

# "תיאטרון הטרור":

## הטרור המודרני ותקשורת המונים

פרופ' גבי וימן

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### **Course Objective**

Modern terrorism relies on the mass media for publicity, recognition, psychological impact, political achievements and other purposes. This course examines the relationships between modern terrorists and the mass media, how terrorists use the media (including the recent presence of terrorists on the Internet and the threat of cyberterrorism), how democracies can respond to the challenge, and what are the prices of various measures.

### **Required Readings:**

Most of the reading material is taken from two books:

- Brigitte L. Nacos, *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*. Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002.
- Gabriel Weimann and Conrad Winn, *The Theater of Terror: Mass Media and International Terrorism*. New York: Longman, 1994.

הספרים נמצאים בספריית ה"שמורים" של אוניברסיטת חיפה.

### **Course Procedure:**

This course will be primarily taught as a lecture course. My lectures, however, will be supplemented by PowerPoint presentations and video tapes that document a handful of major terrorist incidents both at home and abroad. Attending the lectures and the presentations is obligatory.

### **Grading**

You are required to write a term paper. The term paper must be about 20-30 pages long and the topics must be approved by the instructor. The papers should be submitted before August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

# Course Outline

## **1. Opening: September 11, 2001 and the Theater of Terror Conceptualization**

### Reading:

- Nacos, B., 2003, "The Terrorist Calculus behind 9-11: A Model for Future Terrorism?", *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 26:1–16, 2003, at: [http://www.polisci.taylorandfrancis.com/pdfs/ter/janfeb03\\_nacos.pdf](http://www.polisci.taylorandfrancis.com/pdfs/ter/janfeb03_nacos.pdf)
- Brian M. Jenkins, *International Terrorism: A New Mode of Conflict* (Santa Monica, Ca.: Rand Co., 1974), pp. 1-15.

### Video: "America Remembers"

"Anatomy of September 11"

## **2. Defining Terrorism: Definitions, Debates, and Typologies**

### Reading:

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 2, pp. 20-28.

### Video: "The Seeds of Terror"

## **3. Reviewing the History of Modern Terrorism**

### Reading:

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 2.

### Video: "Inside the Mind of the Suicide Bomber"

## **4. The Emergence of Media-Oriented Terrorism**

### Reading:

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 3.
- Carlos Marighella, *Mini Manual of Urban Guerrilla*, at: <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/marighella.htm>
- Ralph E. Dowling, "Terrorism and the Media: A Rhetorical Genre", *Journal of Communication*, Vol. 36, No. 1, (1986), pp. 12-24.
- Nacos, B., *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*, Chapter 1.

### Video: "The Emergence: From the 1972 Munich Olympics to the ship Achille Lauro"

## **5. Terrorist Acts as Media Events**

### Reading:

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 4.

### Video: "17 Days of Terror: The Hijacking of TWA 847"

## **6. The Newsworthiness of Terrorism**

### Reading:

- Nacos, B., *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*, Chapter 3: pp. 65-88.
- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 5.

## **7. Terrorists and the Celebrity Culture**

### Reading:

- Nacos, B., *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*, Chapter 3: pp. 88-99.
- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 7.

Video: "Carlos the Jackal"

"Bin Laden"

## **8. Terror on the Internet: The New Arena, The New Challenges**

### Reading:

- Weimann, Gabriel, 2004. WWW.Terror.Net: How Modern Terrorism Uses the Internet, Special report, Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace. At: <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr116.html>
- Weimann, Gabriel, 2004. "Cyberterrorism: How real is the Threat? Special report, Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace. At: <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr119.html>
- Nacos, B., *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*, Chapter 4.

Video: "Cyber-War"

## **9. The Effects of Mass-Mediated Terrorism**

### Reading:

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapters 6, 8.

Video: "The Virus of Violence"

## **10. Manipulating Terrorism and the Media: Political Actors**

### Reading:

- Susan Moeller, "Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Media: Anatomy of a Failure", *YaleGlobal*, 14 April 2004, at: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=3703>

- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapters 9.

## **11. Must the Show Go On?**

- Nacos, B., *Mass-Mediated Terrorism*, Chapter 6.
- Weimann & Winn, *The Theater of Terror*, Chapter 11.

Video: "Terrorism - Discussion"

"The Canadian Debate – the ASALA attacks"

### **\*The Lecturer:**

Gabriel Weimann is a Full Professor of Communication at the Department of Communication at Haifa University, Israel and a Visiting Professor at the American University, Washington, DC. His research interests include the study of media effects, political campaigns, persuasion and influence, media and public opinion, modern terrorism and the mass media. He published five books: *Communicating Unreality* (Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2000); *The Influentials: People Who Influence People* (State University of New York Press, 1995); *The Theater of Terror* (New York: Longman, 1994); *Hate on Trial* (Toronto: Mosaic, 1986); and *The Singaporean Enigma* (Jerusalem: Tzivonim, 2001). His papers and research reports, more than 100 publications, have been published in scientific journals such as *Journal of Communication*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Communication Research*, *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, *American Sociological Review* and others. He received numerous grants and awards from international foundations, including the Fulbright Foundation, the Canadian-Israel Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, the German National Research Foundation (D.F.G.), the Sasakawa Foundation, United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and others. Prof. Weimann was a Visiting Professor at various universities including University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, Hofstra University, Lehigh University (USA), University of Mainz (Germany), Carleton University (Canada) and the National University of Singapore.

Professor Weimann spent the last year as a Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington, DC, working on his project *Terror in the Internet: The New Arena, the New Challenges*.