HIST 2189 COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Academic Year:** 2022/23

2. **Course Code:** HIST 2189

3. **Course Title:** Terrorism: A Global History from Anarchists to ISIS

4. **Course Description:**

   This course focuses on the history of terrorism from the late 19th Century to the early 21st Century. It adopts a comparative approach surveying multiple terrorist campaigns across Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. Students will firstly be introduced to broad themes and issues such as "what is terrorism?", "who is a terrorist", and the connection between terrorist political violence and the rise of modern forms of political control by nation-states and empires. The course then moves on to examine these themes in depth by focusing on pre-World War II anarchist terrorism; far-right, far-left, and state terrorism during the Cold War; and radical Islamist terrorism since the end of the Cold War.

   Assessment: 100% coursework

5. **Intended Learning Outcomes:**

   At the end of this course you will be able:
   - to map the emergence of “terrorism” as a concept and as a practice of political violence in modern history.
   - to critically evaluate causes and consequences of terrorist political violence in modern and contemporary history.
   - to compare different paths in the response to the challenges of terrorism across a variety of polities and historical periods.
   - to gain a basic knowledge and the necessary conceptual tools to further study issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism in fields such as area and security studies.

6. **Offer Semester:** Summer Semester - July 3rd - July 21st

7. **Days of Teaching:** Monday to Friday, 9:30-12:30

8. **Venues:** tba

9. **Teacher:**

    Dr. Aurelio Insisa  
    School of Humanities (History), Faculty of Arts  
    Office: Room 9.06, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus.  
    Office Hours: contact the instructor via email.  
    Email: insisa@hku.hk
10. **Assessment Tasks** (for more information, please read the Assignments Guide):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Assignment Method</th>
<th>Weighting/ Points per Assignment</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Students choose a research question from a range of options provided by the instructor</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>August, 1st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>Students attend on time each of the course’s sections</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Text</td>
<td>Students submit their answers to a test to be submitted online</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>July, 21st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Students attend and actively participate to the tutorials</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>check course plan</td>
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11. GRADE BANDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>MARK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>77-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>76-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>47-40</td>
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<td>&lt;40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12. COURSE PLAN:
The course is designed to provide the best tools for your two written assignments.

There is a list of readings pairing the content of each lecture. These readings are divided in assignment readings, and readings for tutorials. You are required different tasks for each set of readings. Check the “Syllabus” in section 15 of this outline to get full bibliographical information on the sources and how to get access to them.

**Assignment readings.** These are the sources you need to use for your two written assignments. Given the number of sources provided, **obviously you are not required to read them all.** However, keep in mind that self-studying is critical to undergraduate work in the humanities and social sciences. Therefore, it is up to you to decide to what extent you want to “dive deep” in the literature.

Remember that there are multiple overlaps between the sources. In other words, many sources in the readings treat the same arguments, in order to provide different perspectives on the same issues: this will be very useful when you will write your assignments. To obtain an A-range grade in your written assignment, you should read most, if not all, of the readings related to the topic you chose.

**Tutorial readings.** These readings, consisting of both secondary and primary sources, provide an in-depth coverage of topics previously discussed during the frontal lecture. You need to study these prepare for the tutorials. You can use the primary sources for your assignments, but **you cannot use the secondary sources** for your response papers.

Beyond these two categories, there is also on volume for **reference materials.** Listed in the syllabus after the list of tutorial readings. You can use it in your written assignments, but you will be penalized if you build your essay around it. These reference materials are collated in an encyclopaedia, use it mainly as a source for immediate reference to familiarize yourself with terms and names you do not know while you read your assignment or tutorial readings.

**DAY 1**
**Lecture 1 – What Is Terrorism? / “When Was Terrorism?”**

DAY 2
Lecture 2 – The Wider Context: The Politics and Ideologies of the Industrial Age

DAY 3
Lecture 3 – The First Century of Modern Terrorism, 1848-1945

DAY 4
Lecture 4 – The Wider Context of Terrorism: The Cold War

DAY 5
Lecture 5 – Terrorism in Israel/Palestine before Islamist Jihad, pt. 1

DAY 6
Lecture 6 – Terrorism in Israel/Palestine before Islamist Jihad, pt. 2

DAY 7
Lecture 7 – Revolutionary Terrorism in Cold-War Italy


“Terrorism and Democracy within One Country”; Foot, The Archipelago;  Fritzsche, “Terrorism in the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy”; Gabbas, “Maoism, Political Violence and Terrorism in Italy”; Ganser, NATO’s Secret Armies; Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, chapter 8; Holmes, Communism; Judt, Postwar; Law, Terrorism, 254-280; Lutz, Global Terrorism, 129-188; Lynn II, Another Kind of War, 205-234; Orsini, Anatomy of the Red Brigades; Passmore, Fascism; Sánchez-Cuenca, “The Causes of Revolutionary Terrorism”; Sánchez-Cuenca, The Historical Roots of Political Violence; Weinberg, “Italian Neo-Fascist Terrorism”.

DAY 8
Lecture 8 – Revolutionary Terrorism in Cold-War in West Germany, Belgium, and France

DAY 9
Lecture 9 – Terrorism for the Nation: The IRA and the ETA
Tutorial readings: Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, chapters 3 and 6.

DAY 10
Lecture 10 – Terrorism in Latin America: The Downward Spiral From Revolutionary Insurgencies to Narcoterrorism

DAY 11
Lecture 11 – Islamist Jihad and Terrorism: Context and Origins
Tutorial readings: Re, “The Red Brigades’ Communiqués”; Jander, “German Leftist Terrorism and Israel”.

DAY 12
Lecture 12 – Terrorism in Israel/Palestine and the Islamist Jihad
Assignment readings: Bartal, Jihad in Palestine; Cook, “Islamist Terrorism from the Muslim Brotherhood to Hamas”; Gelvin, The Modern Middle East; Gleis, Hamas and Hezbollah; Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, chapter 8; Jefferis, Hamas; Law, Terrorism, 254-280; Levitt, Hamas; Lynn II, Another Kind of War, 199-204, 267-288; Norman, “Terrorism in Israel/Palestine”; Norton, Hezbollah; Skare, A History of Palestinian Jihad; Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; Westad, The Global Cold War.

DAY 13
Lecture 13 – The “New” Terrorism? Al-Qaeda and Its Offshoots
Tutorial readings: Hafez, “Jihadi Salafism”; Hellmich, “The Ideology of Al-Qaeda”

DAY 14
Lecture 14 – Terrorist Eschatology: ISIS/Daesh
Assignment readings: Byman, Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement; Celso, “The Islamic State’s Ideology and Strategic Worldview”; Flannery, Understanding Apocalyptic Terrorism, 127-142; Gerges, ISIS; Lynn II, Another Kind of War, 310-331; McCants, The ISIS Apocalypse; Ostřanský, The Jihadist Preachers of the End Times; Roy, Jihad and Death; Wasserstein, Black Banners of ISIS; Williams, “Aiqithams (Whirlwind Attacks)”.
Tutorial reading (primary source): Ingram, The ISIS Reader

DAY 15
In-class test
13. SYLLABUS:

**READINGS FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS:**


**Blumenau,** Bernhard. “The United Nations and West Germany’s Efforts against International Terrorism in the 1970s.” In *An International History of Terrorism: Western and Non-Western Experiences,* edited by In Jussi M. Hanhimäki, and Bernhard Blumenau, 66-85. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2014. [provided by the instructor]


Flannery, Frances A. *Understanding Apocalyptic Terrorism: Countering the Radical Mindset*. New York: Routledge, 2016. [excerpts provided by the instructor]


Hänni, Adrian. “Secret Bedfellows? The KGB, Carlos the Jackal and Cold War Psychological Warfare.” *Studies in Conflicts & Terrorism* 43, No.1 (2020): 69-87. [provided by the instructor]


Holmes, Jennifer. “The Urban Guerrilla, Terrorism, and State Terrorism in Latin America”. In The Routledge History of Terrorism, edited by Randall D. Law, 284-296. New York: Routledge, 2015. [provided by the instructor]


Jenkins, Philip. “Strategy of Tension: The Belgian Terrorist Crisis, 1982-1986.” Studies in Conflict and Terrorism 13, No. 4-5 (1990): 299-309. [provided by the instructor]


Norman, Julie M. “Terrorism in Israel/Palestine.” In The Cambridge History of Terrorism, edited by Richard English, 149-172. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021. [provided by the instructor]


Richards, Anthony. “Conceptualizing Terrorism.” Studies in Conflict & Terrorism 37, No. 3 (2014): 213-236. [provided by the instructor]


Williams, Phil. “The Terrorism Debate Over Mexican Drug Trafficking Violence.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24, No. 2 (2012): 259-278. [provided by the instructor]


**TUTORIAL READINGS** [YOU CANNOT USE THEM IN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE]


Jander, Martin. “German Leftist Terrorism and Israel: Ethno-Nationalist, Religious-Fundamentalist, or Social-Revolutionary?” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 38, No. 6 (2015): 456-477. [article available online on the website of the academic journal]


REFERENCE MATERIALS [YOU CAN USE THIS SOURCE IN YOUR ASSIGNMENT, BUT YOU WILL BE PENALIZED IF YOU BUILD YOUR ESSAY AROUND IT]

SUGGESTED VIEWINGS [YOU CANNOT USE THEM IN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS]

**22 July.** 2018 movie about Anders Breivik’s 2011 terrorist attacks in Oslo and Utoya. [streaming on Netflix]

**’71.** 2010 movie about British counter-insurgency operations against the PIRA in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. [streaming on Netflix]

**Carlos.** 2010 miniseries about the far-left terrorist Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, aka “Carlos the Jackal.” [available in hard copy at the Music Library, 791.43 C284 A, streaming on Amazon]

**Der Baader Meinhof Komplex (The Baader Meinhof Complex).** 2010 movie about the Rote Armee Fraktion. [streaming on Netflix, available in hard copy at the Main Library, Storage AV Restricted materials AVC 791.43 B11 E2]

**Die Dritte Generation (The Third Generation).** 1979 art house film about a fictional group of German leftist terrorists. [streaming on The Criterion Channel]

**Buongiorno, notte (Good Morning, Night).** 2003 movie about the kidnapping, detention, and murder of Italian politician Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades. [available in hard copy at the Main Library AV 791.43 B943]

**Entebbe.** 2018 movie about the 1976 PFLP-RZ hijacking of Air France Flight 139 and the successful rescue of the hostages. [streaming on Netflix]

**La Battaglia di Algeri (The Battle of Algeri).** 1966 movie about the Algerian War of Independence, Algerian insurgency and terrorism, French counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. [available in hard copy at the Main Library, AV Collection AV 791.43 B32]

**Munich.** 2005 movie about the Mossad’s (the Israeli secret services) hunt for the culprits of the terrorist attacks at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich conducted by the Palestinian organization Black September. [available in hard copy at the Main Library, AV Collection AV 791.43 M966]


**Patria (Fatherland).** 2020 miniseries about the Basque nationalist terrorist group ETA. [streaming on HBO Max]

**Romanzo di una strage (Piazza Fontana: The Italian Conspiracy).** 2012 movie about the bombing of Piazza Fontana in Milan in 1969 by far-right terrorists and the following cover-up by the Italian state. [streaming on Rakuten TV]

**The Little Drummer Girl.** 2018 miniseries about a fictional Mossad operations against PLO terrorists, a reflection on Western youth fascination for the Palestinian armed struggle. [streaming on Amazon]

**The Looming Tower.** 2018 miniseries about Al-Qaeda and the road to the 9/11 attacks.

**The Secret History of ISIS.** 2016 documentary on ISIS. [streaming on Amazon]
Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror. 2021 documentary on the 9/11 attacks and the beginning of the War on Terror. [streaming on Netflix]

Zero Dark Thirty. 2010 movie about the search for and execution of Osama Bin Laden. [available in hard copy at the Main Library, AV Collection AV 791.43 Z58 S]
What are the written assignments of the course?
There is one written assignment for this course, the “Response Paper” (RP).

What do I need to do to prepare the RP?
The instructor will provide you with a range of research questions before the beginning of the course. Your essay will be a “response” to the question you will select. You can also create your own research question, but you need to ask for permission before you submit.

What are the guidelines for the RP?
Word limit: 3000 words (references excluded). ± 5% allowed.
Reference style: Chicago Manual of Style.
Referencing: footnotes and bibliography.

What kind of sources should I use for my assignment?
You can use only the sources enlisted as assignments readings in the syllabus, unless where stated otherwise.
Note: slides from course lectures will not be accepted as sources.

I am not familiar with the Chicago Style of reference, what should I do?
Mastering the Chicago Style is necessary to achieve higher grades in your assignments. You can access the Chicago Manual of Style via the online catalogue of the library. You can also access a hard copy of the Manual in the library, but you cannot borrow it.
The instructor will also provide a set of slides to start familiarizing with the Manual.

What happens if I commit plagiarism?
Plagiarism will have serious consequences for your final grade. If you think you may have committed plagiarism, please consult the lecturer well before the deadline for submission. The instructor will also provide a set of slides to start familiarising with issues related to plagiarism.

How do I submit my assignments?
Assignments must be submitted exclusively via Turnitin, before their respective deadlines. Delayed submissions without documented justification will result in a grade penalty of 5/100 for each day after the deadline. Delayed submissions without document justification uploaded on Turnitin on the sixth day after the deadline will not be accepted.

How will my assignments be evaluated?
Your RP assignment will be evaluated on a mark corresponding to their percentage on the overall grade.

The RP will be evaluated for:
- Content (logic, quality, and originality of ideas, critical evaluation of the sources used).
- Structure (logical progression of ideas, overall structure, coherence, and cohesion)
- Referencing and style (acknowledgement of the sources in the required referencing style)

Who can I ask for help while I am preparing my assignments?
You may require the support of the instructor (insisa@hku.hk) if you have doubts about your assignments. The instructor can help you to better understand the question of your RP. The instructor can also suggest improvements to the organisation and structure of your assignments,
and can clarify issues regarding sources, plagiarism and referencing. However, the instructor cannot read preliminary or final drafts of your work, provide sources for your assignments, or assess the correctness of your referencing.

• How do I prepare for the Tutorials?
The reading materials for the tutorials will be all uploaded on Moodle at the beginning of the course. The instructor will upload on the Moodle page of the course a .doc document containing questions to prepare for each tutorial a few days before each session.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

• Please arrive on time.

• Please put all your devices on silent.

• Questions during the lecture are warmly welcomed. Please raise your hand if you want to ask a question at any time during class.

• Please sign the attendance sheet at the end of the lecture before leaving the classroom, or during the break. Do not sign the attendance sheet for anybody else but yourself. The attendance sheet will be introduced after the end of the add / drop period.

• Before emailing the instructors, please check if your questions have already been addressed in this course outline.