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MASTER

# DESCRIPTIF ENSEIGNEMENT

**INTITULE DU COURS :** The Logics of Terrorist Organizations

*COURSE'S TITLE :*

**ENSEIGNANT(S) :** Dr. Ivo Hernandez

**FONCTION(S) :**

**TYPE DE COURS :**  SEMINAIRE D'OUVERTURE  SEMESTRE 2

## RESUME DU COURS / OBJECTIFS

One of the biggest challenges in today's world in the field of security studies is the proliferation of war-like attacks against the civilian population, commonly called terrorist attacks. These assaults on both civilian and military targets are often the result of various political or territorial decisions and interests. This increased incidence of so-called "terrorist attacks" can be seen as part of an asymmetric conflict out of "small" enemies who try, through their actions, to sow massive uncertainties in the unarmed population. Their widespread use of violent means can also be seen as part of a propaganda staged for the globalized world. It is brought into people's awareness through cheap and public communication paths to a wide audience. Since the civilian population is the basis of a legitimate democratic government, these massive audiences may be the target of many political and religious movements that seek through its programs and actions

## SYLLABUS / TARGETS

Terrorism is not new to social and political history. On the contrary, both attacks on defenseless civilian population to obtain a military advantage, and the spreading of collective fears in order to influence policy decisions are about as old as Western civilization itself. But only since the 19th century, a certain psychology of extremism has been systematically used. The increasing globalization offers more efficient tools, which can be used to broaden these systematic trends. Examples of these new tools are financial structures, horizontal organizations or network-related associations all over the world.

The goal of this course is to give a historical perspective on terrorism and to explore the logic behind the emergence of terrorist actions, for example, whether they be religious, politically or economically motivated. The course is designed as a reading course with group discussions and particularly suitable to use multimedia presentations (Power Point, movies, etc.). It is recommended to take notes during the sessions. Homework and Final Paper topics are based on both the content of the presentations and the required readings. Please take into account that readings are mandatory and required for discussions in class.

## PLAN / SEANCES :

**Class Number 1** Introduction to the Seminar. Evaluation system.

**Class Number 2** Master class: History and forms of terrorism. Strategy, tactics and logistics of terror. The internationalization of Terror

**Class Number 3** Discussion Topic: The definition of terrorism. Who is a terrorist, who is not?

**Class Number 4** Discussion Topic: Social causes of terrorism. Religion, Poverty and Inequality

**Class Number 5** Discussion Topic: Left and right ideologies in politics as sources of terrorism

**Class Number 6** Discussion Topic: The finances of terrorist organizations

**Class Number 7** Discussion Topic: Suicide and other terrorist tactics. Common Logistics The Internet

**Class Number 8** Discussion Topic: Fight against terrorism: The reaction of the nation state. The European and American initiative.

**Class Number 9** Discussion Topic: The case Isis vs Al Qaeda. Origin and development.

**Class Number 10** Discussion Topic: The Jihadists: war tourism or ideological "brain wash"? What are should we be concerned ?

**Class Number 11** Discussion Topic: African terrorist organizations. Causes and ideologies

European terrorist organizations. Causes and ideologies

**Class Number 12** Discussion Topic: Asian terrorist organizations. Causes and ideologies  
Latin American terrorist organizations. Causes and ideologies

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE :

Arthur H. Harrison. —Defining Terrorism: Philosophy of the Bomb, Propaganda by Deed and Change Through Fear and Violence|| Criminal Justice Studies, Vol. 17, No. 3, (September 2004): pages 259-279.

Bruce Hoffman. —Inside Terrorism (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006): pages 229-256.

Frank Bolz, Kenneth Dudonis and David Shulz. —The Counterterrorism Handbook|| (Bacon Raton, FL: Taylor and Francis, 2005)