

SPRING 2007
FRPG 189J

CONFRONTING ISLAMIST TERROR

Tuesday, Thursday 0830-1000 Memorial Hall 102
Tuesday 1930-2100

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Description This seminar will examine how the United States, its allies, and its friends are confronting Islamist terror. The instructor will himself pick the first two books to be read and then will select a number of other books and readings in consultation with the students.

Approach There will be four elements:

1) On Tuesdays and Thursdays, reading and discussion of the texts. There will be no lecturing at all by the instructor. As well, student teams will preside over all the discussions of the readings. Each student team will have two or three members.

2) One very-short paper (2-3 pages) on proposed readings and two short (4-page) papers, one on each of the two readings selected by the instructor. The exact topics will be announced.

3) A research paper (13-15 pages) and an oral presentation, both due towards the end of the semester. The paper and presentation will be on an aspect of the confrontation with Islamist terror.

4) Tuesday evening discussions of new developments in the confrontation with terrorism and related events. The student teams will take turns, chosen at random by lottery at the beginning of each session, presiding over these discussions. All students will be expected to stay abreast of developments by following the news.

Grading Grades will be based as follows:

1/3 Reading quizzes.

1/3 Oral work. Includes oral presentation and seminar participation, as well as work on the student teams presiding over discussions.

1/3 Writing portfolio. Includes the very short paper, the two short papers and the longer research paper.

Attendance: Attendance is required at all scheduled sessions. Excused absences, which normally result from happenings beyond a student's control, incur no penalty of any kind. Students must arrange with the instructor, either face-to-face or by return email, for an absence to be excused. Do not attempt to do this by phone or voicemail.

In addition, students may miss two classes without explanation and will incur no absence penalty, although they then will receive a zero for any work missed, such as quizzes. Thereafter each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by three per cent.

Students must be on time at the start of class to take the reading quizzes.

Readings: The first two readings are

Mark Steyn. *America Alone*.

Efraim Karsh. *Islamic Imperialism: A History*.

Selecting the other readings, probably five in number, will be among the first matters the seminar will turn to.

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TUESDAY/THURSDAY SCHEDULE UNTIL SPRING BREAK
(DOES NOT INCLUDE TUESDAY EVENING SESSIONS)

23 Jan Introductory session

25 Jan *America Alone*, prologue and part I.

30 Feb Very short paper due

America Alone, part II.

01 Feb Selection by class of other readings.

06 Feb *America Alone*, part III.

08 Feb *Islamic Imperialism*, introduction and chapters 1-3

13 Feb Tentative research topic due

Islamic Imperialism, chapters 4-6

Tuesday evening seminar: Intro to research session held at ODY Library

15 Feb No class

20 Feb First short paper due

Islamic Imperialism, chapters 6-9

22 Feb *Islamic Imperialism*, chapters 10-13 & epilogue

27 Feb Reading III

01 Mar Second short paper due

Reading III

06 Mar Reading III
08 Mar Reading IV

13 Mar Reading IV
15 Mar Reading IV

AFTER SPRING BREAK

Readings V, VI, VII
Thesis due
Bibliography due
Research paper due
Oral presentations due