



Course program and reading list

Semester 2 Year 2024

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

Hezbollah- Hybrid Organization

Lecturer:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24290	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	242242901	English



Course Description

This course offers students a general understanding of Shi'a terrorism by particularly focusing on Hezbollah as a hybrid terrorist organization. Additionally, it provides students with thinking tools and models to identify, analyze and understand the patterns of action and trends of hybrid terrorist organizations to help them understand ways to deal with such organizations.

Topics we will discuss during the course

1. Iran and Shi'a terrorism: the ideological axis
2. The Islamic Revolution: the Iranian policy and its implementation
3. The development of a support system for Shi'a terrorism: state level, regional level and

international level.

4. The Revolutionary Guards, Quds Force and Hezbollah: the transition from assistance and mentorship to management and control. The expansion of Iranian control over proxy organizations.
 5. Hezbollah, the development of the terrorist wing up to the Arab Spring: from a revolutionary terrorist organization to a hybrid terrorist organization (Lebanon's time line). Processes and development trends, strategies of action (terrorism and guerilla), mutual influences, and interaction with its immediate environment as well as regional and international systems.
 6. Hezbollah from the Arab Spring to 2023. The entrance to the Syrian arena: the transition from a Lebanese player to a regional player, and from the concept of resistance to an offensive concept.
 7. Hezbollah: the axis of organizational development – a general map
 8. Hezbollah: a trend analysis as reflected in the organization's leadership speeches
 9. Hezbollah: the axis of political development – risks and opportunities
 10. Hezbollah and Israel: between deterrence and battlefield decision
 11. Hezbollah and Shi'a terrorism in the international arena
 12. Hezbollah: the link between terrorism and crime
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Course Goals

The course will deal with Hezbollah's social and ideological sources in its organizational development processes and the factors influencing these processes in recent decades. In this context, we will analyze the organization's policy in the political, social and terrorist spheres, while examining the strategies of action taken to implement its policy. We will also discuss the relations between Hezbollah, Iran and Syria to understand how they evolve over time.



Grading

A final home exam (80%) and core assignment (20%).

Core Assignment (20%):

The students will be required to write a core assignment in which they will **analyze four speeches** of Sheikh Nasrallah, Hezbollah's general secretary. Four-Five Students will work on a topic. They will choose four speeches of Nasrallah from different years (at least one year between every speech) based on the book "Voice of Hezbollah" and based on Hezbollah site: <https://www.english.alahednews.com.lb/>

The analysis will be around 5 pages that include the following parameters:

1. The speeches' titles.
2. The speeches' dates.
3. The socio-political context of the speeches.
4. Main themes mentioned in the speeches.
5. Do you identify any change in the messages delivered in the four speeches?

The assignment includes also: 5-10 slides summarize the speeches and the insights of the writers.

The team will present it in class (4-5 teammates)

Timing: The students will present their findings in class in the last four lessons based on Dr.Azani's decision.



Lecturer Office Hours

In Advanced



Tutor Office Hours

In Advanced



Reading List

1. Avon, Dominique. **Hezbollah: A History of the "Party of God"**. Cambridge: Harvard, University Press, 2012.
2. Byman, Daniel. "[Hezbollah's Dilemmas](#)", **Foreign Policy at Brookings**, Nov 2022.
3. Azani, Eitan & Eli Karmon. "Hezbollah's Role in the Present Israeli-Iranian Confrontation", IEEE.
4. Azani, Eitan. **Hezbollah: The Story of the Party of God: From Revolution to Institutionalization**. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
5. Azani, Eitan. "**Hezbollah, a Global Terrorist Organization**", **Hearing of the House Committee on International Relations– Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation**. September 2006, Testimony of **Col. (Res.)**
6. Azani, Eitan. "Hezbollah's Strategy of 'Walking on the Edge': Between Political Game and Political Violence". **Studies in Conflict & Terrorism**. 35:11, 2012, pp.741-759.
7. Azani, Eitan. "The Hybrid Terrorist Organization: Hezbollah as a Case Study". **Studies**

- in Conflict & Terrorism**. 36, 2013, pp.899–916.
8. Azani, Eitan. "The European Union Blacklisting Hezbollah: Testimony of Dr. Eitan Azani before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, Brussels, July 9, 2013. **ICTWPS**.
 9. Berti, Benedetta. "Armed Groups as Political Parties and Their Role in Electoral Politics: The Case of Hizballah". **Studies in Conflict & Terrorism**. 34:12, 2011, pp.942-962.
 10. Judit, Palmer, Harik. "Between Islam and the System: Sources and Implications of Popular Support for Lebanon's Hizballah". **Journal of Conflict Resolution**. Vol. 40, No. 1 (March 1996), pp. 41-67.
 11. Khalid, Lina. "How Hezbollah Holds sway Over the Lebanese State", **The Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House**, June 2021, pp1-32.
 12. Levitt, Matthew. "Iranian and Hezbollah: Operations in South America", **PRISM** 5, no. 4, pp.119-133.
 13. Levitt, Matthew. "Hezbollah's Regional Activities in Support of Iran's Proxy Networks", **The Middle East Institute**, July 26, 2021
 14. Magnus, Ranstrop. **Hizb'allah Political and Military Strategy in the 1990s- From Revolutionary Dogma to Lebanonization?**. Oxford: British Middle East Studies Association Conference, 1997.
 15. McInnis, J. Matthew. **Iran's Strategic Thinking: Origins and Evolution**. AEI, May 2015.
 16. Meier, Daniel. "Hizbullah's Shaping Lebanon Statehood", **Small Wars & Insurgencies**, 2018, Vol. 29, No. 3, 515–536.
 17. Mohanad, Hage Ali. "Power Points Defining the Syria-Hezbollah Relationship". **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, March 2019.
 18. Nicholas Noe, **Voice of Hezbollah: The Statements of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah**. London: Verso, 2007.
 19. O'balance, Edgar. **Islamic Fundamentalist Terrorism 1979-95: The Iranian Connection**. New- York: University Press, 1997.
 20. Tagliabue, Sofia Maria. "Inside Hezbollah: The al-Mahdi Scouts, Education, and Resistance". **DOMES**, Vol.24, No. 1, pp.74–95.
 21. Wehrey, Frederic and others. **The Rise of the Pasdaran Assessing the Domestic Roles of Iran**. Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2009.