



Course program and reading list

Semester 3 Year 2024

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

Cyber-Space in Contemporary Terrorism Strategy

Lecturer:

Dr. Eitan Azani eazani@runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Lorena Atiyas Lvovsky latiyas@runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
3722	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	243372200	English



Course Description

THE THREAT: INTERNET AS A PLATFORM

- The Use of Internet by Terrorist Organizations and Religious Justifications
- ISIS/Al Qaeda – Evolution, structure, modus operandi, policy and strategy:
 - The transformation from the real world into the virtual and the combination of both
 - Jihadi Websites and Forums: General Overview
 - Communication Strategy of Terrorist Organization on the Internet: Use of Internet for
 - Public Relation, Da'wa and Recruitment
 - Use of Internet for Operational Issues: Virtual Courses, Financing, ethos of Jihad and How to disseminate knowledge
 - Use of Internet as a Platform to Conduct Terrorist Attack: Case Studies

- Use of Internet by Right Wing Extremism
- Use of Internet for Intelligence Operation: Case Studies
- The use of Internet by Terrorist Organizations: Case studies of Hezbollah Current issues in information security

ELECTRONIC JIHAD – DEFENSIVE

ELECTRONIC JIHAD – OFFENSIVE

THE RESPONSE



Course Goals

The course will discuss how the cyber-space is being used by terrorist organizations for: incitement, indoctrination, training, recruitment, data-mining, intelligence, operational activities, defensive and offensive attacks. The course will use case studies from relevant Jihadi Websites, Forums, Chat-Rooms and Social Network. We will then discuss in this course the relevant typologies of cyber-attacks as well as define them. Finally, through case study analysis, we will discuss the motivation and operational capability of selective terrorist groups to operate on the cyber-space.

Students are required to attend all classes and any assigned supplementary activities related to the course. Classes will consist of lectures, guest speakers and in-class exercise.



Grading

Class Exercises (30%)

- Presentation No. 1 - Recruitment & Radicalization: 10%
- Presentation No. 2 - Planning terror attack: 20%
- Students will be asked to present in group of 3-4 students in class, as well as submit their presentations (and any additional documents on Moodle).
- Presentations should be submitted with the ID numbers of all presenters.
- Only one submission on Moodle per group.

Final paper (70%)

- Length: in pair: 8-10 pages; if writing alone: 5-6 pages
- Line Spacing: 2.0
- Font: Times New Roman
- Size: 12
- Margin: Standard
- Due Date: TBA
- Literature: The paper must be written according to academic writing standards
- Misc: The assignment can be written in pair or alone
- Please include a cover page with your ID Number



Teaching Assistant

Lorena Atiyas Lvovsky: Latiyas@runi.ac.il



Reading List

Periodical Updates

- ICT Cyber-Desk, International Institute for Counter- Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <http://www.ict.org.il/Articles.aspx?WordID=26>
- Jihadists Use of Virtual Currency, International Institute for Counter- Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <https://www.ict.org.il/images/Jihadists%20Use%20of%20Virtual%20Currency.pdf>
- Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG), International Institute for Counter- Terrorism (ICT) – Available at: <http://www.ict.org.il/Articles.aspx?WordID=24>
- National Cyber-Security Strategies in the World – Available at: <http://www.enisa.europa.eu/activities/Resilience-and-CIIP/nationalcybersecuritystrategies-ncsss/national-cyber-security-strategies-in-the-world>
- The International Cyber-Terrorism Regulations Projects (ICTRP) – www.ictrp.org
- The Global Forum for Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT) – <https://www.gifct.org/>
- Tech Against Terrorism – <https://techagainstterrorism.org/>
- Global Network on Terrorism & Technology (GNET) – <https://gnet-research.org/>

Readings

- Eitan Azani & Daniel Haberfeld, Hamas Media Campaign: "Al Aqsa Flood", ICT, October 2023.
- Clint Watts, Iran Accelerates cyber ops against Israel from chaotic start, February 2024 – <https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2024/02/06/iran-accelerates-cyber-ops-against-israel/>
- Gabriell Weimann et al., Generating Terror: The risk of generative AI exploitation, CTC, January 2024, Volume 17, Issue 1 – <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/generating-terror-the-risks-of-generative-ai-exploitation/>
- Berger J.M. and Morgan Jonathon, The ISIS Twitter Census – Defining and Describing the population of ISIS supporters on Twitter, The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Analysis Paper | No. 20, March 2015
- Bertram, L. (2016). Terrorism, the internet and social media advantages. Journal for Deradicalization, 7, 225-252.
- Denning, Dorothy, Terror's Web: How the Internet is Transforming Terrorism, Handbook of Internet Crime (Y. Jewkes and M. Yar, eds.), Willan Publishing, 2009
- Geers, Kenneth, Strategic Cyber Security, Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, NATO, 2011
- Hoffman, Bruce, The Use of the Internet By Islamic Extremists, Testimony presented

to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 4, 2006

- Jacobson, Michael, (2010) Terrorist Financing and the Internet, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 33:353-363, 2010
- Jenkins, Michael, Is al Qaeda's Internet Strategy Working, Testimony presented to the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, December 6, 2011,
- Musawi, Mohammed Ali, Cheering for Osama – How Jihadists Use Internet Discussion Forums, Quillam, August 2010
- Paul Gill, Emily Corner, Amy Thornton, Maura Conway (2015). What are the roles of the internet in terrorism? Measuring online behaviors of convicted UK terrorists. VOXPol Network of Excellence.
- Phillip W. Brunst (2010). *Terrorism and the Internet: New Threats Posed by Cyberterrorism and Terrorist Use of the Internet*. Springer.
- Stenersen, Anne, The Internet – A Virtual Training Camp, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 20:215-233, 2008
- The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2012
- Tsfati, Yariv and Weimann, Gabriel, *www.terrorism.com: Terrorism on the Internet*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 25:317-332, 2002
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNCTITF (2011) *Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes - Legal and Technical Aspects*. New York: United Nations.
- Weimann, Gabriel (2018). *Going Darker? The challenge of dark net terrorism*. Wilson Center.
- Weimann, Gabriel and Natalie Marsi (2020). *Research Note: Spreading Hate on TikTok*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. Published online: 19 Jun 2020