FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Terrorism and Counterterrorism
Código	E000013478
Impartido en	Master in International Security Management [Primer Curso]
Créditos	5,0 ECTS
Carácter	Obligatoria
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
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DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura
Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación

The course "Terrorism and Counterterrorism" analyzes the main concepts, approaches, and manifestations of terrorism and counterterrorism, with both historical and contemporary perspectives.

While terrorism has been a constant feature of human conflict for over two millennia, technological and social advances in the 19th and 20th centuries have amplified its potential impact on societies. This has influenced international relations, shaped strategic agendas, and driven the development of specific strategies to address the terrorist threat.

Considering these elements, the course has three objectives:

1. To understand terrorism from a historical perspective, examining its evolution and links to technological, social, and political developments. Particular focus will be on modern terrorism in the 20th century, exploring different waves of terrorism, their characteristics, and how they emerged and disappeared.
2. To comprehend the organizational and ideological dynamics of terrorist groups, including the circumstances that lead to their emergence and growth; their methods; relationships with other actors; forms of financing; goals; and their effects on domestic and international security.
3. To analyze various counterterrorism strategies, from both a historical perspective that highlights possible approaches and a functional perspective focusing on policy objectives.

This course is especially relevant for students aiming to focus on security policies against terrorist threats.

Prerrequisitos

No prior requirements are necessary.

Competencias - Objetivos

Competencias

General Competencies

- **CG1**: Acquire in-depth knowledge of the main vectors of international security that shape global geopolitical trends.
- **CG2**: Understand the impact of new security threats on the management of international realities.

Specific Competencies

- **CE4**: Develop a systemic vision capable of identifying security challenges in an interconnected manner.
- **CG7**: Conduct a research project on international security with academic and scientific rigor.

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

1. Concept of Terrorism

- Defining terrorism
- Terror and terrorism
- Elements and characteristics
- Strategy, tactics, or ideology

2. History of Terrorism

- Terrorism in historical perspective
- Ancient manifestations of terrorism
- Terrorism in the 19th Century
- Terrorism in the 20th Century
- Terrorism in the 21st Century

3. Terrorism as a Global Phenomenon

- Individual features of terrorist
- Inglehart 's post materialist theory
- Mental health and terrorism
- Four Waves of Modern Terrorism
- Actors, strategies and Modus Operandi

4. Psychology of Terrorism

- Terrorism as an Identity
- Terrorist radicalization

5. Counterterrorism. Main strategies.

- Effectiveness of Terrorism
- Main Types of counterterrorism

- Counterterrorist Main Actions

6. Counterterrorism in Spain

- History of Terrorism in Spain
- Regulation of Terrorism in Europe
- Spanish Counterterrorist Strategy
- Terrorism Legislation in Spain

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

In-Person Methodology: Activities

1. Lectures

Sessions in which topics are presented clearly, structured, and engagingly. The professor explains concepts with active participation from students, who debate unclear points or nuances important for a full understanding.

2. Group Work

Analysis of case studies. Students will complete analytical and reflective work based on a case study, reading, or prepared material, with the aim of intellectually challenging the students.

Online Methodology: Activities

3. Personal Study and Documentation

Individual essay in which the student comprehends, develops, and retains scientific content. Independent reading of various texts (books, journals, articles, news, reports, etc.) related to a subject agreed upon by the student and professor.

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

1. **Exam**

   A final exam with ten essay questions, each worth one point, covering topics discussed in class. This includes both lecture content and required readings and news articles.

   Weight: 50%

2. **Individual Essay**

   Students must critically discuss the main points presented by the invited speakers. Optional guiding questions will be provided by the teacher to help structure the essay.

   Weight: 20%

3. **Group Project**

   In groups of 2-3 students (depending on class size), students will give 20-30 minute presentations on individuals or organizations involved in terrorist activities. The aim is to explain the political and historical context of the group or individual, describe their motivations, and analyze the effectiveness of the group's strategies and the state's security forces in response.

   Weight: 20%

4. **Participation**

   Students must attend and participate throughout the course, particularly in debates on assigned readings and news articles posted on the platform.

Weight: 10%

Calificaciones

To be eligible to sit the ordinary exam session, students must not have unjustifiably missed more than one third of the classes. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the loss of both the ordinary and extraordinary exam sessions (Art. 93.1 of the General Regulations).

Committing a serious academic offense—such as plagiarism of previously published materials, cheating during an exam or other assessed activity, or failing to respect basic rules of conduct—may lead to disciplinary proceedings and the loss of two exam sessions.

The use of AI to generate entire assignments or substantial parts thereof, without citing the source or tool used, or when not explicitly allowed in the assignment instructions, will be considered plagiarism and regulated in accordance with the University's General Regulations.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

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