assignment Descriptions:**

**1. Terrorist Group Report (65 points total)**

**Part A: Selection of Terrorist Groups (Sept. 4)**

Each student will join with three or four others during the first class session. Your group will play the role of a State Department team assigned to research, monitor, and evaluate a terrorist organization, such as al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Hamas, Kahane Chai, Tamil Tigers, IRA, FARC, Sendero Luminoso, a domestic US group, etc. Your team will research the terrorist group, its history, the conditions that led to its formation, its motivations and worldview, and its methodology. You will also be looking for the most effective way to counter the group and eliminate its threat, and what roles should be played by the United States of America, Christian groups, and others.

**Part B: Dossiers (Due September 18, 10 points)**

Your team will prepare a one-page summary of your terrorist group for distribution to the entire class on September 18. This dossier will include the name of the group; its leadership and membership; the sponsor(s) and community(s) supporting it; its grievance, goals, and methods; and its religious orientation(s). You will supply a copy for every member of the class, and be ready to go answer questions from class members and professors.

**Part C: Contributions During the Semester (15 points)**

Beginning on September 25 and continuing through November 27, your team must be ready to orally contribute to class discussion, supplying perspective and color from your study of your terrorist group. Near the end of the class period, two or three teams will be asked to have a representative make a brief oral reflection on how the topic of the day reflects on their terrorist group. Your team will earn up to 5 points for this reflection, with the score moderated by how much value the class got from your team's work on your terrorist group during the rest of the class period. That is, if your study of your terrorist group makes no contribution during class discussion, you will have a point deducted from the score you earn in the end-of-class reflection. If your study of your terrorist group makes an outstanding contribution during class discussion, you can have an extra point added to your reflection score (but not over a maximum of 5 points). You will have three such opportunities during the semester.

**Part D: Final Report (40 points)**

Each team will present its findings on December 4 to a select committee of the U.S. Senate, chaired by Senator Mark Hatfield (a thoughtful Christian statesman from Oregon), along with Ron Mock (an idealistic isolationist from Michigan) and Mark Hall (an advocate of realpolitik from Virginia), and various other members (several of your classmates). Each team will make a 15-minute presentation, possibly interrupted by questions or comments from the Senators. The presentation should briefly recap the information from the dossier, but focus on the issues of the group's grievance and worldview, and what kinds of response would make the most practical and moral sense. In making this report to the U.S. Senate, you will focus on our government's response to the terrorist group, but you will also want to have in mind and be able to articulate how the government's response relates to what Christians and others should be doing.

You will also turn in a paper embodying your testimony, which will include an updated dossier, and sections on the terror group's worldview, U.S. response(s), and what Christians and others should be doing.

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SYLLABUS**

**2. Midterm Exams (30 points each, Oct 16, Nov 13)**

You will take a midterm exam on October 16, covering the Pillar book (through page 216, Mock, Chapters 1 and 2, and related class material; and on November 13, covering the Juergensmeyer book and issues of religious motivation for terrorism. These exams will include a short objective section and one essay question chosen from two.

**3. Critique of Professor Mock's Manuscript (20 points)**

You will turn in two chapters of Professor Mock's manuscript marked up with commentary, just as if you were a demanding professor and these two chapters were a paper turned in for a class on terrorism. You will make substantive comments on the content, stylistic comments on the writing, and big red marks all over any mechanical errors. You may choose when to turn in these chapters on the following schedule:

Chapter 1:	September 18
Chapter 2:	September 25
Chapter 3:	October 9
Chapter 4:	October 16
Chapter 5:	October 30
Chapter 6:	November 6
Chapter 7:	November 13
Chapter 8:	November 20

NOTE: You may turn in only 1 chapter in any calendar month.

You will be graded for the insight and incisiveness of your comments, and in particular on how much value your comments would add to the chapter if Professor Mock were to incorporate them. A's will improve the chapter overall – and there will be some A's. So be bold but wise in your critiques.

**4. (485 ONLY) Book/Article Review(s) (25 points, Nov. 20)**

You will read on the order of 250 pages you have not read before, not required to complete other assignments in the class, and not related to your terrorist organization. You may read any of the following types of works dealing with terrorism: academic articles or books; histories; biographies of terrorists or people fighting terrorism. Your reading must be approved by one of us. You will turn in an insightful and thorough review of each item you read. After reading the review, we should have a good idea of the author's argument, what evidence she provides, a critical analysis of whether the evidence supports claims made, and overall assessment of the value of the work.

**5. Final Exam (40 points, Friday Dec. 20, 1 pm )** The exam will consist of two parts: a 20-point essay over the last half of the semester, drawn from two options; plus a 20-point essay question covering the entire semester. For the comprehensive 20-point question, we will give you in advance three questions, two of which will be on the final exam handed out during the exam period. You will have to write on one of those two comprehensive questions.

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SYLLABUS**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Sep 4	Introduction to the Course	None
Sep 11	SERVE DAY, No Class	Pillar, pp. 1- 40
<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>What is Terrorism?</b>	<b>Pillar, 41- 129; Mock, Chs. 1 &amp; 2 TURN IN: Dossiers</b>
<b>Sep 25</b>	<b>Introduction to Terrorist Groups &amp; Sponsors</b>	<b>Pillar, 130-196</b>
Oct 2	Terrorism from an Historical Perspective	Pillar, 197-216
<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Conditions Leading to Terrorism</b>	<b>TURN IN:</b> 1 page of notes of readings on origins of terrorism, incl. 1 paragraph of your own theory.
Oct 16	Religious Motives: Christian Terror?	Juergensmeyer, xi – 43 <b><i>In Class: Midterm 1</i></b>
<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Religious Motives: Jewish &amp; Islamic Terrorism</b>	<b>Juergensmeyer, 44 - 83 Additional Readings TBA</b>
Oct 30	Religious Motives: Others	Juergensmeyer, 84 - 163
<b>Nov 6</b>	<b>Religious Motives: Conclusions?</b>	<b>Juergensmeyer, 164 -243</b>
Nov 13	Responding to Terror: Violence	Mock, Chs. 3 & 4; Pillar 73-129; 217-235 <b><i>IN CLASS: Midterm 2</i></b>
<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>Responding to Terror: Spiritual Dimension</b>	<b>Mock, Chs. 5 &amp; 6; TURN IN:</b> 1 page of notes of readings on spiritual dimension of terrorism, incl. 1 paragraph of your own theory.
Nov 27	Responding to Terror: Political Dimension	Mock, Chs. 7 & 8; <b>TURN IN:</b> <i>Review(s) - 485 only</i>
<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>Reports to the Senate</b>	<b>TURN IN: Final Report In Class: Team Oral Reports</b>
Dec 20	1 p.m.	FINAL EXAM

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**Notes on Class Policies:**

1. Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will lose one percent of the points possible for every day they are late, with the remainder of the day after class meets counting as part of the next day, and weekends counting as one day.
  
2. All assignments **MUST** include citations to sources. Choose any format you like, as long as it enables us to find your sources, and shows in the text where you got major data or ideas. **Failure to cite outside sources where some appear to exist will result in a 10% reduction in your score.** (Of course, significant copying from a source without attribution will result in score of 0 without opportunity to repeat the assignment, a report to the Office of Academic Affairs, and further sanctions if there have been prior offenses. Warning: If you can find it on the internet, so can we.)