Overview: With terrorist events such as the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, suicide bombers in the Middle East, large-scale bombings in Paris and Brussels, and a regular series of terrorist-like acts in the US, the concept of terrorism has begun to pervade the minds of Americans, as well as people all around the world. At the same time, the meanings of the word “terrorism” have become more varied and less precise. Media coverage about terrorism has raised more questions than it has provided answers. This ambiguity has surfaced in television shows, movies and the Internet as well.

This course therefore focuses on the interface between media and terrorism. We will explore the concept of terrorism, media portrayals of terrorism, and the cultural meanings and symbols that emerge about terrorism. The study of media and terrorism is evolving and changing, so you should consider our course material a point of entry for thinking more conceptually and systematically about the topic.

This course supports the following learning objectives:

- *Exploring media institutions and practices*, through critical examination of news based on a conceptual framework of terrorism and media.
- *Exploring the role of media in shaping cultures*, though a consideration of how news both reflects and is reflected by cultural values and diverse perspectives.
- *Learning to conduct research and gather information responsibly*, through carefully informed research papers and class discussions.
- *Valuing a diverse global community*, by becoming familiar with news produced by media organizations both within and outside the U.S.

Class sessions:

In the first part of the semester, we will discuss readings and current news about terrorism. Be prepared and read the assigned material in advance of the class session. Class discussions should summarize key ideas and consider linkages with other readings. Try not to limit your ideas by the label that an author used for a particular concept. As you read articles, think about the key concepts, and how these concepts relate to each other, as well as to other readings.

You are also expected to monitor Google News regularly to read about terrorism-related events. Initially, I will introduce news items and examples through open class discussions; later
in the semester, students will be assigned to specific dates for introducing terrorism-related news (part of your participation grade). Be sure to read international news organizations’ coverage as well as from U.S. organizations. During the first week of class, you should set up an alert on Google News for the terms “terrorism” and “terrorist.”

During the two weeks before Thanksgiving, students will participate in discussions about terrorism-related movies (a list will be provided). After Thanksgiving Break, students will be assigned to group presentation sessions discussing key questions about media and terrorism issues. These sessions will incorporate both your conceptual readings and your news monitoring, along with additional research from the Internet and the library (details provided in a separate handout).

**Readings:** Most readings are drawn from two books available at the IMU Book Store:


Some assigned readings come from other sources, and will be available in PDF form on the ICON site. You can download the on-line articles and read or print them at your convenience.

**Assignments and Examinations:** Your grade is made up of five components: two Exams, a Movie Discussion/Paper, a Key Issues Discussion/Paper and Attendance/Participation. More details will be provided on the class ICON web site, but the basics of each component include:

- **Examinations** will involve 3 or 4 short essay (half page) questions on each exam. Dates are September 28 and October 31. You will be allowed one page of notes (12 pt type) during each exam.

- **Movie Presentation & Paper** will involve viewing an assigned movie, showing the movie trailer and possibly some excerpts, presenting an analysis that draws on course concepts, and engaging in a discussion with a small panel of other students who have viewed the same movie. Each presenter will turn in an individually-prepared paper (2 pages, single spaced, 12 pt type) summarizing key points. This should be in outline form or in short bulleted paragraphs.

- **Key Issues Discussion & Paper** will take place after Thanksgiving Break, during Weeks 15 and 16 of the semester. Students will be assigned to groups and provided with a specific question. These questions will require students to draw from assigned readings, media content monitoring, and additional library and online research to provide informed comments. There will also be a short period at the end of each discussion for other students in the class to ask questions of the presenters. Each presenter will turn in an individually-prepared paper (2 pages, single spaced, 12 pt type) summarizing key points. This should be in outline form or in short bulleted paragraphs.
• **Attendance/Participation** is expected of each student. Attendance will be taken randomly at the start of class. Excused absences will not be given except for serious illness, death in the family, or occasions where I have approved the absence in advance. Students are expected to participate in each day’s class discussion, and to offer thoughtful, informed comments. I will bring a chart of student photos to class and will call on students by name on occasion. Students who are usually silent in class or whose comments do not reflect understanding of class concepts, will not receive full credit for this component.

Students unable to turn in a written assignment or make their assigned presentation because of serious, unavoidable circumstances should let me know *beforehand*. (My phone is on a voice mail system and I check e-mail regularly.) Without prior arrangements, written assignments will not be accepted after the day they are due. Incompletes will be given *only* in accordance with University policy (that is, where work remaining is small and reasons are acceptable to the instructor). *No late papers will be accepted without a very good reason.*

Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

- Exam 1 ........................................................................................................... 25%
- Exam 2 ........................................................................................................... 25%
- Movie Discussion & Paper ................................................................. 15%
- Key Issues Discussion & Paper ...................................................... 15%
- Attendance/Participation ................................................................. 20%
- TOTAL ....................................................................................................... 100%
Official Policy Statements

Administrative Home
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Electronic Communication
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondeces sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondeces (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities
The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which includes but is not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor’s office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student, instructor, and SDS. See https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/ for information.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom
The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. Expressions of hate and bigotry directed at individuals or identities are not acceptable. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, diversity@uiowa.edu, or visit diversity.uiowa.edu.

Academic Honesty
All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College’s Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to
the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student’s responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather
In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.

Office Hours: My office is located in W309 AJB, in the hallway behind the main office of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Office hours are Monday 10-12 and Thursday 2-4. E-mail is:

dan-berkowitz@uiowa.edu

The office phone is 335-3477 and voice mail will pick up after about four rings, or if the line is busy.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

Tuesday, August 22: course introduction

Thursday, August 24: reconnaissance of news, YouTube, blogs, TV, film related to terrorism

DUE TODAY: 1 page memo with a link and summary for at least 3 items

WEEK 2

Tuesday, August 29

Nacos: Introduction to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions
Tuman: Introduction

Thursday, August 31

Nacos, Ch. 1: Media and terrorism in the twenty-first century
Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 3

Tuesday, September 5

Tuman, Ch. 1: The struggle to define terrorism
Nacos, Ch. 2: The communication calculus of terrorism

Thursday, September 7

Tuman, Ch. 2: Terrorism as a communication process with rhetorical dimensions
Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 4

Tuesday, September 12

Nacos, Ch. 3: Terrorists always found alternative media
Tuman, Ch. 3: Labeling and defining terrorism as rhetoric
Thursday, September 14

Nacos, Ch. 4: Computer-assisted political violence or e-terrorism
Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 5

Tuesday, September 19

Tuman, Ch. 4: Symbols, symbolism and terrorism
Nacos, Ch. 5: Traditional media, terrorism news, and the virus of contagion

Thursday, September 21

Tuman, Ch. 5: Symbolism in the targets of terrorism
Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 6

Tuesday, September 26

Review session for Exam 1

Thursday, September 28

Exam 1

WEEK 7

Tuesday, October 3

Nacos, Ch. 6: Attack on America as breaking news: A case study
Tuman, Ch. 6: Methods for studying public oratory about terrorism

Thursday, October 5

Nacos, Ch. 7: Terrorism and mass-mediated gender stereotypes
Terrorism in the News discussion
WEEK 8

Tuesday, October 10

Nacos, Ch. 8: Political violence as public entertainment
Tuman, Ch. 7: Case studies for public oratory about terrorism

Thursday, October 12

Nacos, Ch. 9: Terrorism, counterterrorism, and freedom of expression

Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 9

Tuesday, October 17

Tuman, Ch. 8: Theories of mass media for terrorism
Nacos, Ch. 10: Indexing, propaganda model, and counterterrorism news

Thursday, October 19

Tuman, Ch. 9: Mass-mediated images and construction of terrorism
Terrorism in the News marathon

WEEK 10

Tuesday, October 24

Nacos, Ch. 11: Responding to terrorist crises
Nacos, Ch. 12: Conclusion

Thursday, October 26

Review session for Exam 2
Terrorism in the News discussion

WEEK 11

Tuesday, October 31

Exam 2
Thursday, November 2

No class meeting; prep time for movie papers/discussions
Prof. Berkowitz available in office

WEEK 12

Tuesday, November 7

Movie papers/discussions

Thursday, November 9

Movie papers/discussions

WEEK 13

Tuesday, November 14

Movie papers/discussions

Thursday, November 16

Movie wrap-up

WEEK 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK...NO CLASS MEETINGS NOVEMBER 21 & 23

WEEK 15

Tuesday, November 28

Key Issues papers/discussions

Thursday, November 30

Key Issues papers/discussions

Week 16:

Tuesday, December 5

Key Issues papers/discussions

Thursday, December 7

Course wrap-up
Finals Week: December 11 – 15 (no final exam)