University of Massachusetts Lowell   School of Criminology & Justice Studies

CRIM.6660 – TERRORIST NETWORKS
Wednesdays: 5:00 - 7:50pm
<u>Spring Semester 2016</u>

Instructor: James J.F. Forest, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Security Studies
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 - 5:00pm (<u>by advance appointment only</u>) in HSS 437
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Format: 14-week on-Campus Course, January 20 thru May 7, 2016
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: CRIM572 / 44.549 Terrorism and Counterterrorism

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds on previous coursework (required) in the study of terrorism and counterterrorism (through 44.549 / CRIM572 or equivalent). **It is assumed that all students in this seminar already have a solid understanding of the research literature on topics such as**: terrorist radicalization, the spectrum of violent ideologies (both secular and religious), terrorist group tactics and strategies, enablers and facilitators of political violence, suicide terrorism, WMD, and terrorist group vulnerabilities. If you have not taken any prior graduate-level course on terrorism, you should contact Dr. Forest immediately.

This advanced seminar for Doctoral degree students and advanced Master's degree students will examine terrorist networks from several perspectives, from the structural and foundational aspects to internal dynamics like trust, influence and knowledge distribution. Why study terrorist *networks*, in contrast to terrorist *organizations*? When viewed through the lens of understanding human behavior, we see that formal and informal networks have always been a central part of human interaction. Today, the growth of the Internet has brought a new dimension to research on networks (and new tools for social network analysis), through which scholars in virtually all areas of social sciences look for answers to questions like: How do members of a terrorist network interact online, exchange knowledge and information, and influence each other? Each individual forms relations with other individuals through overlapping associations, and in doing so they create a network of connections and associations that can be visually displayed—using open source software, which we will also explore in this course— to reveal structural patterns of independence and interdependence.

By the end of this course, you should have a solid understanding of:
• The major theoretical ideas supporting network research;
• Different types of network structures;
• Research and theories on network formation;
• How terrorist networks function;
• The different roles each member of a network may play within the network (e.g., recruiters, financiers, fighters, logisticians, leaders, bomb makers, etc.)
• Social network analysis basics – what the analytical tools are, how they are used;
• How to collect social network data;
• Social network analysis tools for conducting your own research
• How to analyze and interpret social network data;

- Types of data/intelligence needed to develop a quality map of a terrorist network;
- Identifying prominent/influential actors and experts in networks
- Identifying link behavior/attributes within a network (directional flows of information, facilitators of communication, finance, materiel, knowledge, etc.)
- Mapping the transfer of knowledge and operational/strategic/tactical expertise;
- Vulnerabilities of terrorist networks
- External influences on a clandestine network's behavior; and
- Counterterrorism strategies for influencing a terrorist network's behavior.

As a graduate-level seminar, the reading assignments in this course include a diversity of academic journal articles, book chapters, government reports, and original source materials. Students are expected to read all assignments each week, and become familiar with all the concepts and terminology introduced in the readings. Also, this type of graduate seminar requires students to take far more ownership of the course than at the undergraduate level. Essentially, **this course relies much more on group discussion than on lectures. You must read the assigned materials (listed below) before each class session, and be prepared to engage in meaningful discussions. This will determine whether or not we have a successful semester together.** The reading materials and writing assignments are not just tasks or busy work – they are part of the learning experience through which you will acquire both a sophisticated understanding of complex terrorist networks and implications for counterterrorism strategies. Your critical analysis skills will also be nurtured through our class discussions and writing assignments.

Required Textbooks
This course will use the following graduate-level textbook, in addition to scholarly journal articles, book chapters and other materials made available via the Blackboard course website:

Charles Kadushin, *Understanding Social Networks: Theories, Concepts and Findings.* Oxford University Press (2011). ISBN: 978-0195379471

Recommended Resources
While not required, the following textbooks may prove useful for more in-depth analysis of concepts and themes addressed in the course.

Robert A. Hanneman and Mark Riddle. Introduction to Social Network Methods. University of California, Riverside, 2005. Published online at: http://www.faculty.ucr.edu/~hanneman/nettext/
Albert-László Barabási, *Linked: How Everything Is Connected to Everything Else and What It Means for Business, Science, and Everyday Life.* New York: Plume, 2003. ISBN: 978-0452284395
Carlo Morselli, *Crime and Networks.* Routledge, 2013. ISBN: 978-0415710503.
James J.F. Forest, *Teaching Terror: Strategic and Tactical Learning in the Terrorist World.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. ISBN: 978-0742540781
Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terrorist Networks.* University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-0812238082
Marc Sageman, *Leaderless Jihad.* University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0812240658

Note: An extensive collection of case studies is available on the Blackboard course website to help you with your research projects.

Also, if you have not already done so for previous classes:
- Subscribe to the CTC Sentinel e-mail list: https://www.ctc.usma.edu/publications/sentinel
- Subscribe to the e-mail list of the journal *Perspectives on Terrorism* to receive notices when new issues are published: http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot
- Subscribe to IntelWire Daily Brief: http://intelwiredailybrief.com/ and review both the main IntelWire website http://www.intelwire.com/ and the IntelWire Weekly Brief: http://news.intelwire.com/search/label/Weekly-Brief

Finally, for those who are into social media and want to remain up-to-date on news and information related to terrorism and counterterrorism, see the Twitter recommendations listed on the Blackboard course website.

UMass Lowell Blackboard Access Information

To get your Blackboard username and password:
1. Go to http://continuinged.uml.edu/online/confirmation
2. Carefully enter the information required to retrieve your username and password.
3. Print out the confirmation screen for your records.

To access the online supplement for your course:
1. Go to https://continuinged.uml.edu/login/login.cfm
2. Enter your Blackboard username and password and click the Login button.

How to Get Technical Help (Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm EST)
If you are having problems with Blackboard, please contact the Division of Online and Continuing Education technical support:
Local Phone Number: 1-978-934-2467
Toll Free Number: 1-800-480-3190

Graded Assignments

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on a Final Exam (25% of final grade) and on a series of 4 Research Tasks (all of which will fit together topically):

1) **Literature Review** (20% of final grade): Your first paper will be an extensive literature review of the available scholarly research (journal articles, government reports, books, etc.) on a terrorist network of your choosing, identifying central themes, common research questions, key authors, and so forth. There are many choices to consider – for example, anti-abortion clinic attackers in the U.S.; Islamic State network cells in North Africa; Jihadist recruiting networks in Southeast Asia; the Haqqani Network in Afghanistan and Pakistan; the "Khorasan Group" Network in Syria; and so forth. **Due: February 24**

2) **Critical Analysis of Unanswered Questions** (20% of final grade): Your second paper will be a critical analysis of important questions about terrorist networks that the available research has not yet addressed or been able to answer sufficiently. **Due: March 30**

3) **Research Proposal** (20% of final grade): Your third paper will be a research proposal—of a quality suitable for potentially submitting to a funding agency—requesting funding support for new research that could potential answer one or more of the questions you have identified. Your research proposal must identify the ways in which you will incorporate the tools and theoretical concepts of Social Network Analysis that we have described in this course. **Due: April 20**
   At a minimum, your research proposal should contain: *Specific Aims*, including an introduction to the study, the overall objectives and expected outcomes of the study, and specific aims/hypotheses; and a *Research Strategy,* which refers to your literature review and indicates how your proposed research is significant and innovative, addresses an important problem, and is theoretically and empirically justified.

4) **Research Proposal Presentation** (15% of final grade) In addition to your written assignments, you will also give a 20-30 minute presentation to the class about the existing research on the terrorist network you have chosen to study, the unanswered questions you have identified, and your proposed research agenda for gathering and analyzing data that can help us answer those questions. You should approach this assignment as if you were giving the presentation to a funding agency: *convince them* to sponsor the research proposal you have developed. Your presentation should describe the major elements of your proposal (specific aims, background literature, methods for data collection, proposed analyses) and provide ample time for questions and discussion with your classmates. **Due: April 13**

Please note: There are no minimum page requirements for these written assignments. It is assumed that all doctoral degree students (or advanced Master's degree students) already understand the expectations for an assigned paper length and quality at the graduate level.
Complete reference citation details must be provided, and any recognized citation format (APA, MLA, Chicago etc.) may be used.

Final Exam
The final written assignment in this course will involve a take-home final exam *(25% of overall course grade)* in which students will have several days to provide short essay answers (2-3 paragraphs) to several open-ended questions. The exam will be made available via the

Blackboard course website at 12:01am on Monday, May 2, and will be due via the Blackboard course website **by noon Friday, May 6**.

Extra Credit Option:
Students wishing to improve their overall course grade are encouraged to use one of the open source Social Network Analysis tools to build an egocentric network based on a specific terrorist suspect or terrorist group leader. Note that if you choose an individual that has been arrested and prosecuted in the U.S. (for example, Dzokhar Tsarnaev, Eric Rudolph, or Zachary Chesser), you'll have better luck identifying their connections via court records and so forth.

Summary of Graded Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	% of overall grade
Literature Review	February 24	20%
Critical Analysis of Questions	March 30	20%
Research Proposal	April 20	20%
Oral Presentation	April 13	15%
Final Exam	May 6	25%

Grading

Final grades will be awarded according to the general policies of the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Here is the link to the graduate grading policy:
http://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Graduate/Policies/Grading-Policies.aspx

For this course, the following will apply:

Grade	GPA	Point Structure	Comment
A+	4.0	99-100	Work of the highest professional standard demonstrating independent and exemplary performance.
A	4.0	96-98	Excellent work demonstrating independent and high quality performance.
A-	3.7	91-95	Very good work, carefully executed, but requiring some areas of improvement.
B+	3.3	86-90	Good work, indicating careful thought and attention to the task, yet requiring several areas of improvement.
B	3.0	80-85	Work of graduate standard, but omissions exist or careful analysis is not in evidence.
Below Graduate School Standard			
B-	2.7	76-79	Effort is evident, but work indicates lack of understanding of the demands of the task.
C+	2.3	70-75	Poor quality work with little attention to detail and the demands of the task.
C	2.0	65-69	Work of very poor quality, indicating no understanding of the depth of analysis required.
F	0.0	Below 65	Serious neglect or evidence of cheating.

This grading chart is used, with permission, from Dr. Carolyn Siccama from the UML Graduate School of Education.

Late Assignments: There are specific "due date and time" requirements for assignments. Each assignment should be submitted on or before the day/time that it is due. If a student is unable to submit an assignment on time because of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance, s/he must **make arrangements with the instructor for an extension** and make a request for an extension at least 24-48 hours in advance. Keep in mind that extensions are only for true emergencies. **Any late assignment without an approved extension will either not be accepted or will have its grade reduced reflecting the late submission – the *minimum penalty* is a ½ grade reduction for each day the assignment is submitted late.**

Expectations

Graduate study means learning to learn from every possible source—from readings, peers, life experiences, the instructor, and research projects. The intent in any graduate course is to develop a learning community in which an individual's ideas are freely expressed and the class works together to support and challenge each other's work and ideas. The success of the learning experience in this class-and ultimately each student's grade—is critically dependent on the excellence of each student's preparation, written assignment submissions, and participation in class discussions where each student presents ideas and considers what others have to say as part of a reasoned, thoughtful discourse.

Class discussions of issues relating to politics, security strategies, and criminology, especially as they relate to combating terrorism, can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. All discussions must be respectful and scholarly. Each student and his/her contributions should be treated with respect—not only taking them seriously but also challenging ideas. No student should feel left out, minimized, or otherwise discriminated against. The instructor will quickly and directly counter any discussions or comments that do not display professionalism and respect for the contributions of others.

Scholarly Comments:
– are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
– are related to class and/or the course material
– focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
– are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable Comments:
– are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's ideas or political beliefs.
– use the discussion forums to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).

Finally, **please review the UML academic integrity policy**. Here is the link:
http://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Graduate/Policies/Academic-Integrity.aspx

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic
1	Jan 20	Introduction, Terms and Definitions
2	Jan 27	Overview of Social Network Analysis
3	Feb 3	Social Network Analysis Tools and Applications
4	Feb 10	Theories of Network Formation
5	Feb 17	Internal Dynamics of Terrorist Network Behavior
6	Feb 24	External Factors that Impact Terrorist Network Behavior
7	Mar 2	Network Productivity and Durability
8	Mar 9	Disrupting Terrorist Networks
	Mar 16	*SPRING BREAK*
9	Mar 23	Research on Terrorist Networks, Part I
10	Mar 30	Research on Terrorist Networks, Part II
11	Apr 6	Future Research on Terrorist Networks
12	Apr 13	Student Presentations
13	Apr 20	Student Presentations
14	Apr 27	Student Presentations & Course Wrap-up

WEEKLY LESSON TOPICS

[*BB*] Indicates materials are available on course Blackboard website. Also, in most cases links are provided on the Blackboard website for reading assignments available online.

WEEK 1: Introduction, Terms and Definitions
After reviewing the syllabus and overall course objectives, and discussing any questions about the graded assignments, we will examine terms and definitions used throughout the semester.

Required Readings
- Penelope Hawe, Cynthia Webster and Alan Shiell. "A Glossary of Terms for Navigating the Field of Social Network Analysis," Journal of Epidemial Community Health 58 (2004), p. 971-975. doi: 10.1136/jech.2003.014530. **[*BB*]**
- David L. Passmore, "Some Definitions," in *Social Network Analysis: Theory and Applications,* (Penn State University, January 2011), p. 46-61. **[*BB*]**
- Chapter 1: "Introduction," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 1-12

WEEK 2: Overview of Social Network Analysis
In this lesson we'll explore the basics of social network analysis, watch an in-class demonstration, and discuss the uses of these research methods for studying terrorist networks.

Required Readings
- Chapter 2: "Basic Network Concepts, Part 1," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 13-26
- Chapter 3: "Basic Network Concepts, Part 2," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 27-43.
- Steve Ressler, "Social Network Analysis as an Approach to Combat Terrorism: Past, Present and Future." *Homeland Security Affairs* 2(8), (July 2006). **[*BB*]**
  Also online at: https://www.hsaj.org/articles/171
- Valdis E. Krebs, "Mapping Networks of Terrorist Cells," Connections 24(3), p. 43-52. **[*BB*]**
  Also online at: http://insna.org/PDF/Connections/v24/2001_I-3-7.pdf
- David Knoke, "Emerging Trends in Social Network Analysis of Terrorism and Counterterrorism," in *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences,* edited by Robert Scott and Stephen Kosslyn. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015, p. 1-15. **[*BB*]**

WEEK 3: Social Network Analysis Tools and Applications
In this lesson, we will explore several free graphic visualization platforms used to conduct social network analysis, explore ways to gather data needed to conduct basic social network analysis, and discuss the benefits and inherent limitations of using these tools.

Required Assignment
This week, instead of reading assignments, you will need to download and install one or more of the following free graphic visualization platforms used to conduct social network analysis. Come to class prepared to show your classmates what you have learned, and to discuss the pros and cons of a program for the purposes of analyzing terrorist networks.

- EgoNet: http://sourceforge.net/projects/egonet/   (runs on Mac OS, Linux and Windows)
- NodeXL: https://nodexl.codeplex.com/   (runs on Windows only) – provides ability to import network data from a Twitter search
- Gephi: https://gephi.org/   (runs on Mac OS and Windows)
  A Gephi Quick Start tutorial is provided at: https://gephi.org/users/quick-start/
  and some sample data sets you can use to become familiar with this software can be found online at: https://github.com/gephi/gephi/wiki/Datasets
  and at: http://kevinchai.net/datasets
- Pajek: http://mrvar.fdv.uni-lj.si/pajek/   (runs on Windows only)
  Instructions manual is at: http://mrvar.fdv.uni-lj.si/pajek/pajekman.pdf
- Polinode: https://www.polinode.com/
  Online collection and mapping of network data
- UCINET: https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/home   (Windows only)
  Note: Students can purchase for $40; a free trial version is also available for a 60-day period.

Optional Information Resources:
START Center's Big Allied and Dangerous (BAAD) platform:
http://www.start.umd.edu/news/new-online-tool-reveals-terrorist-networks-and-behavior-over-time
Replication Datasets from the Journal of Peace Research: https://www.prio.org/JPR/Datasets/

WEEK 4: Theories of Network Formation
This lesson will examine research and theories on how networks form, focusing primarily on psychological, social, political, and economic aspects.

Required Reading:
- Chapter 5: "The Psychological Foundations of Social Networks," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 56-73
- "Theoretical Framework: The Challenges of Organizing Terror," in James J.F. Forest, Jarret Brachman and Joseph Felter, *Harmony and Disharmony* (Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, February 2006). Online at: https://goo.gl/dKZZUV (p. 11-24). **[*BB*]**
- Chapter 6: "Small Groups, Leadership and Social Networks," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 74-89.
- Chapter 7: "Organizations and Networks," *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 90-107.

WEEK 5: Internal Dynamics of Terrorist Network Behavior

Networks are conduits for the flow of information and influence. Thus, the behavior of individuals is often a complex interaction of individual and interpersonal effects. This lesson will examine theories of gatekeepers and betweenness centrality, influence (who and what shapes the way in which terrorist networks operate), as well as issues of trust, connectivity, knowledge transfer and innovation.

Required Reading:
- Chapter 9: "Networks, Influence and Diffusion", *Understanding Social Networks,* p. 135-160. **[*BB*]**
- Todd Waskiewicz, "Friend of a Friend Influence in Terrorist Social Networks," Air Force Research Laboratory (January 2012). **[*BB*]**
- Ali Berzinji, "Detecting Key Players in Terrorist Networks," Uppsala University, Department of Information Technology (August 2011). **[*BB*]**
- Steven J. Brams, Hande Mutlu and Shawn Ling Ramirez, "Influence in Terrorist Networks: From Undirected to Directed Graphs," *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 29 (2006), p. 703-718. **[*BB*]**
- Sean Everton and Dan Cunningham. "Terrorist Network Adaptation to a Changing Environment," in *Crime and Networks,* edited by Carlo Morselli (New York: Rutledge, 2014), p. 287-308. **[*BB*]**
- Nancy K. Hayden, "Innovation and Learning in Terrorist Organizations: Toward Adaptive Capacity and Resiliency," Paper presented at the 31st conference of the Systems Dynamics Society, Cambridge, MA (July 21-25, 2013). **[*BB*]**

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WEEK 6: External Factors that Impact Terrorist Network Behavior

This lesson will examine research on how technological changes, government policies, socioeconomic conditions and other external factors impact the behavior of a terrorist network.

Required Reading:
- Michele Zanini and Sean J.A. Edwards, "The Networking of Terror in the Information Age," in *Networks and Netwar: The Future of Terror, Crime and Militancy,* edited by John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, Santa Monica: RAND. 2001. **[*BB*]**
- Bruce W. Don, et. al. "Assessing the Value of Information and Communication Technologies to Modern Terrorist Organizations," a RAND report prepared for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2007. Online at: http://goo.gl/dDwdmH
- Gerald C. Kane, et al., "What's Different about Social Media Networks? A Framework and Research Agenda," *MIS Quarterly* (March, 2012). **[*BB*]**
- Scott Helfstein, *Edges of Radicalization: Individuals, Networks and Ideas in Violent Extremism* (Combating Terrorism Center, February 2012), *p. 28-47 only* **[*BB*]**

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WEEK 7: Network Productivity and Durability

This lesson will examine research on how the availability of financial resources, ideological peer competition, and other factors can have a positive or negative impact on a network's productivity and durability.

Required Reading:

- Arie Perliger, "Terrorist Networks' Productivity and Durability: A Comparative Multi-level Analysis," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 8, No. 4 (2014). **[*BB*]**
- Rene M. Bakker, Jorg Raab and H. Brinton Milward, "A Preliminary Theory of Dark Network Resilience," Journal of Policy Analysis and Management 31(1) (2012), p. 33-62. **[*BB*]**
- Gretchen Peters, *Haqqani Network Financing: The Evolution of an Industry* (Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, July 2012). **[*BB*]**
- Matthew Levitt, "Hezbollah's Organized Criminal Enterprises in Europe," *Perspectives on Terrorism* vol. 7, no. 4 (2013). **[*BB*]**
- Matt Levitt, Iranian and Hezbollah Operations in South America, *Prism* 5, No. 4 (2014), p. 119-133. **[*BB*]**

WEEK 8: Disrupting Terrorist Networks

This lesson will examine research on identifying and exploiting the vulnerabilities of terrorist networks in ways that can reduce their capabilities and effectiveness.

Required Reading:

- Nancy Roberts and Sean F. Everton, "Strategies for Combating Dark Networks," *Journal of Social Structure,* vol. 12 (2012). **[*BB*]**
- Michael J. Williams, John G. Horgan and William P. Evans. "The Critical Role of Friends in Networks for Countering Violent Extremism: Toward a Theory of Vicarious Help-Seeking," *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression,* 2015. **[*BB*]**
- Nicole Hong, "In U.S. ISIS Cases, Informants Play a Big Role," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2015). Online at: http://goo.gl/8y0vDp
- Max Abrahms, "Deterring Terrorism: a New Strategy," *Perspectives on Terrorism,* Vol. 8, No. 3 (2014). **[*BB*]**
- Jared Cohen, "Digital Counterinsurgency: How to Marginalize the Islamic State Online," *Foreign Affairs,* Nov-Dec. 2015), p. 52-58. **[*BB*]**

March 14-20   *SPRING BREAK*

WEEK 9: Research on Terrorist Networks, Part I
This lesson will examine terrorist networks associated with ideologies beyond global Jihadism, including environmental, anti-abortion and right-wing extremism.

Required Reading:
- Thomas Hegghammer, "The Rise of the Macro-Nationalists," *New York Times* (7/30/11). **[*BB*]**
- Derek O'Callaghan, et. al. "Uncovering the Wider Structure of Extreme Right Communities Spanning Popular Online Networks," Proceedings of the 5th Annual ACM Web Science Conference (May 16, 2013), p. 276-285. **[*BB*]**
- Michael Loadenthal, "The Earth Liberation Front: A Social Movement Analysis," *Radical Criminology* 2 (2013). Online at: http://goo.gl/aoE2z7
- Paul Joosse, "Leaderless Resistance and Ideological Inclusion: The Case of the Earth Liberation Front," *Terrorism and Political Violence,* 19 (2007), p. 351-368. **[*BB*]**
- David Ronfeldt and John Arquilla, "Emergence and Influence of the Zapatista Social Netwar," in *Networks and Netwar: The Future of Terror, Crime and Militancy,* edited by John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, Santa Monica: RAND. 2001. **[*BB*]**
- Robin Marty, "Meet Joe Scheidler, Patriarch of the Anti-Abortion Movement," *The Public Eye* (Winter 2015). Online at: http://goo.gl/tM9o5A
- Janet Reitman, "The Stealth War on Abortion," Rolling Stone (January 15, 2014): Online at: http://goo.gl/klQyo7

WEEK 10: Research on Terrorist Networks, Part II: Global Jihadism
This lesson will focus on global jihadist networks.

Required Reading:
- Victoria Barber, "The Evolution of al Qaeda's Global Network and al Qaeda Core's Position Within It: A Network Analysis," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 9, No. 6 (2015). **[*BB*]**
- Thomas Hegghammer, "The Rise of Muslim Foreign Fighters: Islam and the Globalization of Jihad," *International Security,* Vol. 35 (3) (Winter 2010/11), p. 53-94. **[*BB*]**
- Joseph A. Carter, Shiraz Maher and Peter R. Neumann, #*Greenbirds: Measuring Importance and Influence in Syrian Foreign Fighter Networks.* London: The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence, 2014. **[*BB*]**
- Jytte Klausen et. al. "The YouTube Jihadists: A Social Network Analysis of Al-Muhajiroun's Propaganda Campaign," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 6, No. 1 (2012). **[*BB*]**
- Ari Fisher, "Swarmcast: How Jihadist Networks Maintain a Persistent Online Presence," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 9, No. 3 (2015). **[*BB*]**
- Edith Wu, Rebecca Carleton and Garth Davies, "Discovering bin Laden's Replacement in al-Qaeda, using Social Network Analysis: A Methodological Investigation, *Perspectives on Terrorism* 8, No. 1 (2014). **[*BB*]**
- Olivier J. Walther and Christian Leuprecht, "Mapping and Deterring Violent Extremist Networks in North-West Africa." Department of Border Region Studies, Working Paper No. 04/15 (2015). **[*BB*]**

WEEK 11: Emerging and Future Research on Terrorist Networks

This lesson will explore emerging research on terrorist networks, particularly the operational and ethical challenges of identifying individuals who go to other countries to join a terrorist movement, and dealing with individuals who return home after doing so.

Required Reading:
- Chapter 11: "Ethical Dilemmas of Social Network Research," *Understanding Social Networks,* p 185-200.
- Barton Gellman and Laura Poitras, "U.S., British intelligence mining data from nine U.S. Internet companies in broad secret program," *Washington Post* (June 7, 2013). http://goo.gl/LREOz
- Lina Dencik, et al. "Managing 'Threats': Uses of Social Media for Policing Domestic Extremism and Disorder in the UK," Cardiff School of Journalism (October 2015).   **[*BB*]**
- Daniel Byman, "The Homecomings: What Happens When Arab Foreign Fighters in Iraq and Syria Return?" *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 38, no. 8 (2015): 581-602.   **[*BB*]**
- Eric Price – "Bibliography: Foreign Fighters of Terrorism," *Perspectives on Terrorism* 9(1) (February, 2015).   **[*BB*]**

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WEEK 12: Student Presentations on Terrorist Networks

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WEEK 13: Student Presentations on Terrorist Networks

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WEEK 14: Student Presentations and Final Wrap-up Discussion

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Week 15: Final Exam

The final written assignment in this course will involve a take-home final exam *(25% of overall course grade)* in which students will have several days to provide short essay answers (2-3 paragraphs) to several open-ended questions. The exam will be made available via the Blackboard course website at 12:01am on Monday, May 2, and will be due via the Blackboard course website **by noon Friday, May 6**.

About the Instructor

James J.F. Forest, Ph.D. is Professor and Director of the Security Studies program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Joint Special Operations University (MacDill AFB, Florida). He has taught courses and seminars on terrorism, counterterrorism, weapons of mass destruction and security studies for a broad range of civilian, law enforcement and military audiences for over 15 years.

Dr. Forest previously served on the faculty of the United States Military Academy (2001-2010), six of those years as Director of Terrorism Studies. He also directed a series of research initiatives and education programs for the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, covering topics such as terrorist recruitment, training, and organizational knowledge transfer. He has served as an expert witness for terrorism-related court cases, and has provided testimony to committee hearings of the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Forest has published 20 books, including:
- *Essentials of Counterterrorism* (Praeger, 2015)
- *Homeland Security and Terrorism* (McGraw-Hill, 2013, with R. Howard & J. Moore)
- *Intersections of Crime and Terror* (Routledge, 2013)
- *The Terrorism Lectures* (Nortia Press, 2012; 2nd Edition 2015)
- *Countering the Terrorist Threat of Boko Haram in Nigeria* (JSOU Press, 2012)
- *Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism* (McGraw-Hill, 2012, with R. Howard)
- *Influence Warfare* (Praeger, 2009)
- *Handbook of Defence Politics* (Routledge, 2008, with I. Wilson)
- *Countering Terrorism and Insurgency in the 21st Century* (Praeger, 2007)
- *Teaching Terror: Strategic and Tactical Learning* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006)
- *The Making of a Terrorist: Recruitment, Training and Root Causes* (Praeger, 2005)

Dr. Forest is co-editor of the internationally distributed journal *Perspectives on Terrorism,* and is a member of the editorial board for several scholarly journals. He has also published dozens of articles in journals such as *Terrorism and Political Violence, Contemporary Security Policy, Crime and Delinquency, Perspectives on Terrorism,* the *Journal of Strategic Studies,* the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Democracy and Security,* the *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs,* and the *Journal of Political Science Education.* Dr. Forest has been interviewed by many newspaper, radio and television journalists, and is regularly invited to give speeches and lectures in the U.S. and other countries. He received his graduate degrees from Stanford University and Boston College, and undergraduate degrees from Georgetown University and De Anza College.

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More information about the books listed above can be found at online bookstores (Amazon, Borders, Barnes & Noble, etc.) and at http://www.jamesforest.com *or* http://www.teachingterror.com.