PICT837

Terrorism Dynamics

S2 Evening 2017

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MCRIM or MPICT or MCPICT or PGDipPICT or GradDipPICT or GradDipCPICT or PGCertPICT or GradCertPICT or GradCertCPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MCPICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or PGCertIntell

Corequisites

Co-badged status
PICT837 2017 S2 External PICX837 2017 S2 OUA

Unit description
This unit explores the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism through a consideration of supporting dynamics including ideology, forms of communication, financing, criminal networks, and logistics. Contemporary and evolving case studies will provide students with the opportunity to explore the consequences of these dynamics on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorist organisations and violent extremists. Consideration of how these dynamics relate to counterterrorism operations will also be made. The unit compliments and builds upon both PICT802, and PICT818.

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:

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

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

3. Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism

4. Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments demonstrating the ability to select appropriate sources, integrate knowledge, evaluate its relevance and present findings rationally and lucidly

5. Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Engagement Quiz Weeks 6 & 12	10%	No	Weeks 6 & 12
Critical Review	40%	No	Sunday of Week 3
Research Essay	50%	No	Sunday of Week 10

Engagement Quiz Weeks 6 & 12

Due: **Weeks 6 & 12**
Weighting: **10%**

There will be two quizzes set during this unit in week 6 and week 12. Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade and 10% in total. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions drawn from the lectures and reading material covered in weeks 2-6 and weeks 7-12.

Additional details about the quizzes are available to enrolled students through the units i-Learn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- 2. Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism

Critical Review

Due: **Sunday of Week 3**
Weighting: **40%**

Details on the Critical Review including the question, guidance on completing a critical review, information on accurate referencing and stylistic guidance, and the marking rubric that will be used to grade the assignment, are available to enrolled students through the units i-Learn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- 2. Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- 3. Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism
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- 5. Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Research Essay

Due: **Sunday of Week 10**
Weighting: **50%**

Details on how to complete this assignment are available to enrolled students through the units i-Learn site. The information available via the i-Learn site includes the choice of questions, guidance on completing a research essay, word limits and guidance on referencing, and the detailed marking rubric used to grade the assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- 2. Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- 3. Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism
- 4. Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments demonstrating the ability to select appropriate sources, integrate knowledge, evaluate its relevance and present findings rationally and lucidly
- 5. Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Delivery and Resources

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 and 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 of the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit 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 for this unit is available at https://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 subjected to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.

- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Disruption Policy. Extensions will not in normal circumstances be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Disruption to Study: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration/disruption-to-studies

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 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%, 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%).

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: http://student.mq.edu.au/support/complaints_appeals/appeals/grade_appeals/
- Conforming to the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavor to answer student enquiries in a timely manner. However, emails or iLearn messages will not usually be answered over the weekend or public holiday period.
- Students are encouraged to read the Unit Guide and look at instructions posted on the iLearn site before sending email requests to staff.

Unit Schedule

1. Introduction: Who, why, and when do individuals engage with violent extremism?

2. Critical debates in Terrorism Studies: Structural approaches

3. Critical debates in Terrorism Studies: Psychological approaches

4. Critical debates in Terrorism Studies: Networked approaches

5. On becoming violent and extreme: Processes of radicalization

6. Social Media and violent extremism: Marketing, branding, and impact

7. Should we discuss ideology?

8. Foreign Fighters past and present

9. Where are the women? Gender roles and violent extremism

10. Terrorist financing

11. Crime-Terror nexus

12. Turning the lens on ourselves: Manifestations of violent extremism by western democracies

13. Conclusion

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

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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/

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/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (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 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/.

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.

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

- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- 2. Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- 5. Demonstrate higher-level skills in critical analysis

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review
- Research Essay

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

- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
- 2. Identify, investigate and evaluate the dynamics that impact on the development, evolution and dissolution of terrorism and violent extremism
- 3. Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism

Assessment tasks

- Engagement Quiz Weeks 6 & 12
- Critical Review
- Research Essay

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

- 1. Identify, examine and analyse texts, concepts and theories relating to the social construction of terrorism and violent extremism
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- 3. Critique contemporary literature relating to concepts of terrorism and violent extremism
- 4. Formulate sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments demonstrating the ability to select appropriate sources, integrate knowledge, evaluate its relevance and present findings rationally and lucidly
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Assessment tasks

- Critical Review
- Research Essay

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

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

- Critical Review
- Research Essay

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

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

- Engagement Quiz Weeks 6 & 12
- Critical Review
- Research Essay

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

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Assessment tasks

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