

SPRING 2008
FRPG 189J

CONFRONTING ISLAMIST TERROR

Tuesday, Thursday: 0830-1000
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 rolling the dice at the beginning of each session, presiding over these discussions. All students will be expected to stay abreast of developments by following the news.

There will be handouts and explanations in class about the requirements for the papers and oral presentation.

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.

However, students must attend the organizational seminar on the evening of 22 January to remain in the course.

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

Readings: The first two readings are

Bernard Lewis. *The Crisis of Islam*
Norman Podhoretz. *World War IV*.

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

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY SCHEDULE UNTIL SPRING BREAK
--DOES NOT INCLUDE TUESDAY EVENING SESSIONS--**

- 22 Jan Introductory session
- 24 Jan *Crisis of Islam*, intro, I, II
- 29 Jan Very short paper due
 Crisis of Islam, III, IV, V.
- 31 Jan Selection by class of other readings.
- 05 Feb *Crisis of Islam*, VI, VII, VIII, IX.

- 07 Feb *World War IV*, prologue and chapters 1-3
- 12 Feb *World War IV*, chapters 4-6
- 14 Feb *World War IV*, chapters 5-9
- 19 Feb First short paper due
Proposed research topic due
World War IV, chapters 10-13 and epilogue
- 21 Feb Class on research methods in ODY Library
- 26 Feb Reading III
- 28 Feb Second short paper due
Reading III
- 04 Mar Reading III
- 06 Mar Reading IV
- 11 Mar Reading IV
- 13 Mar Reading IV

AFTER SPRING BREAK

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