

**Department of Criminal Justice
Indiana University- Bloomington**

Terrorism: P407: 10358

Instructor: Arvind Verma

This course involves Intensive Writing

Course Description & Objectives

The use of violence for political purposes in the form of terrorism has been part of human history. However, terrorism today is far more sinister and damaging due to powerful weapons, greater number of vulnerable targets, global connectivity and wide-ranging communication systems. Terrorists stationed in remote backwaters of Syria are able to attack targets half the world away. An emerging threat is the so called ‘home-grown’ terrorism where young people growing up in western societies are nevertheless radicalized to carry out serious attacks against their community. The threat of a bio-nuclear attack by some crazed group is no more a matter of fancy but real and impending. Even though protecting every possible target seems impossible there are nevertheless situational factors that create opportunities for the terrorists to strike. By understanding the nature of terrorist threats and their modus operandi it is possible to devise effective preventive methods. The policing of terrorism is a complex policy and executive interplay where strategies, planning, intelligence, investigation, surveillance and routine functions play a major role. Modern police forces around the world have evolved a variety of mechanisms and use sophisticated technologies to deal with terrorism.

The objectives of this course are

- To examine the nature of terrorist activities in different parts of the world
- To understand the causes that drive people to carry out terrorist attacks
- To understand ways in which the police are responding to terrorist threats
- To analyze the response of the state and its role in promoting/ controlling terrorism
- To learn how means and ends play an important role in dealing with terrorism

We will study about the motivation, recruitment, operational planning and situational methods used by the extremists to carry out their attacks. We will also examine the roles of intelligence gathering, physical and electronic surveillance, interrogation, investigation, community involvement and management of resources by the police in this battle. The course will debate the issues of legal boundaries and systems of checks and balances in police operations. A number of case studies covering the Middle East, South and Central Asia, Nigeria and Central Africa, Northern Ireland, France, Belgium & other European nations and the Americas will be undertaken to understand these issues. Course evaluation will be on the basis of class participation, short essays and a final research term paper.

Evaluation

3 Short Assignments	10% each
Final Term Paper	25%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	10%

Incorporates credit for Intensive Writing

Course Readings

All readings will be available ‘Canvas file’ Section

Additional readings will be provided during topic discussions