



# Course program and reading list

Semester 3 Year 2024

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Post – Modern Terrorism CBRN

**Lecturer:**

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**Teaching Assistant:**

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<b>Course No.:</b>	<b>Course Type :</b>	<b>Weekly Hours :</b>	<b>Credit:</b>
24029	Lecture	2	2

<b>Course Requirements :</b>	<b>Group Code :</b>	<b>Language:</b>
Final Exam	241402901	English



## Course Description

Since the March 1995 sarin attack in the Tokyo underground, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism has been considered a major security threat to the international community and modern society.

The course will examine the history of CBRN terrorism in modern times and analyze the incidents of non-conventional (in the older American terminology Weapons of Mass Destruction – WMD) terrorism since the 1970s.

Some major case-studies of chemical and biological terrorism will be analyzed in depth, as well as a major radiological accident.

The course will also examine the impact of the instability in the Arab world on the threat of proliferation of CBRN weapons or agents from states to terrorist groups, especially in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and potentially from Iran to Hezbollah.

The course will evaluate the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the motivation of terrorist groups to engage in CBRN terrorism: the jihadists and the extreme right-wing groups.

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## Course Goals

The course will provide students with an understanding of key topics in CBRN terrorism:

Introduction, overview of course, definitions.

- Chemical and biological warfare by states: Chemical warfare during WWI; Japan uses biological agents in China in WWII; Chemical warfare in the Iran-Iraq war.
  - Comparative history of CBRN terrorism: ideology, capabilities, and facts.
  - Chemical terrorism: The Aum Shinrikyo case-study.
  - Biological terrorism: The Rajneshee cult; Aum Shinrikyo's failures; the anthrax attack in the US; radical right-wing's obsession with bioterrorism
  - Radiological and nuclear terrorism: how real the threat? The Goiania accident.
  - The threat of CBRN terrorism in the Middle East: The Palestinians; al-Qaeda and Global Jihad; ISIS's use of chemicals; what happens after the demise of the Caliphate.
  - Changes and instability in the Arab world: the threat of proliferation of CBRN weapons from states to terrorist groups during the civil wars in Syria, Iraq, and Libya, and potentially from Iran to Hezbollah.
  - The impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the motivation of terrorist groups to engage in CBRN terrorism: the jihadists and the extreme right wing.
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## Grading

The students must pass an exam, which consists of:

- Choice of one main open question from two main questions (70%)
- Six multiple-choice questions. Each accurate answer is worth 5 points (30% in all)

Time for the exam: 3 hours

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## Lecturer Office Hours

In advanced

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## Tutor Office Hours

In advanced

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 Teaching Assistant

Dr. Michael Barak

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 Reading List

Most of the articles are full text on the course website.

Otherwise, for some of them there is a link to the Internet.

*The reading list is arranged in chronological order and subject to change*

1. Karmon, Ely, CBRN/WMD/Non-conventional Terrorism? – Definitions First World War – Weapons of War – Poison Gas,
2. Falkenrath, Richard et al, "Unit 731: Japanese Biological Weapons, 1932-45," in America's Achilles' Heel: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Terrorism and Covert Attack (MIT Press, 2001), pp. 76-7.
3. "Nazi mosquitoes drew blood on Italian front," The Sydney Morning Herald, February 15, 2006, URL: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/nazi-mosquitoes-drew-blood-on-italian-front-20060215-gdmyzo.html>
4. John Crossland and Gayle Ritchie, "Nazis planned biological strike from Shetland," The Sunday Times, March 5, 2006.
5. Falkenrath, Richard et al, "Chemical Weapons Use in the Iran-Iraq War, 1980- 88," in America's Achilles' Heel: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Terrorism and CovertAttack (MIT Press, 2001), pp. 226-7.
6. Testimony of Dr. Christine M. Gosden Before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on Chemical and Biological Weapons Threats to America: Are We Prepared? April 22, 1998. URL: [https://irp.fas.org/congress/1998\\_hr/s980422-cg.htm](https://irp.fas.org/congress/1998_hr/s980422-cg.htm)
7. Karmon, Ely, "Countering NBC Terrorism," in Andrew Tan and Kumar Ramakrishna (eds.) The New Anatomy, Trends and Counter-Strategies (Singapore: Eastern Universities Press, 2002), pp. 193-206.
8. Karmon, Ely, "Aum-Shinrikyo, the Anti-Semitic Doomsday Cult: A Dangerous Comeback," in Anti-Semitism Worldwide 1998/1999, Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism, Tel Aviv
9. Amy E. Smithson, "Rethinking the Lessons of Tokyo," in Amy Smithson and LeslieAnne

Levy, Ataxia: The Chemical and Biological Terrorism Threat and the US Response, Chapter 3, Stimson Center Report, 35, October 9, 2000.

10. Yekaterina Sinelschikova, "Why has Aum Shinrikyo been banned in Russia only now?" Russia Beyond the Headlines, 10.2016,

11. Reiji Yoshida, "Aum Shinrikyo guru Shoko Asahara and six other cult members hanged for mass murders: officials," The Japan Times, July 6, 2018.

12. Carus, Seth, "The Rajneeshees (1984)," in Tucker, Jonathan (ed.), Toxic Terror (MIT Press, 2000), pp. 115-137.

13. Karmon, Ely, The Anthrax Campaign – an Interim Analysis, October 30,

14. "Amerithrax Investigative Summary," The United States Department of Justice Document, February 19, 2010 (pp. 1-11).

15. Zimmerman, Peter with Loeb, Cheryl, "Dirty Bombs: The Threat Revisited," Defense Horizons, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, January 2004, at [http://www.hps.org/documents/RDD\\_report.pdf](http://www.hps.org/documents/RDD_report.pdf)

16. Brendan G. Melley, "Nuclear Terrorism – Imminent Threat?" InterAgency Journal, Vol. 8, Issue 3, 2017.

17. Karmon, Ely, Why So Little? The Palestinian Terrorist Organizations and Unconventional Terrorism, June 2007.

18. Jamie Chosak and Julie Sawyer, " Hamas's Tactics: Lessons from Recent Attacks," PeaceWatch, 522, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, October 19, 2005.

19. Ely Karmon, "Olympic Bomb Plot to Blow up Sydney Nuclear Reactor Foiled: How Serious the Threat?" ICT website, September 3, 2000.

20. "Al-Qaeda and Weapons of Mass Destruction as seen on Jihadi Online Forums," ICT's Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWVG), June 2009, [https://ict.org.il/UserFiles/JWVG\\_Al-Qaeda\\_WMD.pdf](https://ict.org.il/UserFiles/JWVG_Al-Qaeda_WMD.pdf).

21. Andrew Link, "Chlorine Weaponization in Iraq," Institute for the Study of Violent Groups,

22. René Pita and Rohan Gunaratna, "Revisiting Al-Qaeda's Anthrax Program," Sentinel, Combatting Terrorism Center at West Point, 15 May

23. Ely Karmon and Alexandra David, "Syria's Chemical Attacks, the Strategic Significance," ICT website, May 18,

24. ICT Staff, "Syria's Chemical Weapons - The Terrorism Threat," ICT website, September 9,

25. Jonathan Spyer, "Did ISIS Use Chemical Weapons Against the Kurds in Kobani?" Middle East Review of International Affairs, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Fall 2014), <https://www.meforum.org/4852/did-isis-use-chemical-weapons-against-the-kurds>

26. Geoffrey Chapman, "Islamic State and Al-Nusra: Exploring Determinants of Chemical Weapons Usage Patterns," Perspectives on Terrorism, Vol. 11, Issue 6, December 2017.

27. Markus K. Binder, Jillian M. Quigley, Herbert F. Tinsley, "Islamic State Chemical Weapons: A Case Contained by its Context?" CTC Sentinel, Vol. 11, Issue 3, March 2018.  
<https://ctc.westpoint.edu/islamic-state-chemical-weapons-case-contained-context/>
28. Patrick Malone, R. Jeffrey Smith, "A terrorist group's plot to create a radioactive 'dirty bomb'," The Center for Public Integrity, February 29, 2016.
29. Daniel Koehler and Peter Popella, "Beware of CBRN Terrorism - From the Far-Right," Small Wars Journal, September 19, 2017.
30. Abdul Basit, "The COVID-19 Pandemic: An Opportunity for Terrorist Groups?" Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses, Vol. 12, No. 3 (April 2020), pp. 7-12, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, URL: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/26915444?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26915444?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)
31. Ely Karmon, "The Radical Right and the Obsession with Bioterrorism," ICT website, June 25, 2020.
32. Gary A. Ackerman, Zachary Kallenborn, Philipp C. Bleek, "Going Viral: Implications of COVID-19 for Bioterrorism," CTC Sentinel, May 2022, Volume 15, Issue 5.
33. Fact sheets: Chlorine, Sarin, Tabun, Cyanide; Ricin, Salmonella, Smallpox, Anthrax, Botulinum; Radiological Terrorism Fact Sheet