



PICT8037

Choosing Terror: Pathways into Terrorism

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPICT or MCP ICT or GradDipPICT or GradDipCPICT or PGCertPICT or GradCertPICT or GradCertCPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MCP ICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or MCTerrorism or MCyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCTerrorism or MCyberSecMCTerrorism or MCTerrorismMCrim or admission to BSecStudMCTerrorism

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the complex webs of networks and relationships involved in the development and evolution of violent extremism. These dynamics will be examined through a socio-cultural theoretical framework that draws upon contemporary terrorist scholarship including social media analysis and facilitates a critical examination of violent extremism. The unit will expose students to the complex web of socio-cultural, psychological, ideological, political and economic dynamics that produce, sustain, evolve and dissolve terrorism and violent extremism. Real world case-studies drawing on violent extremist activities, counter policies and initiatives will assist students in the formulation of sustained and persuasive arguments and techniques relating to current and future trends and patterns in the field of terrorist studies. The unit will establish a strong grounding in the theoretical constructs and techniques for a future career in the broader security discipline.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism

ULO2: Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism

ULO3: Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism

ULO4: Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments that demonstrates the ability to select and evaluate appropriate sources of information.

ULO5: Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Literature Review	30%	No	Week 7
Quiz	10%	No	Week 13
Active Engagement	10%	No	Weekly
Research Essay	50%	No	Week 12

Literature Review

Assessment Type ¹: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **30%**

A critical literature review.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism
- Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments that demonstrates the ability to select and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **10%**

The quiz will include questions drawn from the weekly lectures and the required reading materials for the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism

Active Engagement

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Active engagement refers to the demonstration of sustained, informed, and critical contributions to seminars, the demonstration of reflective intellectual practice, the completion of the weekly in-class tasks, and the demonstration that you have engaged with the set materials for the course.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social

construction of terrorism and violent extremism

- Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will select one essay question from the list provided to all students on the unit iLearn site. The essay questions are drawn from the material and content covered over the 13 weeks of the unit. The research essay provides students an opportunity to develop core disciplinary knowledge, enhance research and critical thinking skills, demonstrate effective written communication skills and demonstrate originality.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism
- Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments that demonstrates the ability to select and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments. Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities. In most cases, students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit. **REQUIRED READINGS**

The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit's iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement. This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/> Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient. Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site. Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date. Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process. The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

LATE ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION PENALTY

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

Stated word limits include footnotes and footnoted references, but not bibliography, or title page. Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure. If the number of

words exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words over the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%). The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing an](#)

[d maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.01 of the [Handbook](#)