

Module Details	
Module Title	Terrorism: Trends, Causes and Responses
Module Code	PES7027-B
Academic Year	2022/3
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Seminars	3
Tutorials	4
Lectures	28
Directed Study	165

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Non-Standard Academic Year

Module Aims

To enable you to:

- a) Develop an advanced, critical, understanding of the complex factors and issues concerning:
 - i. trends, causes and responses to terrorism and political violence;
 - ii. transnational terrorist networks (including IS, Al-Qaeda, and AQIM) and
 - iii. organisations that use terrorism in pursuit of more national or local objectives (e.g. Taliban, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram);
- b) Develop a critical awareness of:
 - i. key concepts and approaches that are used to frame academic, policy and practitioner debates and to analyse trends, causes and responses to terrorism and political violence;
 - ii. particularly relating to contemporary terrorism and terrorist networks; and
 - iii. strategies and activities for preventing, combating and limiting risks and impacts of terrorism and associated organisations and networks;
- c) Increase your knowledge and understanding of:
 - i. particular terrorist risks and networks, and the ideologies and belief systems and other factors that enable them to recruit and sustain their activities; and of
 - ii. lessons from experience with efforts to prevent or counter risks and activities of terrorism and violent extremism - including of selected case studies of high contemporary relevance;
- d) Apply this advanced understanding and critical awareness to the analysis and assessment of:
 - i. contemporary trends, causes and responses to terrorism and political violence; including lessons from experience on what works;
 - ii. interrelationships between international terrorism and domestic risks of terrorism in the UK and Western Europe; and
 - iii. interrelationship between combating dedicated terrorist networks and addressing contextual associated social, economic, conflict and security issues which terrorists can exploit.

Outline Syllabus

The module starts with an introduction to, and critical analysis of, the different definitions, forms and trends of contemporary terrorism, counter-terrorism and terrorism prevention, exploring the depth and complexity of the issues involved. It explores issues of political violence and use of terror in the local and national contexts (in relation to both liberal democratic states and authoritarian, fragile and conflict affected states) and also the development and characteristics of transnational terrorist networks. It examines the ideologies and belief systems and other factors that enable terrorist networks to recruit and sustain their activities, including islamicist ideologies that have provided a context for the development of Al Qaeda and IS. Within this overall framework and syllabus, the module examines the current context for terrorist action through selected case studies, such as IS and Al-Qaeda; the experience of - Global War on Terror - and recent developments in counter-terrorism; and complex terrorist/political violence in relation to Eurasia, Pakistan/Afghanistan; Sahara Sahel; West Africa, North Africa, Somalia; and Syria/Lebanon/Iraq. The module examines policies and programmes for terrorism prevention, and for counter-terrorism. It reviews lessons from experience with efforts to prevent or counter risks and activities of terrorism and violent extremism - including of selected case studies of high contemporary relevance - and their interrelationships with issues of tackling complex conflicts and transnational criminal networks. It then discusses the implications for contemporary policy and programmes for the UK and its partners.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Explain and assess the uses of key concepts, theories and perspectives in the understanding of the causes and trends of terrorism, and the responses aiming to prevent or combat terrorism and associated political violence.
02	Drawing on recent experiences and selected case studies, analyse and assess the complex processes and characteristics associated with trends, causes and responses to terrorism and political violence, and their relationships with wider conflict, peace-building, development or transnational processes and policies.
03	Critically examine the development, implementation and effectiveness of policies and programmes that have been considered or adopted by governments or international or regional organisations to prevent or combat terrorism and associated political violence in selected regions or contexts.
04	Conduct a policy analysis and evaluate policy options of a specific issue relating to terrorism risks or processes, demonstrating capacity and skills to engage with contemporary policy debates in a sophisticated way.
05	Conduct advanced analysis and communicate this in a clear, concise and coherent manner which is tailored to the appropriate audience.
06	Work independently and demonstrate advanced library research and academic analysis skills.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
<p>Teaching will be through a combination of lectures, seminars, class exercises and discussions, and short syndicate projects. Learning will develop through preparatory reading, participation in lectures, seminars, class discussions, guided study, coursework, and tutor support. Students will receive relevant pre-course readings, customised for the course.</p> <p>During the direct course itself, teaching and learning will be through a combination of lectures, discussions, group work and short syndicate projects, in an intensive four day period of teaching and learning at appropriate facilities on the University of Bradford Campus. All sessions will be presented by internationally recognised experts in the relevant field, including experienced and specialist academics at the University of Bradford and other UK Universities, but also prominent experts from the UK and international policy and practitioner communities.</p> <p>Subsequently, students studying for this module will be allocated a personal tutor, who will guide and support their study and preparation of coursework for the remainder of this module. All participants are provided with teaching materials (including copies of presentations) during the course, and at the end of the course receive a certificate of participation.</p> <p>Formative assessment will be undertaken through feedback from class discussions, exercises and group work during the intensive course on campus. It will then be undertaken by individual academic tutor feedback on directed study and on planning and development of written work.</p> <p>Summative assessment will be through a combination of a written presentation of the findings of a policy research project and of an academic essay. The written presentation of the analysis and conclusions of a short individual project will be on a policy-relevant question (authorised by the module co-ordinator), presented in a format appropriate for use in a presentation of up to 25 minutes to an expert practitioner audience (for example, in the form of a Powerpoint presentation plus speakers notes and bibliography). The essay will be 3,300 - 3,500 words in length addressing a question (selected from a list authorised by the module co-ordinator) relating to trends, causes and responses to terrorism and political violence</p>

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	3300-3500 words: Preparation and written presentation of desk research and analysis-based essay addressing set question.	85%
Summative	Presentation	25 minute briefing: Individual policy analysis project, in presentational format with supporting notes and bibliography	15%
Formative	Coursework - Written	Feedback on plans for short policy research project and on outline for written presentation on findings.	N/A
Formative	Self and Peer Assessment	Class discussions; feedback on short group exercises, plus tutor individual feedback on directed study and planned essay outlines	N/A

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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