



## 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	
Nombre	Miguel Paradela López
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
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## DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura
<b>Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación</b>
<p>The course "Terrorism and Counterterrorism" analyzes the main concepts, approaches, and manifestations of terrorism and counterterrorism, with both historical and contemporary perspectives.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Considering these elements, the course has three objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>3. To analyze various counterterrorism strategies, from both a historical perspective that highlights possible approaches and a functional perspective focusing on policy objectives.</li></ol> <p>This course is especially relevant for students aiming to focus on security policies against terrorist threats.</p>
<b>Prerrequisitos</b>
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

#### Introduction

- Concept of terrorism
- Terror and terrorism
- Elements and characteristics
- Strategy, tactics, or ideology

#### History

- Early cases of terrorism
- Modern terrorism
- Contemporary terrorism

#### Terrorism Analysis

- Terrorism as a global phenomenon (waves of terrorism)
- Terrorism and radicalization
- Terrorism and the individual

#### Counterterrorism

- Effectiveness of terrorism
- Main counterterrorism theories
- Counterterrorism 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%

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

### Bibliografía Básica

BAKKER, Edwin (2012): "Forecasting Terrorism: The Need for a More Systematic Approach", *Journal of Strategic Security* 5, n°. 4. 69-84.

BLANCO, José María (2017): "The fight against jihadism in Spain. Special mention to Guardia Civil", in *Radicalism and Terrorism in the XXI Century*. <https://www.peterlang.com/view/9783631706381/xhtml/chapter09.xhtml>

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- TORRES-SORIANO, Manuel R. y TOBOSO, Mario (2019): "Five terrorist dystopias", *The International Journal of Intelligence, Security, and Public Affairs*, 21:1, 49-65.
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## Bibliografía Complementaria

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# COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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**GUÍA DOCENTE**

**2024 - 2025**

Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano.

TORRES-SORIANO, Manuel R. (2017): "Propaganda as a threat indicator: the case of Spain", Terrorism and Political Violence.

TORRES-SORIANO, Manuel R. (2019): "How do terrorists choose their targets for an attack", Terrorism and Political Violence.