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HSTR 291.80: Honors Terrorism Seminar

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HSTR 291 Honors College Seminar for Terrorism in the Modern World (HSTR 272E)

Description of the Course

Students in the seminar will meet every Friday in DHC 117 from 2:00 to 2:50 with Professor Drake. They will discuss the lectures, readings, and/or films for that week in HSTR 272E. President's Lecture Series presentations, when germane to the course, will also be discussed in the seminar. Students will write one five-page review of a book about terrorism not on the required reading list for HSTR 272E. The review, which will be worth fifty per cent of the semester grade, will be due in class on Friday, 14 April. The other fifty per cent of the semester grade will be based on seminar participation. The goal of the course is to provide a stimulating intellectual seminar environment for highly motivated students in which they can acquire an understanding of the historical forces responsible for the scourge of terrorism in the modern world. The discussion materials for our weekly meetings will follow the HSTR 272E syllabus.

Meetings

27 January	Introduction
3 February	Discussion: Eric Hoffer, <i>The True Believer</i> and <i>Danton</i>
10 February	Discussion: Joseph Conrad, <i>Under Western Eyes</i>
17 February	Discussion: Arthur Koestler, <i>Darkness at Noon</i>
24 February	Discussion: The Holocaust as an Act of State Terrorism
3 March	Discussion: Mark Danner, <i>Massacre at El Mozote</i>
10 March	Discussion: Terrorism in the Middle East
17 March	Discussion: Ayatollah Khomeini Articles (available on Moodle)

20-24 March Spring Break

31 March	Discussion: Ahmed Rashid, <i>The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia</i>
7 April	Discussion: <i>The Battle of Algiers</i>
14 April	Discussion: Italian Terrorism Articles available Moodle)— Book Reports due
21 April	Discussion: Terrorism in Europe Today
28 April	Discussion: <i>American History X</i> and <i>If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Movement</i>
5 May	Discussion: Osama bin Laden, <i>Messages to the World</i>