

POU44334 — New Topics in Political Science 12: Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU44334</i>
Module Title	<i>New Topics in Political Science 12: Terrorism & Counterterrorism</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Dr Sotirios Karampampas</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>One 2-hours lecture per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>This module offers a critical introduction to the study of terrorism and counter-terrorism. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, it examines key debates surrounding the concept of terrorism, including definitional ambiguities, competing explanations of terrorist violence, and the range of counter-terrorism strategies employed by states and international actors. Topics include state terrorism, the impact of 9/11, radicalisation processes, and global responses to terrorism. Particular attention is paid to the political uses of the term “terrorism” and the power dynamics that shape its application. The module encourages students to question dominant narratives, explore under-researched forms of political violence, and engage with the ethical and legal dilemmas raised by counter-terrorism measures. Emphasis is placed on the empirical and conceptual challenges of studying terrorism in a globalised and securitised world.</i>
Module Learning Aims	<i>The module aims to</i> <i>- Provide an interdisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism across historical and contemporary contexts.</i>

Module Content

	- <i>Examine the main theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of political violence and terrorism.</i> - <i>Explore the processes of radicalisation, de-radicalisation, and counter-radicalisation.</i> - <i>Assess the global impact of counter-terrorism measures and the long-term consequences of the war on terror.</i> - <i>Encourage critical reflection on the political, ethical, and legal dilemmas involved in defining and responding to terrorism.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to</i> - <i>Demonstrate a critical awareness of the key debates in the study of terrorism and counter-terrorism.</i> - <i>Analyse the factors contributing to individual and group radicalisation and the adoption of political violence.</i> - <i>Situate contemporary terrorist groups and tactics within broader historical and geopolitical contexts.</i> - <i>Critically assess the role of the nation-state in both perpetrating and responding to terrorism.</i> - <i>Evaluate the ethical, legal, and political implications of counter-terrorism policies in diverse settings.</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	<i>Bakker, E. (2015). Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies: Comparing Theory and Practice. Leiden University Press.</i> <i>Chenoweth, E. et al. (eds.) (2019). The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism. Oxford University Press.</i> <i>Hoffman, B. (2017). Inside Terrorism. 3rd edition. Columbia University Press (multiple editions).</i> <i>Martin, G. (2018). Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues, 6th Edition. Sage Publishing (multiple editions).</i> <i>Silke, A. P. (ed.) (2018). Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. 2nd edition. Routledge (multiple editions).</i>

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>Participation & Attendance 10%. Midterm Essay 40%, Final Exam 50%</i>
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Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None