

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Political Violence and Terror
2	Module Code:	INTR31420
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Full-Year
5	School:	Social Sciences/Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	City
7	Date:	September 2017

8 **Pre, Post and Co-requisites:**

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

Pre, Co, Post Module Code Module Title

9 **Courses containing the module**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	SW		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages

10 **Overview and Aims**

This module is an opportunity for you to expand your knowledge and understanding of political violence and terror in a global context. It explores the concept of 'insecurity' in a broad sense through engaging in a range of issues which include what terrorism is, who is involved in terrorism, what causes terrorism, and what are the consequences of the rise of state and non-state political actors using violence to communicate and facilitate their objectives.

The module will explore both the theoretical approaches to the study of violence, as well as exploring a range of real world cases to illustrate the increasingly complex use of violence for political objectives. The module will build upon second year modules which will challenge you to deepen your theoretical as well as empirical knowledge of international relations. It is also a companion for other research-led third year modules. The overall aim of this course is to allow you to:

1. Critically analyse political violence and terror.
2. Consider how time and place impact upon how political and structural violence is manifest.
3. Critically explore fundamental concepts, processes, actors and issues within terrorism and counter terrorism.

11 Module Content

This module explores the relationship between politics and violence in contemporary international relations. The topics covered are:

- International Law
- Just War Theory
- Conventional Military force
- Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
- Critical Security Studies and Critical Terrorism
- State Failure
- Regime Change
- Ethnic Conflict
- Gender and Insecurity

12 Indicative Reading

- Ankersen, Christopher (ed.) (2007) *Understanding Global Terror* Cambridge: Polity.
- Berman, Eli (2009) *Radical, Religious and Violent: The New Economics of Terrorism*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Canter, David (2010) *The Faces of Terrorism: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Freedman, Lawrence (2002) *Superterrorism: Policy Responses*. Oxford: Blackwell.

- Giorgetti, Chiara (2010) *A Principled Approach to State Failure: International Community Actions in Emergency Situations*. Boston, MA.: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.
- Harmon, Christopher (2007) *Terrorism Today* (2nd edn). Abingdon: Routledge.
- Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside Terrorism* (Revised edn). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Howard, Russell and Reid Sawyer et al. (2011) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment* (4th edn). Guilford, CT.: McGraw-Hill.
- Howard, Tiffany O. (2010) *The Tragedy of Failure: Evaluating State Failure and Its Impact on the Spread of Refugees, Terrorism and War*. Westport, CT.: Praeger
- Jackson, R. (et al) (2011) *Terrorism: A Critical Introduction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Rosenfeld, Jean E. (2011) *Terrorism, Identity and Legitimacy: The Four Waves Theory and Political Violence*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Schmid, Alex P. (2011) *The Routledge Handbook of Terrorism Research*. Abingdon: Routledge.

13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to explain:

1. Critically evaluate the rise and development of terrorism studies within IR.
2. Critically reflect on how state building process impact upon the rise of terrorism
3. Demonstrate a critical awareness of a range of theories relevant to the study and analysis of political violence.
4. Critically investigate different approaches to counter terrorism taken by key actors in international relations.
5. Critically compare and contrast the interests and priorities of different state and non-state actors in engaging with issues of political violence and terror.
6. Critically evaluate, synthesise and apply literature of political violence and terror to the study of international relations.

Skills, qualities and attributes – After studying this module you should be able to:

1. Collect, organise, analyse and present principally secondary, but also primary, material/data.
2. Carry out individual/independent learning.
3. Negotiation, cooperation and communication whilst working in a team.
4. Synthesise, in written and oral form, complex arguments and complex information gathered from different sources, including statistical databases, official reports, novels and literature, film and academic books/journal sources appropriate to the module material.

14 **Teaching and Learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

The module is based on several key elements within which formal lectures and seminars will be compulsory and form the staple of formal contact time. The 24 lectures (each 1 hour) will run each week during normal teaching weeks and will be used to present key information to you in order to introduce and develop your understanding of the topics covered. The 24 seminar sessions (each 1 hour) will run every week through the year but will start one week after the lectures and will be used to reinforce your understanding of the topics covered, explore other relevant issues, material and ideas surrounding the topics under discussion, and to provide peer and staff feedback. Seminars will also be used to develop transferable skills, including: communication and group discussion skills, team work abilities and presentation skills.

Individual meetings with the module leader and seminar tutor(s) will be encouraged throughout the module via the tutorial and office hour systems.

Total Contact Hours

48

Range of other learning methods

This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research

The teaching methods used seek to encourage various skills such as team-work, presentation, communication, writing, research and resourcefulness. Support is provided through a virtual learning environment via a dedicated NOW learning room where students receive lecture presentations and supplementary materials for seminars. Further materials are provided through the usage of the university's Resource List Management Software (RLMS), with a dedicated resource list containing seminal books, journals, reports, newspapers and audio-visual materials. A range of formative and summative assignments are used on the module with presentations enabling you to be involved in in-depth research and to practice your oral and presentation skills

The university's grade based assessment scheme will be used for the summative and formative assignments for this module.

Total non-contact hours:

152

15 **Assessment methods**

This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module

<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
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1	100%	Portfolio	Group Presentation/simulation Report, Literature Review, Case Study.
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Diagnostic/ formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark

This module aims to enhance self-reflection through the use of online resources delivered via the dedicated NOW learning room. E-learning tools (as outlined above as part of the dedicated learning room on NOW) will act as a forum for formative independent study and self- and peer-review. Seminar discussion of pre-set questions/discussion points will also lead to peer and staff feedback.

Further information on assessment

N/A

Document Management

16	Module Title:	Political Violence and Terror
17	Module Code:	INTR31420
18	Subject (JACS) Code	L250
19	Cost Centre	29
20	School:	Social Sciences
21	Academic Team	Politics and International Relations
22	Campus	City
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>

Institution

%

23a Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution-
Please name
Percentage not taught by NTU

23b Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU

23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU

23d Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU

24	Date of approval:	January 2017 (AAH)
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