No other issue generates as much discussion and controversy as the contemporary debate over ‘terrorism.’ But what is this phenomenon? And how should we respond to it? This course will examine ‘terrorism’ with a critical eye, looking at the different ways that the subject is framed by various disciplines and authors. Drawing on political science, anthropological and historical accounts, as well as arguments made by scholars from economics, Women’s studies and specific area studies, we will discuss the ways in which terrorism has been presented, debated and analyzed. We will also draw from the fictional universe through an examination of films and novels that depict the inner struggles of ‘terrorists,’ and the impact on those affected by their actions. By design, close readings of the course material will be central to doing well in the class as will active participation in the classroom discussion or on the discussion board.

The course will be graded on a 25-25-50 basis, with one media analysis worth 25% and a final paper worth 50%. The remaining 25% will be based on your on-time attendance and participation in the course.

Required Texts (available in the book store):


Other sources:

1. We will be reading some articles or book chapters that I have not asked you to buy. For these, I will scan a copy of the article and make it available to you as a PDF on Blackboard listed by the Author’s first and last name

**September 2: Course Introduction**

**September 9: Definitions and History**


Gerard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin. *The History of Terrorism from Antiquity to Al Qaeda*. Chs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 (pp. 1-11, 55-131, 175-217).

**September 16: Ethical Issues**

Sayid Qutb. 1964. Selection from *Milestones*.

Frantz Fanon. 1961. Selection from *The Wretched of the Earth*.


**September 23: Causes and Structure 1**


**September 30: Causes and Structure 2:***


Jarret M. Brachman. “High-Tech Terror: Al-Qaeda’s Use of New Technology.”

**October 7: Bombing 1**


**October 14: Bombing 2**

Talal Asad. *On Suicide Bombing*.

Mike Davis. 2007. Selection from *Buda’s Wagon: A Brief History of the Car Bomb*.

**October 17 – 26: Fall Break**

**Reading Response Due October 28.**

**October 28: Religion**


As-Sahab Media. 2007. “Interview with Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri.”


**November 4: Gender**
Susan Faludi. Selection from *The Terror Dream.*


**November 11: Critiques**


**November 18: American Domestic and Foreign Policy 1**


**November 25: American Domestic and Foreign Policy 2**

David Cole and James Dempsey. 2006. Selection from *Terrorism and the Constitution.*


**December 2: Film Paradise Now**


Neloufer de Mel. 2007. “Figure of Speech: The Female Suicide Bomber, Censorship and the Literary-Cinematic Site.”
December 9: Fiction


Final Paper Due Thursday December 11th at 5pm