

HIE 477 A History of Terrorism, 1789-2001+

Instructor:

Michael A. Hennessy PhD

Professor

Hennessy-m@rmc.ca

Massey 316 Local 3603

Class times and locations: Wed: 1000-1300: S4200

Course Description:

This course will consider nineteenth- and twentieth-century terrorist movements in comparative perspective. What is terrorism, and how can it be distinguished from other types of political violence? What do terrorist groups have in common, and what distinguishes the types of people who join such groups? Can terrorism ever achieve its goals, or is it inevitably self-defeating? In the process, we will consider important factors such as religion, national identity, and ideology, and how these elements are used by terrorists in their recruiting, training, and propaganda efforts.

It has been said that all history is contemporary history because the questions we ask and the importance we attach to issues are always changing with the times and methods of modern inquiry. There are many ways to address issues of terrorism—a very contemporary problem—this course takes the historical approach to deepen your ability to contextualize and schematize the contemporary in light of the historical experiences of terrorism via ends, ways, means and organizations and steps taken to counter them.

Texts:

A.K. Cronin, *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*. Princeton U Press, 2011.

M. Burleigh, *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. Harper 2009.

J.M. Hanhimäke & B. Blumenau, *An International History of Terrorism: Western and Non-Western Experiences*. Routledge 2013.

Edwin Bakker, *Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies. Comparing Theory and Practice*. University of Leiden, 2015.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: You should avoid all forms of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, cheating, and other violations of academic ethics. These are serious academic infractions for which penalties may range from a recorded caution to expulsion from the College. The RMCC Academic Regulations Section 23 defines plagiarism as: “Using the work of others and attempting to present it as original thought, prose or work. This includes failure to appropriately acknowledge a source, misrepresentation of cited work, and misuse of quotation marks or attribution.” It also includes “the failure to acknowledge that work has been submitted for credit elsewhere.” All students should consult the published statements on Academic Integrity contained in the *Royal Military College of Canada Undergraduate Calendar*.

Papers for this course must be submitted to the instructor in both hard copy and through Turnitin.com. Instructions on the use of the latter are available.

Marking and Assignments: Your marks for this course will be determined by how well you do on the written assignments (75%), and oral presentations (basic class contributions 5% and formal presentations 20%).

All assignments must be type written, double spaced, set no smaller than 10 point and no larger than 12 point in a proportionally spaced font like Times (New) Roman and on clean 8.5x 11 inch paper with all pages numbered consecutively and with your name and course number clearly displayed on the first page. Late assignments lose 10% per day from final grade.

Written Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography (Value 15%)

Choose a 'terrorist group' discussed during this course and prepare a brief bibliography for use in your research. The bibliography must include sources found on the internet, in periodical literature and in full monograph or book length studies (library reference numbers should be provided). As well, you must provide a short description of between 2-5 sentences describing what the source contributes to the literature on the subject. Length: 2-4 pages single spaced.

Assignment 2: Timeline. (Value 10%) Prepare a chronology capturing in time sequence the origins and key developments in the history of the group you addressed in assignment 1. Length 1-2 pages.

Assignments 3-7: Research Briefing Notes (50%)

Aim: produce four related 2 page briefing notes and then a final summative note (ie 5 notes). A template will be provided. These notes are to summarize answers to the questions below and are to employ scholarly apparatus i.e. endnotes. The endnotes do not count toward the total length but should not run to more than two pages. Ensure you do not rely simply on one source. Where opinions or information conflict or where information is hard to verify ensure you point this out in the notes, if not in the main text. The briefing note should not just regurgitate facts but offer your critical insight into the questions based on a comprehensive and comparative examination of how the question is answered in the literature you've reviewed.

Based on the group chosen for your annotated bibliography, explain the following in separate 2 page briefing notes.

- A) the evolution of the group's organization with a thumb nail sketch of its founders and original aims;
- B) the transformation of the group's methods from inception to some turning point in their campaign OR the transformation of the group's goals from inception to a discrete turning point in their campaign;
- C) the themes employed in propaganda by the group with an emphasis on supporting its 'narrative'
- D) The "reaction" national and international. [mention if group won, gave up, turned away from violence, joined a peace process or was destroyed or remains on-going]
- E) The final summative note should address the strengths and weaknesses of the 'group's' campaign with an eye to lessons of enduring value.

Value: Each brief is worth 10% for a total assignment value worth 50% of your course mark.

Bibliography DUE 1 Feb;

Timeline Due 15 Feb

BN presentations begin 8 March (BN1) w 2, 3, 4 and 5 weekly thereafter.