

# **Criminology and Criminal Justice: Human Causes and Consequences of Terrorism**

**CCJS 418N  
Spring 2024**

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**Office hours: by appointment; please contact one of us by email.**

## **Course Description:**

The six objectives of this course are to:

- (1) Review definitions of terrorism and recent efforts to measure and study terrorism.
- (2) Examine the major data sources and methods used to examine terrorism.
- (3) Provide details on the characteristics of world-wide terrorism and terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere, including trends, geo-spatial patterns, weapons, targets, and tactics.
- (4) Study the major theories of radicalization, terrorism, and political violence from a criminological perspective. We will explore why terrorism occurs in certain locations as opposed to other areas (incident-level); who becomes a terrorist and why (perpetrator-level); as well as why some groups/movements employ terrorist tactics, while others do not (organizational-level). We will also examine the life course of terrorists and terrorist organizations and responses to terrorism.
- (5) Provide an introduction to research on countering terrorism and violent extremism.
- (6) Encourage all students to think critically about terrorism and its implications for society.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this semester students will demonstrate knowledge of (1) the challenge of defining and measuring terrorism; (2) key theories of the etiology of terrorism; (3) fundamental characteristics of terrorism including trends, spatial distribution, tactics,

targets and weapons; and (4) basic knowledge of counter terrorist and counter extremist tactics and their viability.

Students will be able to discuss and critique (orally and in writing) the relevant literatures on these topics.

### **Required Texts:**

(1) LaFree, G, L. 2023. *Toward a Criminology of Terrorism*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK. (I will provide a full copy of the book in ELMS: [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu).)

(2) LaFree, G, L Dugan and E Miller. 2015. *Putting Terrorism in Context: Lessons from the Global Terrorism Database*. London: Routledge. (Available through UMD Bookstore or either in electronic or hard copy at Amazon.)

(3) Crenshaw, M and G LaFree. 2017. *Countering Terrorism*. Washington DC: Brookings. (Available through UMD Bookstore or either in electronic or hard copy at Amazon.)

(4) Additional journal articles & book excerpts- see below- that are available from UMD library in hard copies or on-line/full text—all additional articles available in ELMS: [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu)

(5) I am purchasing a class simulation for all enrolled students.

(6) I am also including in the course materials a series of podcasts with many of the researchers that you will be reading about. These are optional and are available online at <https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360> or through iTunes or GooglePlay.

### **Grades**

1. Power point slide 15% (March 11)
2. Midterm exam 25% (March 11)
3. Simulation report 15% (April 22)
4. Term paper 30% (May 6)
5. Final exam 15% (May 17)

### **Course Requirements**

**READINGS:** Readings are assigned for each class session. I recommend that students read the assigned materials before the lecture.

**Optional podcasts:** I am including a set of podcasts involving several of the authors you will be reading throughout the semester. The podcasts are optional.

**1. MIDTERM EXAM:** The Midterm will cover the first seven weeks of the semester. The exam will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer essays. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

**2. POWER POINT SLIDE:** A *single* power point slide summarizing the issues you will cover in your term paper will be due by class time Monday, March 11. Your power point slide and your final term paper should be based on an analysis of either the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) or the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS) database (further described below). Your slide should focus on the analysis you are doing for your term paper (for more information on the term paper, see below). You should download your power point slide to ELMS.

You can access the GTD as follows:

- Download GTD data and codebook from <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>
- Click “Using GTD”, “Download GTD” and follow instructions
- A codebook describing the GTD in detail is available at <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/downloads/Codebook.pdf>
- The two grad student assistants can help if you get stuck!

You can access PIRUS as follows: Download PIRUS data and codebook from <https://www.start.umd.edu/data-tools/profiles-individual-radicalization-united-states-pirus>

- Click “Using PIRUS”, “Download PIRUS” and follow instructions
- A codebook describing the PIRUS in detail is available at <https://www.start.umd.edu/sites/default/files/files/research/PIRUSCodebook.pdf>
- The two grad student assistants can help if you get stuck!

**If you choose to analyze the GTD for the Power Point slide and the term paper you should pick EITHER two countries or two terrorist groups.**

**In the Power Point slide and the term paper you should compare and contrast the two countries or two groups that you have selected.**

**The GTD term paper should:**

1. Include a review of prior terrorism research on the two countries/groups you have chosen (*please prioritize actual academic research rather than online postings*).
2. Provide a description of the longitudinal trends in attacks and fatalities for the two countries or groups.
3. Provide a description of the characteristics of terrorism in the two countries or the characteristics of the two terrorist groups. This could include looking at issues like choice of weapons, targets and tactics used by terrorists in the two countries or by the two terrorist groups.
3. Describe which criminological theory or theories best explain terrorism patterns within these two countries or groups.

4. Describe what counter terrorist policies have been employed in the two countries or in opposition to the two groups selected? How effective have these policies been?
5. Overall, what are the similarities and differences between the two countries or the two groups?

**If you choose to analyze PIRUS, for the power point slide and term paper you should focus on explaining why perpetrators choose to commit violent or nonviolent offenses.**

**Your PIRUS power point slide and term paper should include the following:**

1. How do characteristics of perpetrators differ for violent and nonviolent offenses?
2. How has political extremism in the United States changed over time?
3. Are some types of ideologies more violent than others?
4. Which criminological theory or theories best explain why some individuals engage in violent extremism?
5. Based on your analysis, what policies are most likely to be effective in countering violent extremism in the United States?

**3. CLASSROOM SIMULATION.** In the aftermath of a fictional terrorist attack in Washington, DC, the President has established a Commission to examine the way the attack was handled by policy makers. You will each be asked to help organize the Blue Ribbon Commission that was formed in the aftermath of the attack. As the Commission gets ready to hold its first hearing, you will work closely with your team members and the rest of the participants to negotiate important issues including the agenda and a list of witnesses.

**4. TERM PAPERS.** Term papers on either your GTD analysis or your PIRUS analysis should address the same kinds of issues that you summarize in your power point presentation--although you will be able to go into more details in the term paper.

**All Term Papers should:**

1. Be 15 typed double spaced pages—12 pitch
2. Include *at least 5 original academic articles or books as references.* **(Please include 5 academic journal articles—not online sources like Wikipedia.)**
3. Use the journal CRIMINOLOGY as a guide for formatting.
4. Include footnotes where appropriate.
5. Include tables and figures to support your arguments. It is fine to use the figures and tables you developed for your PowerPoint assignment in your term paper—where they are appropriate.

If you choose to analyze the GTD for the term paper you should pick EITHER two countries or two terrorist organizations.

If you choose to analyze PIRUS for the term paper you should focus on explaining why perpetrators choose to commit violent or nonviolent offenses.

*Course assistants Xinyi Situ: [xsitu@umd.edu](mailto:xsitu@umd.edu) and Yesenia Yanez: [yanez@umd.edu](mailto:yanez@umd.edu) will be available to answer your questions about accessing the data for your power point slide and for your term paper.*

**5. FINAL EXAM:** The Final Exam will emphasize the second half of the semester but will also include some questions that integrate materials from the whole course. The final exam will be entirely multiple choice. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES:** Academic Integrity, Conduct, Grievances, Excused Absences etc.

For a summary of important university policies on conduct, grievances and excused absences please visit: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

### COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (1/29)	Introduction	LaFree, <i>Toward a Criminology of Terrorism</i> , Chapter 1  LaFree, Dugan and Miller, <i>Putting Terrorism in Context</i> , Chapter 1  Crenshaw and LaFree, <i>Countering Terrorism</i> , Chapter 1
Week 2 (2/5)	Defining and Measuring Terrorism	LaFree, Dugan and Miller, <i>Putting Terrorism in Context</i> , Chapter 2  Crenshaw, Chs. 2, 3  LaFree, Gary. 2018. Is Antifa a Terrorist Group? <i>Society</i> volume 55, pages 248–252.  <b>Optional Podcast:</b> Episode 1: Defining Terrorism: A Conversation with Martha Crenshaw <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a>
Week 3 (2/12)	Terrorism Theories	LaFree, G., <i>Toward a Criminology of Terrorism</i> , Ch. 2.

		<p>Dugan, L., G. LaFree, &amp; A.R. Piquero. 2005. Testing a rational choice model of airline hijackings. <i>Criminology</i> 43:1031-1065.</p> <p>Horgan, J. 2017. The Psychology of Terrorism. <i>American Psychologist</i> Vol. 72, No. 3, 199–204.</p> <p>Agnew, R. 2016. General strain theory and terrorism. In LaFree, G. &amp; J.D. Freilich. Eds. <i>Handbook on the criminology of terrorism</i>. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell(strain)</p> <p>Akins, J.K. &amp; L.T. Winfree. 2016. Social learning theory and becoming a terrorist: New challenges for a general theory. In LaFree, G. &amp; J.D. Freilich. Eds. <i>Handbook on the criminology of terrorism</i>. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell (social learning)</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b> Episode 2: Getting Counterterrorism Right—A Conversation with Bruce Hoffman  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 4 (2/19)	Research Methods for Studying Terrorism	<p>Silke, A. 2001. The devil you know: Continuing problems with research on terrorism. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> 13(4): 1-14.</p> <p>Hamm and Spaaij, “Paradigmatic Case Studies and Prison Ethnography, pp. 206-220 in <i>The Handbook of the Criminology of Terrorism</i>, Wiley.</p> <p>Orsini, A. 2013. A day among diehard terrorists: The psychological costs of doing ethnographic research. <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i> 36: 337-351</p> <p>Horgan, J. 2012. Interviewing the terrorists: Reflections on fieldwork and implications for psychological research. <i>Behavioral Science of Political Aggression and Terrorism</i> 4(3): 195-211</p> <p>Laura Dugan and Michael Distler, “Measuring Terrorism,” Pp. 189-205 in LaFree and Freilich, <i>The Handbook of the Criminology of Terrorism</i>, Wiley.</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b> Terrorism 360: EP 10: Applying Business Models to Terrorism: A Conversation with Gina Ligon  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 5 (2/26)	Longitudinal and Spatial Trends	<p>GTD Book, Chs. 3, 4, 7</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b> Terrorism 360</p>

		Episode 8: Terrorism Waves: A Conversation with David Rapoport <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a>
Week 6 (3/4)	Terrorist Organizations	GTD Book, Ch. 5  CRENSHAW/LAFREE Book, Ch. 4, 5  <b>Optional Podcast:</b> Terrorism 360 Episode 9: Pathways to Terrorism with Clark McCauley <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a>
Week 7 (3/11)		<b>MIDTERM EXAM MARCH 11</b>  <b>ALSO: POWER POINT SLIDE DUE TODAY!</b>
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		<b>March 17-23</b>
Week 8 (3/25)	Terrorist Etiology	Crenshaw, Martha. "The causes of terrorism." <i>Comparative politics</i> 13.4 (1981): 379-399.  Smith, Roberts, and Damphousse, "The Terrorists' Planning Cycle: Patterns of Pre-Incident Behavior," Pp. 62-77 in LaFree and Freilich, <i>The Handbook of the Criminology of Terrorism</i> , Wiley.  LaFree, G. & A. Schwarzenbach. 2021. Micro and macro-level risk factors for terrorism: Toward a criminology of extremist violence. <i>Journal of Criminology and Penal Reform</i> 104(3):184-202.  Erica Chenoweth. 2013. "Terrorism and Democracy." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> (May): 355-378.  <b>Optional Podcast: EP 3: Tracking Domestic Terrorism: A Conversation with Brent Smith</b> <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a>
Week 9 (4/1)	Radicalization and Individual Level Studies	Jasko, K., G. LaFree, J. Piazza & M, Becker. 2022. A comparison of political violence by left-wing, right-wing and Islamist extremists in the United States and the world. <i>The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 119(30).  Jasko, Katarzyna, Gary LaFree, and Arie Kruglanski. "Quest for Significance and Violent Extremism: The Case of Domestic Radicalization." <i>Political Psychology</i> (2016).

		<p>LaFree, Gary, Michael Jensen, Patrick James and Aaron Safer-Lichtenstein. 2018. Correlates of violent political extremism in the United States. <i>Criminology</i> 56(2): 233-268.</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b>  EP 4: The Psychology of Terrorism: A Conversation with Arie Kruglanski  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 10 (4/8)		<b>CLASSROOM SIMULATION: Full period</b>
Week 11 (4/15)	Weapons, Targets and Tactics	<p>GTD Book, Chs. 6, 9 (56 pp.)</p> <p>Corner, E., &amp; Gill, P. (2015). A False dichotomy? Mental illness and lone-actor terrorism. <i>Law and Human Behavior</i>, 39 (1), 23-34. doi:10.1037/lhb0000102</p> <p>Pape, R. 2003. The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. <i>American Political Science Review</i>. 97(3): 343- 361</p> <p>Ackerman, G. &amp; Peterson, H. 2020. Terrorism and COVID-19: Actual and Potential Impacts. <i>Perspectives on Terrorism</i> 14:59-73.</p> <p>Gill et al. 2017. Terrorist Use of the Internet by the Numbers. <i>Criminology and Public Policy</i></p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b>  Terrorism 360: EP 12: Terrorism Research: What’s Wrong? What’s Right?—A Conversation with Marc Sageman  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 12 (4/22):	Types of Terrorism	<p><b>SIMULATION PAPER DUE AT CLASS TIME</b></p> <p>Simi and Bubolz, “Far right terrorism in the United States,” Pp. 297-310 in LaFree and Freilich. Eds. <i>Handbook on the Criminology of Terrorism</i>. Wiley</p> <p>Spaaaj, Ramón. "The enigma of lone wolf terrorism: An assessment." <i>Studies in Conflict &amp; Terrorism</i> 33.9 (2010): 854-870.</p> <p>McCauley, Tom. 2015. The war of ideas on the Internet: An asymmetric conflict in which the strong become the weak. <i>Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict</i>.</p>

		<p>Ackerman, Gary and Ryan Pereira. "Jihadists and WMD: a Re-evaluation of the Future Threat". <i>CBRNe World</i> .October (2014) : 27-34a.  <a href="http://www.cbrneworld.com/uploads/download_magazines/Jihadists.pdf">http://www.cbrneworld.com/uploads/download_magazines/Jihadists.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b>  Terrorism 360: Ep 5: Predicting Terrorist Violence: A Conversation with John Monahan  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 13 (4/29)	Terrorism and other Crimes	<p>LaFree, <i>Toward a Criminology of Terrorism</i>, Chs. 3, 4</p> <p>Pyrooz DC, LaFree G, Decker SH, James PA. "Cut from the same cloth? A comparative study of domestic extremists and gang members in the United States." <i>Justice Quarterly</i>. 2018 Jan 1.</p> <p>Arias and Hussain, "Organized crime and terrorism," Pp. 373-385 in LaFree and Freilich. Eds. <i>Handbook on the criminology of terrorism</i>. Wiley</p> <p>King, DeMarco, and VandenBerg, "Similar from a Distance: A Comparison of Terrorism and Hate Crime," in LaFree and Freilich. Eds. <i>Handbook on the criminology of terrorism</i>. Wiley</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b> EP 13: ISIS and Religiously Inspired Terrorism: A Conversation with Jessica Stern  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
Week 14 (5/6)	Why is Counter terrorism so difficult?	<p><i>Toward a Criminology of Terrorism</i>, Ch. 5</p> <p>GTD Book, Chs. 10, 11</p> <p>CRENSHAW LAFREE Book, Chs. 6, 7</p> <p><b>Optional Podcast:</b> EPI 6: Are we Spending Too Much on Counterterrorism: A Conversation with John Mueller  <a href="https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360">https://www.start.umd.edu/terrorism360</a></p>
<b>TERM PAPERS</b>		<b>TERM PAPERS DUE: May 6</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Friday, May 17, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</b>