

**Macro Course Design
International Terrorism
SPAS/POL – PP 521**

RELEASE IN FULL

I. Course Purpose:

This course is designed to examine the continuing and evolving impact of international terrorism on U.S. foreign policy. The course is designed for policymakers in Washington and staff in the field who deal with international terrorism and terrorism-related issues. *International Terrorism* considers the current global terrorist threat, U.S. government and partner efforts to counter terrorism, countering and preventing violent extremism, and U.S. national security policy. With a broad inter-agency perspective, PP521 also aims to orient students to the cooperation among agencies to align our efforts against those terrorist groups and networks that pose the most serious threats to U.S. interests and national security.

II. Course Overview/Goals:

The course seeks to improve interagency and intra-Department coordination, understanding of, and networking against terrorism by considering recent global events, case studies, and real-life examples, drawing on experienced speakers from inside and outside the U.S. government. Course sessions will focus on theoretical aspects of terrorism, as well as practical and operational tools available to policymakers. Effective interagency collaboration is a Department of State QDDR priority. Countering international terrorism is a component of the U.S. National Security Strategy.

This seminar is designed for students whose work is related to counterterrorism and the impact of terrorism on U.S. foreign policy. Expert speakers, both governmental and non-governmental, explore practical ways national security policy makers and officers in the field can counter the threat of international terrorism. The course and material will focus on both the theoretical (e.g., understanding the causes of terrorism, the mind and the motivation of the terrorist and different kinds of terrorism) and the operational (e.g., U.S. government programs to combat terrorism and to counter violent extremism, the interagency coordination process, and lessons learned from case studies).

III. Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the mind, motivation and the method of the terrorist.
- List the different causes of international terrorism.
- Contribute to the process of developing and implementing counterterrorism strategies.
- Define Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and identify opportunities for advancing CVE objectives.
- Identify different U.S. government agencies working to combat terrorism as well as explain the agencies' counterterrorism agendas and coordination mechanisms.

Course topics will include the interagency process, the scope and nature of the terrorist threat and terrorist networks, terrorist finance, countering and preventing violent extremism, the roles of interagency colleagues, including the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, the FBI, the National Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the National Counterterrorism Center, as well as working with international partners. An opening session with a senior official from the CT Bureau will set the global context in which the U.S. government implements its counterterrorism policy.

Evaluation Levels

Level 1: Students will complete a course evaluation using Survey Monkey. Course coordinator will consult with Division Director and the CT Bureau prior to the next offering of the course, to review evaluation findings and discuss the need for modifications and additions.

IV. Staff Roles and Responsibilities:

Course development is sponsored by SPAS/POL.

Each offering of the course requires one full-time instructor/coordinator from SPAS/POL, and a SPAS/POL program assistant for logistics support. The course is developed in close consultation with a subject-matter expert from the CT Bureau. Sessions also rely on thematic experts and subject-matter experts from relevant bureaus and organizations for material and speaker support.

V. Course Schedule:

The course is offered twice annually at the Foreign Service Institute. Enrollment is by application to SPAS/POL. Participants must have at least a secret level security clearance. The min/max enrollment is 15/27.

VI. Methodologies:

Individual session instructors/speakers use a mixture of teaching techniques, including but not limited to, lectures and presentations, in-class group assignments and exercises, case studies, and other techniques as required to convey information and promote skills transfer.

VII. Materials:

Each participant will be given unlimited access to the class SharePoint site that includes relevant PowerPoint presentations, in-class materials, reference documents, web-sites, and articles.

General Materials:

- flip-charts and markers for each table
- index cards
- pads, pens, highlighters, and pencils for each student
- water and cups for presenters
- computer with PowerPoint capabilities and screen
- course folders
- PowerPoint clicker