

SEC343e Terrorism and Psychology: The Mind of the Terrorist

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

E-Learning: BLENDED - Learning is done MAINLY online using interactive study materials in Canvas. Students receive guidance and support from online instructors via discussion forums and emails. This is supplemented with SOME face-to-face sessions. If the course has an exam component, this will be administered on-campus.

Synopsis:

Why do terrorists desire chaos and anarchy? Social scientists point to different variables that surround the terrorist's mind. Some variables include: a background of personal and emotional problems; early childhood abuse; a history of violence and destruction; and the absence of opportunities for leading a fruitful, productive and peaceful life. The terrorist mind seems to emerge from environments of conflict, chaos and even perpetual war. Is the mind of the terrorist a result of his DNA (nature)? Or is the mind created out of his environment (nurture)? This course helps students examine and evaluate the mind of a terrorist that transcends the traditional confines of Security Studies.

Topics:

- Terrorism, chaos and anarchy
- Terrorists and group characteristics
- The mind of the terrorist
- Terrorism, terrorists, nature and nurture
- Evaluating the mind of the terrorist
- Terrorist activity as a symptom of the terrorist mind

Textbooks:

: Terrorism, Political Violence, and Extremism: New Psychology to Understand, Face, and Defuse the Threat (Contemporary Psychology) Praeger
ISBN-13: 9781440851926-AA

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ISBN-13: 9781440851926

Learning Outcome:

- Construct different approaches to terrorism in terms of chaos.
- Distinguish the terrorist mind from the anarchical one.
- Analyse how the terrorist mindset works using concepts in security studies.
- Propose factors responsible for the development of terrorist mindsets.
- Arrange the main characteristics of the terrorist mindset.
- Judge the influence of the terrorist mind in Southeast Asia.
- Synthesize the meaning of the nature-nurture debate in terms of the terrorist mind.
- Assess the inter-connectedness of terrorist minds since 9/11.
- Evaluate the measures used by counterterrorists to investigate terrorist minds.
- Differentiate the political ideology of Al-Qaeda from Jemaah Islamiyah.
- Compare and contrast the mind of the terrorist in late modernity.
- Critique the operationalization of the terrorist mind into political ideology.
- Apply security studies concepts to seminar discussions.
- Interpret work-based problems with concepts in security studies.
- Demonstrate competence in academic writing (political science).

Assessment Strategies:

Continuous Assessment Component	Weightage (%)
PARTICIPATION	6
PRE-COURSE QUIZ	2
GROUP BASED ASSIGNMENT	38
PRE-CLASS QUIZ	2
PRE-CLASS QUIZ	2
Sub-Total	50

Examinable Component	Weightage (%)
Written Exam	50
Sub-Total	50

Weightage Total **100**