

Monterey Institute of International Studies

Graduate School of International Policy Studies

An Affiliate of Middlebury College

Fall 2007

IP 658: Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Seminar Syllabus

Seminar Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, September 8, 9:00—5:00

Saturday, October 6, 9:00—5:00

Saturday, November 3, 9:00—5:00

Saturday, December 8, 9:00—5:00

Room: B209

Instructor: Prof. Fred Wehling

Phone: 831-647-6508

Email: fwehling@miis.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00—5:00 or by appointment

Office Location: MG 200F, McGowan Building, 411 Pacific St.

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: IP 504 AND one of the following:

IP 573, 574, OR IP 584

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Course Description

The goal of IP 658 is to develop the skills necessary to analyze motivations and capabilities of non-state actors to acquire and use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) materials and weapons for terrorist purposes. Through class discussions and individual research, students will review the technical aspects of weapons of mass destruction (WMD, defined here as nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological weapons), examine the history of WMD terrorism, discuss and explore the current debate on the likelihood of WMD terrorism, and assess policy tools available to address the threat of WMD terrorism. Students are required to have substantial background knowledge of either WMD or terrorism before joining the seminar. The principal learning outcome of the course will be a research paper of publishable length and quality focused on the threat of, or response to, incidents of CBRN terrorism.

This seminar will meet on four Saturdays (September 8, October 6, November 3, and December 8) from 9:00 to 5:00 in sessions organized in a format similar to an academic or professional conference. During these sessions, students will participate in discussions of specific issues related to WMD and terrorism and deliver presentations based on their individual research projects, and give constructive commentary on the research of other students. Students will also be expected to meet individually with the instructor outside of class to develop and discuss research projects. Estimated total weekly time for this course, exclusive of seminar meetings, will vary from 8-12 hours per week.

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Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify potential and actual motivations of terrorist groups to use CBRN weapons
- 2) Use open sources to analyze the capabilities of non-state actors to acquire and use CBRN materials for terrorist purposes
- 3) Develop, evaluate, and recommend policy options for preventing, reducing, or responding to incidents of CBRN terrorism
- 4) Design, research, and write a substantive study on a topic relating to terrorism with WMD suitable for publication in a professional journal

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Student Assessment

Learning Outcomes and Assignments

Outcome 1: CRN terrorism attack plan simulation. At the seminar meeting on **Saturday January 27**, teams of students assigned by the instructor will play the role of a group of experts advising the top leadership of a specified terrorist organization. Teams will outline a plan for an attack or other event utilizing one or more CBRN agents in a manner that will advance the group's primary political objectives. After outlining the plan, teams will have 10 minutes to make an oral presentation of the plan to the organization's top leaders. This group exercise will take place and will count for 10% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 2: Individual consultations with instructor. Students are required to meet one-on-one with the instructor to discuss their individual research projects **twice** during the semester, before submitting Outcome 3 (preliminary research design) and Outcome 7 (seminar paper). Consultations may take place during the instructor's office hours or at another mutually agreed time. Each consultation will count for 5% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 3: Preliminary research design and presentation. Each student is required to post a 500-word (2-page) summary of their initial research design for their seminar paper to the seminar's Moodle site no later than **midnight Friday September 28**. At the seminar meeting on **Saturday October 6**, each student will give a 10-minute presentation on the design, and answer questions from the seminar on the design. Preliminary research designs will count for 10% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 4: CBRN threat environment scan. At the seminar meeting on **Saturday October 6**, teams of students assigned by the instructor will play the role of a group of experts advising the mayor, city council, and other top officials of a specified city, region, or other sub-national jurisdiction. Teams will conduct a threat environment scan outlining the main CBRN terrorist threats and make recommendations for prevention and response strategies. After preparing the threat environment scan, teams will have 10 minutes to make an oral presentation of your findings and recommendations to the authorities to whom they are responsible. Threat environment scans will count for 10% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 5: Comments on research designs. Each student will is required to review and provide comments on **all** other preliminary research designs presented at the second seminar meeting. Substantive comments no less than 100 words in length on every research design (except the student's own) must be posted to the seminar's Moodle site no later than **Midnight Friday October 12**. Research design comments will count for 5% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 6: Debates. At the third seminar meeting on **Saturday November 3**, teams of students will take part in debates on policy questions related to the prevention of and/or response to CBRN terrorism. Debate partners, resolutions, and positions (affirmative or negative) will be assigned by the instructor prior to the seminar meeting. Debates will count for 10% of the seminar grade.

Outcome 7: Seminar paper. Each student must submit a seminar paper presenting the results of their individual research. Seminar papers must be no less than 3750 words (approx. 15 pp.) and no more than 7500 words (approx. 30 pp.) in length and should be suitable for submission to a professional or academic journal. Seminar papers will count for 40% of the seminar grade and are due no later than **9:00 AM Saturday December 8**.

Outcome 8: Final project presentation. At the seminar meeting on **Saturday December 8**, each student will give a 15-minute presentation summarizing their final topic, methods, findings, and suggestions for future research and/or policy responses. Presentations will count for 5% of the seminar grade.

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Weighting and Grading of Outcomes

Outcomes will be weighted in the course grade as follows:

1. CBRN terrorism attack plan simulation	10%
2. Consultations with instructor	10%
3. Preliminary research design and presentation	10%
4. CBRN threat environment scan	10%
5. Comments on research designs	5%
6. Debates	10%
7. Seminar paper	40%
8. Final project presentation	5%

The scale below indicates point totals and corresponding letter grades for the course:

A = 92+ points

B+ = 89-88 points

C+ = 78-79 points

A- = 90-91 points

B = 82-87 points

C = 72-77 points

B- = 80-81 points

C- = 70-71 points

N.B.: Any questions or concerns about assessment or grading of an assignment should be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible after the assignment is graded. The instructor will make an effort in good faith to resolve issues with grading, but in cases of disagreement between the instructor and students, the **burden of proof is on the student to prove that the assignment was assessed inappropriately**. Institute policy on disputed academic evaluations may be found in section 4.1.1 of the **Academic Policies and Standards Manual**.

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Late Policy

Readings and other assignments include specific due dates to facilitate the pacing and interaction in the course. Your attention to the dates will contribute to an effective learning community and insure that you and your classmates are able to help one another build and improve your skills. If scheduling issues arise, contacting me in advance is necessary to maintain your good standing in the course.

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Instructional Methodology

IP658 combines interactive instruction with independent study, with direct instruction playing a small introductory role. During seminar meetings, students will participate in simulations and conduct debates, deliver presentations, provide comments and suggestions on research projects, and take part in discussions. Simulations and debates will be team activities. Outside the classroom, students will conduct independent research under the direction of the instructor.

Classroom Attendance: Attendance at all seminar sessions is required. If conflicts occur that make participation or attendance impossible, students must contact the instructor to make alternative arrangements.

Monterey Institute Honor Code and Plagiarism: The MIIS Honor Code is in effect at all times. Please review the Academic Policies Manual. Where teamwork or group assignments are not explicitly indicated, it is expected that individual students perform their own work without consultation with others. Assisting classmates with grammatical editing is permitted and encouraged. However, plagiarism, in any form, is a serious violation of the Honor Code. To avoid even the potential for violation we refer you to section 1.2.2.2 of the **Academic Policies and Standards Manual**.

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Course Outline and Reading List

Textbooks

One textbook is recommended for purchase for this seminar

1. **RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE:** Howard, R. D, and Forest, J. F., eds. (2008). *Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Other required and optional readings will be available online and/or placed on reserve at the MIIS library along with the following recommended books:

1. **ON RESERVE:** Gurr, N., and Cole, B. (2002). *The New Face of Terrorism, Threats From Weapons of Mass Destruction*. 2nd ed. London: I. B. Tauris.
2. **ON RESERVE:** Schmid, A.P., and Jongman, A.J. (2005). *Political Terrorism*. Rev. ed. London: Transaction.
3. **ON RESERVE:** Tucker, J., ed. (2000). *Toxic Terror: Assessing Terrorist Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
4. **ON RESERVE:** Leedy, P.D., and Ormrod, J.E. (2005). *Practical Research: Planning and Design*, 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.
6. **ON RESERVE:** Hoffmann, B. (1998). *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia.
7. **ON RESERVE:** Ferguson, C, Potter, W.C., Sands, A., Spector, L.F., and Wehling, F.L. (2005). *The Four Faces of Nuclear Terrorism*. Rev. ed. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Please Note: In order to facilitate classroom discussion with the instructor and your peers, as well as to strengthen your personal learning, required reading assignments are to be completed prior to the scheduled seminar session.

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Additional Resources

While a plethora of organizations purport to offer timely and accurate information about terrorism and WMD issues, many must be evaluated carefully to exclude inaccuracy and bias. With this caveat in mind, the following online sources are among those that may be considered usually reliable for research.

Centers for Public Health Preparedness Resource Center

<http://www.asph.org/acphp/phprc.cfm>

Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/academic/intrel/research/cstp/>

Combating Terrorism Center, USMA at West Point

<http://www.ctc.usma.edu>

Council on Foreign Relations Online Encyclopedia of Terrorism

<http://www.terrorismanswers.com>

DCI Counterterrorism Center

<https://www.cia.gov/terrorism/ctc.html>

Global Terrorism Incident Map

<http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>

Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Israel

<http://www.ict.org.il/>

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Singapore

<http://www.pvtr.org>

Jamestown Foundation Global Terrorism Analysis

<http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/>

Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre
<http://jtic.janes.com/public/jtic/index.shtml>

Middle East Media Research Institute Jihad and Terrorism Studies Project
<http://www.memri.org/jihad.html>

MIPT Terrorism Knowledge Base
<http://www.tkb.org/>

Monterey WMD Terrorism Database
<http://montrep.miis.edu>

NC-START Global Terrorism Database
<http://www.start.umd.edu/data/gtd/>

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)
<http://www.nctc.gov/>

U.S. Department of State: Response to Terrorism
http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html

IMPORTANT: When in doubt, don't Google. Searching the Internet for general information on a topic new to you is the worst way to find useful material and the best way to find misinformation. When exploring a new topic, the best rule of thumb is “**Don't search, browse.**” Begin with a reliable guide or collection of resources (such as those listed above) to find general information and follow links and references to specific information. Once you have reliable background information to provide context, Internet search engines are useful tools for finding specific facts or data, but these tools should be used near the end of your search for information, not at the beginning.

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N.B.: Any questions or concerns about assessment or grading of an assignment should be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible after the assignment is graded. The instructor will make an effort in good faith to resolve issues with grading, but in cases of disagreement between the instructor and students, the **burden of proof is on the student to prove that the assignment was assessed inappropriately.** Institute policy on disputed academic evaluations may be found in section 4.1.1 of the **Academic Policies and Standards Manual.**

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Seminar Schedule

Session 1 (Sep. 8):

**Terrorism and WMD:
Concepts and linkages**

**Assessing capabilities and
motivations for CBRN
terrorism**

Session focus:

- 1) Goals, organization, and requirements of the seminar
- 2) Defining terrorism
- 3) Assessing terrorist motivations and capabilities to acquire and use CBRN materials

Recommended readings:

- 1) Howard & Forest, 5-108 (109-293 optional)
- 2) Gurr, N. and Cole, B. (2002). "Political and Theological Motivations to Using NBC Weapons." In Gurr, N., and Cole, B., *The New Face of Terrorism: Threats from Weapons of Mass Destruction* (London: I. B. Tauris), 126-161
- 3) Post, J. (2002). "Differentiating the Threats of Chemical and Biological Weapons: Motivations and Constraints." *Peace and Conflict* 8:3, 187-200
- 4) Ivanova, K., and Sandler, T. (2006). "CBRN Incidents: Political Regimes, Perpetrators, and Targets." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 18:3, 423-448
- 5) Ackerman, G., and Bale, J. M. (2006) "How Serious is the "WMD Terrorism" Threat?: Terrorist Motivations and Capabilities for Using CBRN Weapons." In *WMD Terrorism* (Cambridge, MA: M.I.T., forthcoming)

CBRN terrorism attack plan simulation

Between sessions:

- 1) Individual consultations with instructor
- 2) Preliminary research designs due September 28

Session 2 (Oct. 6):

**Preventing and responding
to CBRN incidents**

Session focus:

Research design presentations

Recommended readings:

- 1) Howard & Forest, 295-316, 335-411
- 2) Those who would like additional guidance or suggestions for research methods are encouraged to read Leedy, P.D., and Ormrod, J.E. (2005), *Practical Research: Planning and Design*, 8th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall)

CBRN threat environment scan exercise

Between sessions:

- 1) Research design comments due October 12
- 2) Work in teams to prepare for debates

Session 3 (Nov. 3):

**National strategy and
international cooperation**

Session focus:

Debates

Recommended readings:

- 1) Howard & Forest, 459-531
- 2) Work in teams to prepare for debates

Between sessions:

Individual consultations with instructor

Session 4 (Dec. 8):

**Conclusions and
implications for prevention
and response**

Session focus:

Presentations of findings, conclusions, and implications of individual research projects

Required readings:

No specific readings are required.

Seminar papers and final project presentations due