



SACRAMENTO
STATE

Course Change Proposal Form A



Academic Group (College): Arts & Letters	Academic Organization (Department): Communication Studies	Date: 11-20-07
Type of Course Proposal: New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion <input type="checkbox"/>	Department Chair: Nick Burnett	Submitted by: Maggie Fuchs
Does this course fulfill a requirement for single-subject or multiple subject credential students? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Catalog Copy: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> CCE (Extension): Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Semester Effective: Fall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/>, 2008

This course replaces experimental course Subject Area (prefix) and Catalog Nbr (course number):

Change from:

Subject Area (prefix) & Catalog Nbr (course no.):	Title:	Units:
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Change to:

Subject Area (prefix) & Catalog Nbr (course no.): ComS 196B	Title: Communication and Terrorism	Units: 3
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JUSTIFICATION:

The communication aspects of terrorism, examining the ways in which terror has been used to make political and religious statements worldwide. The course fits several of our areas/concentrations: Intercultural/International; Political; Mass Communication.

NEW COURSE DESCRIPTION: (Not to exceed 80 words, and language should conform to catalog copy. See <http://www.csus.edu/acaf/univmanual/crspsl.htm> - Guidelines for Catalog Course Description)

The communicative aspects of political and religious terrorism and violence. Students will engage studies of terrorism and the communication of political and religious violence.

Note:

Prerequisite: Junior level or higher
Enforced at Registration: Yes No

Corequisite:
Enforced at Registration: Yes No

CAN (California Articulation Number):

Graded: Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit/No Credit <input type="checkbox"/>	Instructor Approval Required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Course Classification (e.g., lecture, lab, seminar, discussion): C-1	Title for CMS (not more than 30 characters) Communication and Terrorism

Cross Listed? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, do they meet together and fulfill the same requirement, and what is the other course.
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How Many Times Can This Course be Taken for Credit? Once

Can the course be taken for Credit more than once during the same term? Yes No

Course Syllabus
ComS 196_ : Communication and Terrorism
Dr. David Zuckerman

Office Mendocino 5019
Office Hours TBA
Office Phone 916/278-6541
E-mail sdzuck@csus.edu
Class Hours TBA
Class Location TBA
Required Texts **BOOKS:**

Greenberg, B. S. (2002). *Communication and terrorism: Public and media responses to 9/11*. Creskill, NJ: Hampton.

Gray, J. (2005). *Al Qaeda & What it means to be modern*. New York: New Press.

Sloan, S. (2006). *Terrorism: The present threat in context*. Gordonsville, VA: Berg.

ARTICLES:

Abdulla, R. A. (2007). Islam, jihad, and terrorism in post-9/11 Arabic discussion boards. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 12, 3, 1063-1081.

Corman, S. R., & Schiefelbein, J. S. (2006). *Communication and media strategy in the Jihadi war of ideas*. Tempe, AZ: Consortium for Strategic Communication, Arizona State University.

Edy, J., & Meirick, P. C. (2007). Wanted, dead or alive: Media frames, frame adoption, and support for the war in Afghanistan. *Journal of Communication*, 57, 1, 119-141.

Johnson, N. (2007). General semantics, terrorism and war. *ETC: A review of general semantics*, 64, 1, 45-64.

Sorensen, J. (2004). Risk communication and terrorism. *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science*, 2, 3, 229-231.

Stempel, C., Hargrove, T., & Stempel III, G. H. (2007). Media use, social structure, and belief in 9/11 conspiracy theories. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, 84, 2, 353-372.

Van Ginneken, J. (2007). 9/11 as a trigger for long-term shifts in world public opinion. *International Communication Gazette*, 69, 4, 323-333.

Woods, J. (2007). What we talk about when we talk about terrorism: Elite

press coverage of terrorism risk from 1997 to 2005. *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, 12, 3, 3-20.

Zuckerman, S. D. (2007). To argue you have no opinion is to insult people: Gebserian analysis of identity in Northern Ireland. In P. Dalton (Ed.), *Communication, Comparative Cultures, and Civilization Annual, Volume 1*. pp. 52-71. Creskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

Additional Requirements	Handouts and materials posted on WebCT. Email account and access to computer with Adobe Acrobat Reader (software available free at http://www.adobe.com). Stapler for all written assignments
Course Prerequisite	COMS 100A

Course Information

This course addresses the communication aspects of terrorism, including both the ways terrorism has been used to make political and religious statements worldwide; how the media cover those messages; and how we talk about those messages and the coverage they receive. The course draws on cutting-edge communication research from international/intercultural, political, mass communication, and computer-mediated communication sources. This is a course in the communication of terrorism. It is neither a course in the political science of terrorism nor in the criminal justice enforcement of counter-terrorism.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Define terrorism as a communicative event
- Articulate theories of terrorism and political violence
- Explain ways in which terrorism and political violence are modes of communication
- Elucidate non-violent communication alternatives to terrorism and political violence
- Explicate how acts of terrorism and their perpetrators are covered in the press

Instructional Methods

This course will combine traditional lectures with other formats such as discussion, small group breakout sessions, guest lecturers, hands-on workshops, analysis of existing studies, and outside reading. Some of the assignments will be posted on-line using WebCT, which is accessible only to students registered in this class.

Our in-class time will be spent on activities and in discussions that assume you have read and understood the text materials. For this reason, it is essential that you come to class having read the material *at least twice*, having taken clear and complete notes. Many of our discussions, in fact, will be mock-consultant consultations, in which you will view a film clip or hear a conversation and be called upon to offer suggestions based on what you are learning in the course. *At no point in the course will your grade be based on methodological agreement with your professor, your textbook, or your classmates.* That said, it is imperative that you conduct yourself professionally and show respect to your professor and classmates.

Examinations

There will be three exams in this course. Exam dates are on the course schedule.

Attendance. Attendance will be taken in this class. Missing more than 20 minutes total of any class session will constitute an absence. Anyone with 2 absences will be dropped from this course, as each day of the course equals one week of the regular semester. Absences will be excused only with official documentation generated by law enforcement, court, physician, or member of the clergy.

Cell Phones, Sidekicks, Laptops, etc. Your professor will ask you to turn off and put away any electronic device used in a way that appears disruptive to the class. Non-compliance will result in your being publicly embarrassed and asked to leave the class. Repeated non-compliance will result in a one-grade reduction of your course grade for each subsequent offence.

Extensions and test make-ups will not be offered. The only exceptions to this rule will be considered only in rare cases of extreme and unforeseen circumstances. Such cases are at the discretion of your professor, must be documented with official documentation (e.g., hospital discharge papers, funeral program, police report), and must be pre-approved by your professor. If you know you cannot attend class the day an assignment is due, turn it in early. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Grading Standards and Lateness

All written assignments must be in Microsoft Word format, even if you do not have Microsoft Word on your computer (you can save files in Word format using a Mac and/or using WordPerfect). They must be turned in on WebCT. No hard copies will be accepted.

These are the requirements for all written work:

- Typed, and double-spaced, done in Microsoft Word or saved in Word format.
- One inch margin on top, bottom, left, and right.
- 10-12 point serif font. Serifs are the little horizontal lines on the letters.
- Proofread and free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- All work must conform to the guidelines of APA 5th Edition.

Grading Standards for Written Work

Please refer to the CSUS *Writing Across the Curriculum Office* grading rubric (page 4 of the following hyperlink) (<http://www.csus.edu/wac/WAC%20Newsletter%20F03.pdf>) for a clear explanation of what makes a paper an "A," a "B," a "C," a "D," or an "F." Your professor will be using this system for evaluating your work.

Acceptable Journals

Your theory citations must come from journals. It is essential that your proposal be firmly grounded in the communication discipline, and the questions you ask be communication questions.

Course Assignments

Your work will be graded on the following scale.

Written Examinations (~43% of grade)

Test 1	25 Points
Test 2	25 Points
Test 3	25 Points
Total Points from Exams	75 Points

Papers (~51% of grade)

Paper 1	20 Points
Paper 2	30 Points
Paper 3	40 Points

Total Points From Papers

90 Points

Attendance/Participation (~5% of grade)

10 Points

TOTAL COURSE POINTS

175 Points

Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage	Points
A	95-100%	166.25	D+	67-69%	117.25
A-	90-94%	157.5	D	64-66%	112
B+	87-89%	152.25	D-	60-63%	105
B	84-86%	147	F	<60%	<105
B-	80-83%	140			
C+	77-79%	134.75			
C	74-76%	129.5			
C-	70-73%	122.5			

Academic Honesty Policy

In accordance with CSUS Faculty Senate ruling PM 04-01, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For the purposes of this course, plagiarism will be defined as "the use, intentional or unintentional, of other people's words or ideas without specific and explicit mention of their names or the source." Please note that plagiarism includes not only blatant copying of text but also extends to the "lifting" of ideas without proper credit. In addition to plagiarism, cheating on exams will also be considered academic dishonesty. Students engaging in these practices will receive a zero in the course. This includes the following situations:

- "1. Copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument;
- "2. Using crib notes, 'cheat sheets,' or any other device, including electronic devices, in aid of writing the exam not permitted by the instructor;
- "3. Submitting work previously graded in another course unless doing so has been approved by the course instructor or by department policy;
- "4. Submitting work simultaneously presented in more than one course, unless doing so has been approved by the respective course instructors or by the department policies of the respective departments;
- "5. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions;
- "6. Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate;
- "7. Any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work that defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above" (Memo from President Alexander Gonzalez, January 15, 2004).

In the case of two identical assignments (i.e., copying) both students will receive zeroes and their names forwarded to Academic Affairs. It really makes no sense to cheat in this class, as it serves as the basis for most of the rest of your ComS courses. You will need to know the material in this class in order to pass the others. If you find yourself overwhelmed or confused, *come ask for help* instead of resorting to these other methods.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Your professor will take every possible step in helping you to succeed in this class. Students with documented disabilities will be provided with the necessary academic accommodations in class and test taking. Please provide your instructor with the official documentation prior to the end of the second week of class. Accommodations will not be provided without official documentation. Further, if a religious obligation prevents you from attending class or the like, please speak with your professor *prior* to the day.

Tentative Course Schedule (note: this is subject to change at your professor's discretion) Please complete readings BEFORE class on the date specified. Readings from other books may be added later. (M=McPhail; W=WebCT)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1		Course Introduction Defining Terrorism	
2		Terrorism as Media Event	
3		Media Framing of Violence	
4		Government Media Strategies in Terrorism	
5		Pre-9/11 events and media coverage: Middle East	
6		Pre-9/11 events and media coverage: Spain and Northern Ireland	
7		Pre-9/11 events and media coverage: Africa and India	
8		9/11 Coverage: Domestic US	
9		9/11 Coverage: International	
10		Cyber-Terror and Post-9/11 in Cyberspace	
11		9/11 Conspiracy Theories	
12		Post-9/11 Coverage of Terrorism	
13		Communication: Managing Government Responses to Terrorism	
14		Paper Presentations	
15		Review and Final Exam	