PICT802
Terrorism Issues
S1 Evening 2016

Dept of Policing, Intelligence & Counter-Terrorism

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/67721/unit_guide/print
General Information

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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MICT or PGDipPICT or GradDipPICT or PGCertPICT or MICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or PGDipIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or PGCertIntSecStud

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit explores the evolution of terrorism and politically motivated violence, considers the motivations of terrorists and terrorist groups and assesses trends in terrorist methodology. Contemporary and evolving case studies are employed to enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of the contemporary practitioners of terrorism and politically motivated violence.

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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

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

- Demonstrate a high level of critical comprehension regarding the concept of terrorism and its academic investigation
- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
- Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.
Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly. Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>See iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source Critical Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>See iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>See iLearn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Paper**

Due: **See iLearn**  
Weighting: **50%**

Details on the requirement are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a high level of critical comprehension regarding the concept of terrorism and its academic investigation.
- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
- Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.
- Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly.
- Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

**Primary Source Critical Review**

Due: **See iLearn**  
Weighting: **30%**

Details on the requirement are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a high level of critical comprehension regarding the concept of terrorism and its academic investigation
- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
- Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.
- Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly.
- Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

Active Participation

Due: See iLearn
Weighting: 20%

Active participation includes the demonstration of sustained informed and critical contributions to seminars or online forums, demonstration of reflective practice, completion of some online or in-class groupwork tasks, as well as online quizzes. Details on the requirement are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a high level of critical comprehension regarding the concept of terrorism and its academic investigation
- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
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- Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.
Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

• You should spend an average of at least 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to pre-recorded lectures prior to seminar discussions and reading weekly required readings detailed in iLearn.
• Internal students are expected to attend all seminar sessions and external students are expected to contribute to on-line discussions.
• Students are required to 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 iLearn site, and at Macquarie University’s Library EReserve site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed at the EReserve site.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

• Personal PC 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.
• For technical support go to: http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help
• For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

• All assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
• Assessment tasks must be submitted either as a PDF or 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 of up to one week are at the discretion of the unit convener. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing before the due date for the submission of the assessment task. Extensions beyond one week are subject to the university’s Disruptions Policy (http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html#purpose).

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

• If an assignment is submitted late, 5% of the available mark will be deducted for each day (including weekends) the paper is late.

• For example, if a paper is worth 20 marks, 1 mark will be deducted from the grade given for each day that it is late (i.e. a student given 15/20 who submitted 4 days late will lose 4 marks = 11/20).

• The same principle applies if an extension is granted and the assignment is submitted later than the amended date.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

• Stated word limits do not include references, 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 x 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.

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

• Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their
work was graded inappropriately (http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html). This process involves all assignments submitted for that unit being reassessed. However, in exceptional cases students may request that a single piece of work is reassessed.

**Unit Schedule**

Introduction - challenges of the academic study of terrorism

Key concepts and ideas – terrorism, radicalization, de-radicalization, mobilization, disruption, violent extremism

Importance of critical thinking and terrorism studies

History of terrorism and politically motivated terrorism to 1968

History of terrorism and politically motivated terrorism since 1968

Post 9/11 and the ‘Global War on Terrorism’

The rise of the so-called Islamic State – from al-Qaeda affiliate to autonomous threat

Regional trends in terrorism and politically motivated violence in Africa, Middle East, Europe and Americas

Regional trends in terrorism and politically motivated violence in Asia and Oceania, including Australia

Cyberterrorism – an overstated threat?

Nuclear, radiological, chemic and biological terrorism

Religion and terrorism

Terrorism Financing

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, 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 ask.mq.edu.au.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Services and Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**Student Enquiries**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](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](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
- Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.
- Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly.
- Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

Assessment tasks

- Research Paper
- Primary Source Critical Review
- Active Participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
- Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained
and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.

• Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly.

• Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

Assessment tasks

• Research Paper
• Primary Source Critical Review
• Active Participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.

• Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.

• Demonstrate higher order communication skills including the ability to present sustained and persuasive arguments cogently and coherently.

• Model research skills, particularly the ability to select appropriately and integrate knowledge from diverse sources to evaluate its significance and relevance; synthesise material and present findings, rationally and lucidly.

• Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

Assessment tasks

• Research Paper
• Primary Source Critical Review
• Active Participation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or
practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
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- Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

**Assessment tasks**

- Research Paper
- Primary Source Critical Review
- Active Participation

**PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
- Investigate a substantial body of contemporary terrorism and politically motivated violence literature.
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• Demonstrate higher level skills in critical analysis.

**Assessment tasks**

• Research Paper
• Primary Source Critical Review
• Active Participation

**PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Display engagement with the field of terrorism studies through the examination and exploration of critical texts, concepts and theories.
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**Assessment tasks**

• Research Paper
• Primary Source Critical Review
• Active Participation

**About this Unit**

**Unit description**

This unit explores the evolution of terrorism and politically motivated violence, considers the motivations of terrorists and terrorist groups, and assesses trends in terrorism. The unit includes studies of terrorist and politically-motivated groups, including al-Qaeda and its affiliates, and the more recent threat posed by Islamic State, in order to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of the practitioners of terrorism and politically motivated violence. Please note:
this unit will be offered as a one-week intensive block course.

Changes since First Published

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/01/2016</td>
<td>For approval by HoD.</td>
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