

GEOG 3320/5320: Geography of International Terrorism and Security

Spring 2020

GC 4700

T,Th 2:00pm – 3:20pm

Instructor:

Richard Medina

Gardner Commons 4733

richard.medina@geog.utah.edu

801-585-6245

Office Hours: T,Th 12:00pm-2:00pm, or by appointment

Textbook:

Medina, R. M. & Hepner, G. F. (2013) *The Geography of International Terrorism: Spaces and Places of Violent Non-State Groups* CRC Press: Boca Raton (available for free through the university library in digital form). Supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor.

Course Overview:

There are many geographic aspects to terrorism and homeland security. Geography concepts of space, place, people, topology, and activity are not just relevant to, but are vital to understanding terrorism and counterterrorism activities. This class will explore theoretical and applied topics of geography in terrorist networks, radicalization, propaganda, geostrategies, and other topics of contemporary terrorism research. Current events will be discussed as they relate to course material, and in some circumstances may take precedence over the day's lecture topic. Class discussion will be an integral part of this course.

This course meets two days per week and should be attended regularly. Approximately 50% of the test information will come from the readings, and 50% from the lectures.

Course Topics:

- What is terrorism?
- Netwar and networks
- Geography and terrorism
- Radicalization and recruitment
- Terrorism and migration
- Terrorists and technology
- Globalization and terrorism
- Border security
- American terrorism threats
- DHS and responses to terrorism
- Financing terrorism

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should understand what terrorism is and is not, how terrorists behave in different geographic circumstances, and what the geographic drivers can be for terrorist activities.

Evaluation:

Student evaluation is based on three exams, homework, and a term paper. All work should be submitted in hard copy. Grades are weighted as follows:

Bi-weekly Canvas Exams ----	60%
Current Event Write-Ups-----	20%
Term Paper -----	<u>20%</u>
	100%

You will not be graded on participation, but it will definitely NOT hurt your grade.

Grading will be as follows:

A+	97% - 100%
A	93% - 96%
<u>A-</u>	<u>90% - 92%</u>
B+	87% - 89%
B	83% - 86%
<u>B-</u>	<u>80% - 82%</u>
C+	77% - 79%
C	73% - 76%
<u>C-</u>	<u>70% - 72%</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>60% - 69%</u>
F	less than 60%

Exams:

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false. In the case of emergency or illness, an exam may be rescheduled. Notice of absence prior to the exam will be required for rescheduling.

Current Event Write-Ups

Each week you are required to turn in a 0.5-1.0 page minimum (single spaced, not 1.15) write-up of a current event on or related to terrorism. Please number and date each assignment (e.g., Homework 1, Homework 2, ...Homework N). The write-up should include a description of the event/s, as well as your interpretation. It is beneficial to include multiple sources of information if available to alleviate a biased media. Geographic details should be included. All write-ups should be submitted in hard copy. Emailed homework will be counted only in certain circumstances (e.g., medical). All write-ups should be stapled. They will not be accepted otherwise.

Term Paper:

A study on any terrorism/homeland security topic will be acceptable. The only requirement is that the topic must express “spatial thinking.” Try to find a topic you have an interest in. Topics must be selected and cleared by the instructor in proposal form by the 7th week of class (Thursday, February 20th). The proposal grade will be factored the total grade for your term paper (10%). The proposal should include 1) a research question, 2) preliminary literature review, 3) data sources if necessary, and 4) the approach used to answer the research question. For undergraduate students, papers discussion groups, events, and individuals are acceptable.

The paper should be 3-4 (full) pages in length (of text) for undergraduate students, single-spaced, font size 12 (Times New), with 1-inch margins. Please number your pages. The paper must display proper use of in-text citations and references. At a minimum, six sources of information should be used, at least three of which should be peer reviewed journal articles. The term papers are due on the last day of class, April 21st. All term papers should be submitted in hard copy and stapled. They will not be accepted otherwise.

Graduate Students and those enrolled in 5320:

Graduate students and those enrolled in 5320 must meet a higher requirement for the term paper. While the topic requirements are the same, your paper should be approximately 5-7 pages in length, single-spaced, font size 12. It should also follow structure and formatting rules of a target journal (e.g., Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Terrorism and Political Violence). Oral presentations discussing your research will be scheduled for the last 1-2 weeks of class. Your presentation should last 15-20 minutes with questions.

Policies:

- 1) Individual extra credit will not be assigned.
- 2) An "incomplete" will be given only in extreme cases when conditions beyond the student's control require an extended period of absence. Even in this case, at least 80% of the course requirements must be completed.
- 3) Examinations must be taken during scheduled times announced in class. If you have a legitimate excuse (such as medical, family illness or unavoidable work conflicts), you must contact the instructor before the examination. If you do not contact the instructor before the examination, you will not be able to make up the examination unless the circumstances were extreme and contacting the instructor was difficult.
- 4) Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Penalties may include failure of an assignment, the entire course, and/or the filing of formal charges with appropriate university authorities. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, and plagiarism:
 - Cheating involves the unauthorized possession or use of information in an academic exercise, including unauthorized communication with another person during an exercise such as an examination.
 - Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of all instructors.
 - Plagiarism means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in one's own work offered for academic consideration or public presentation.

Important Dates:

Last day to add classes without a permission code – Monday, January 6

Last day to add, drop (delete), elect CR/NC, or audit classes – Friday, January 17

Last day to withdraw from classes – Friday, March 6

Spring Break – Sun-Sun, March 8-15

Classes End – Tuesday, April 21

Final Exam Period – Thurs-Wed, April 23-May 9

Academic Integrity: The University of Utah is committed to nurturing academic excellence, truth, honesty, and personal integrity. The faculty expects all students to maintain high ethical standards. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Penalties will include failure of an assignment, or possibly the entire course, and the filing of formal charges with appropriate university authorities. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, and plagiarism:

- Cheating involves the unauthorized possession or use of information in an academic exercise, including unauthorized communication with another person during an exercise such as an examination.
- Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of all instructors.
- Plagiarism means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in one's own work offered for academic consideration or public presentation.

Faculty and Student Responsibilities: The class will follow accepted University of Utah policies and procedures. Please refer to the University of Utah Faculty Handbook (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/fhb/>) and Student Code (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>).

Specifically: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty's responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Disability Accommodation: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Harassment: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Safety & Wellness

Your safety is our top priority. In an emergency, dial 911 or seek a nearby emergency phone (throughout campus). Report any crimes or suspicious people to 801-585-COPS; this number will get you to a dispatch officer at the University of Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS; dps.utah.edu). If at any time, you would like to be escorted by a security officer to or from areas on campus, DPS will help — just give a call.

The university has additional excellent resources to promote emotional and physical wellness, including the Counseling Center (<https://counselingcenter.utah.edu>), the Wellness Center (<https://wellness.utah.edu>), and the Women's Resource Center (<https://womenscenter.utah.edu>). Counselors and advocates in these centers can help guide you to other resources to address a range of issues, including substance abuse and addiction.

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677) this number will get you to a dispatch officer at the University of Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS; dps.utah.edu). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu. The University of Utah seeks to provide a safe and healthy experience for students, employees, and others who make use of campus facilities. In support of this goal, the University has established confidential resources and support services to assist students who may have been affected by harassment, abusive relationships, or sexual misconduct. A detailed listing of University Resources for campus safety can be found at <https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/campussafety.php>.

Your well-being is key to your personal safety. If you are in crisis, call 801-587-3000; help is close.

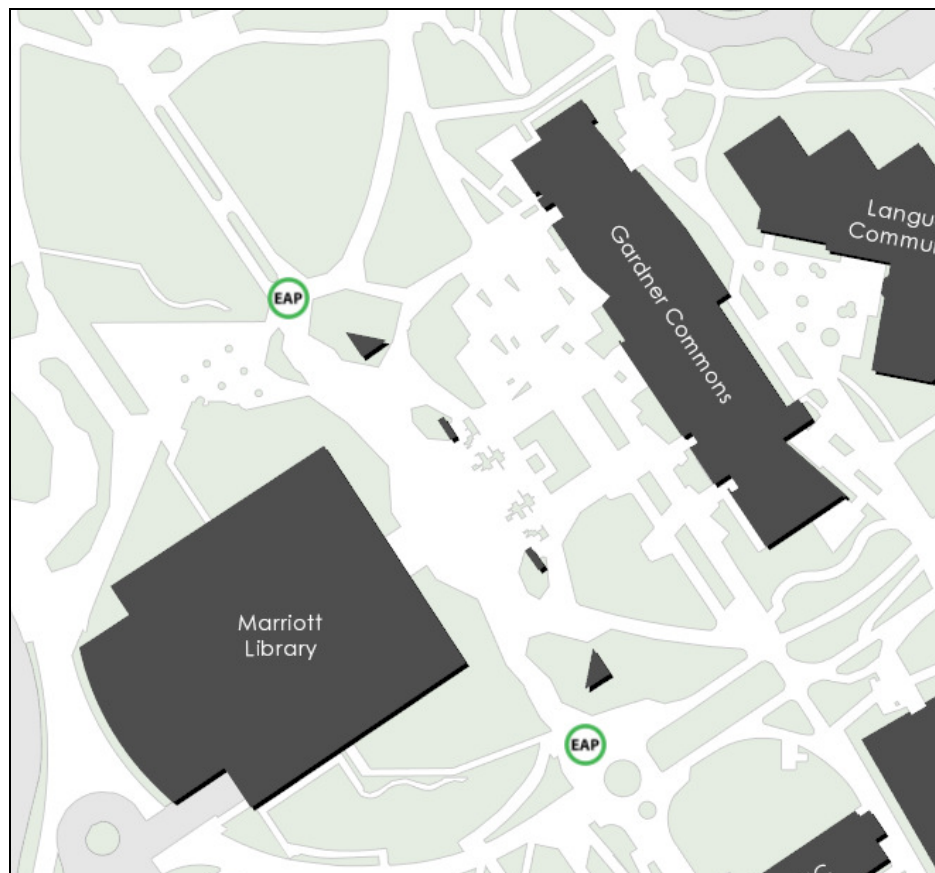
Undocumented Student Support

Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact - those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream

Center. **Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence.** The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. **To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at [\(801\) 213-3697](tel:8012133697) or visit dream.utah.edu.**

- *Frequently Asked Questions:*
As the Dream Center has become more established, we are receiving recurring questions. We have answered these questions and included them on a new page on our website: [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please visit our page and if you have additional questions, updates, or recommendations you would like to propose, let us know. We welcome feedback and suggestions.
- **Outreach and Information Materials:**
With the support from the Office for Equity & Diversity, we have developed and included new resources materials on our page: [UndocuAllies](#). These new outreach and information materials include a new brochure available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and the Utah State Court Self-Help Center: Detention Emergency Resources. *We will be regularly revising these resources, so please make sure to visit our website for updates.*

Gardner Commons Emergency Assembly Sites



Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification, particularly when the modification is done to rectify an error that would disadvantage the student.