



Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

COURSE SYLLABUS – J-TERM 2021

NPTG 8542 Transnational Crime and Terrorism (1 Credit)

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri 1300-1600

January 24-28, 2022

Dr. Katharine Petrich

kpetrich@middlebury.edu

Office Location TBD; Office Hours by Appointment

This course will use Canvas and email to students for sharing course materials and updates

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The "crime terror nexus" is a major area of concern for policymakers. In a globalized world, extremist groups use criminal relationships or skills for a range of purposes: from sourcing weapons to smuggling operatives into and out of countries to 'simply' circumventing financial regulations designed to starve such groups of needed monetary support. Thus far, countermeasures have had uneven results in disrupting or deterring transnational criminal activities by violent non-state actors. This course will explore the problems of international crime and terrorism in today's strategic environment, with a particular emphasis on the 'why' and 'how' of the crime-terrorism relationship. Students will gain an understanding of the factors that have contributed to the proliferation of transnational crime and terrorism, the types of crimes that pose the greatest threat to lawful societies, the institutions and tactical responses that have been developed to combat transnational crime, and the extent to which transnational crime and terrorism threaten the national security interests of the United States and the world community. By the end of this course, students should be familiar with the prevailing explanations for why terrorist groups use crime in the modern era, the organizational consequences of such a funding stream, and how states can and should respond to these challenges.

This class will be delivered in a 'flipped classroom' model, meaning students are expected to read the assigned materials and watch lecture videos before 1300. Our 'in person' meetings will comprise solely of discussion and collaborative activities, not lecture.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

This information is also linked in the Canvas site.

CLASS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC CONDUCT

All students will be held to policies and procedures listed in the most current Policies and Standards Manual (PSM). This includes but is not limited to our Student Honor Code and regulations on plagiarism. A complete copy of the Policies and Standards Manual (PSM) can be found at http://www.miis.edu/media/view/23925/original/policy_and_standards_manual_update.pdf.

DELIVERABLES

In lieu of a final exam, students will be expected to write a policy paper of no more than five single spaced pages (exclusive of citations/works cited).

- RED TEAM: Imagine you in charge of strategic planning for an existing terrorist organization. Write a memo to group leadership arguing for why (or why not) the group should diversify into crime, what type of crime is available in the group's operational context/ability, and what the long term consequences on such diversification (or not) will be.
 - Be sure to SPECIFY from which terrorist organization's perspective you are writing
 - If the group already engages in criminal activity, you should discuss it, and explain whether or not your recommended course of action deepens/eliminates those activities
 - Be sure to consider the group's ability, organizational structure, and the geographic/regional contexts in which it operates. A group operating in an environment with strong criminal networks has different options and considerations than in a context with weak petty criminals.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY – Setting the stage

- Readings:
 - Cronin “How al Qaeda Ends” *International Security*
 - Makarenko “The Crime Terror Continuum” *Global Crime*
 - Dishman “The Leaderless Nexus” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*
 - Wang “The Crime Terror Nexus” *Asian Social Science*

TUESDAY - Drugs

- Readings:
 - Asal, Milward, and Schoon “When Terrorists Go Bad” *International Studies Quarterly*
 - Clarke “ISIS is so desperate it's turning to the drug trade” *Fortune*
 - Naim “No Business Like Drug Business” *Illicit*
 - Shelley “Exploring the Financial Nexus of Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime.” Testimony to House Financial Services Committee.
 - UNODC World Drug Report 2019

WEDNESDAY – Arms

- Readings:
 - Hoffman “The first non-state use of a chemical weapon in warfare” *Small Wars and Insurgencies*
 - Koehler and Popella “Mapping Far-right Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism Efforts in the West” *Terrorism and Political Violence*
 - de Tessieres “At the Crossroads of the Sahelian Conflicts” *Small Arms Survey*

- Naim “Small Arms and Loose Nukes” *Illicit*
- Stohl “Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms” *SAIS Review of International Affairs*

THURSDAY – People

- Readings:
 - Petrich and Donnelly “Worth Many Sins” *Small Wars and Insurgencies*
 - Welch “Human Trafficking and Terrorism” *Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy*
 - O’Brien “Fluctuations Between Crime and Terror” *Terrorism and Political Violence*

FRIDAY – Nontraditional crime and future crime

- Readings
 - Faucon, Kantchev, and MacDonald “The Men Who Trade ISIS Loot” *The Wall Street Journal*
 - Felbab-Brown “Wildlife and Drug Trafficking, Terrorism, and Human Security” *PRISM*
 - Ralby “Downstream Oil Theft”
 - US Department of State “The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco”
 - Vaughan – “Oil theft ‘provides billions for terrorists and drug cartels.’ *The Guardian*
 - Carlisle – “Cryptocurrencies and Terrorist Financing” *RUSI*