



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE *of* PROFESSIONAL  
*and* CONTINUING STUDIES

## IAS 5940-501: Topics in International Studies – Women and Terrorism

### Course Description:

Ongoing contemporary debates related to 'terrorism' - both domestic and international - remain complex and controversial. Women as terrorists, in particular, have gained increasing attention and prominence in this debate and in public rhetoric on the subject. Why are women often willing to resort to such violent tactics? What are the seemingly paradoxical narratives surrounding women's participation in (sub-state) organizations and their activities? What role (power) do tools associated with impressions of gender play in acts of terrorism? How is women's agency defined by biological bodies, and how are those bodies used by terrorist organizations to produce victims and perpetrators of violence? And what role does gender/gendered bodies play in counter-terrorism tactics, both internationally and domestically?

The course is divided into three core foci: first, critically examining the concept of 'terrorism', looking at the different ways that the subject is framed by scholars from a variety of theoretical leanings and disciplines. Second, it considers the history of women's participation in terrorism, looking at the ways in which women are recruited into terrorist organizations, the (gendered) political strategies they use, and how those have changed over time. We will discuss the role women have taken in terrorist groups and attacks, and how they have been presented, debated and analyzed in the literature. Third, the course considers the depiction of women associated with acts of terrorism through films.

### Course Dates:

June 15 – 29, 2021

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: May 17, 2021

### Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at [aponline@ou.edu](mailto:aponline@ou.edu)

### Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Stephanie Sztanyi, PhD

Email Address: [s.sztanyi@gmail.com](mailto:s.sztanyi@gmail.com)

Professor availability: The professor will be available via email. Students may contact the professor to set up meetings, if necessary, via Skype or Zoom.

### Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at

<https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact [apsyllabi@ou.edu](mailto:apsyllabi@ou.edu). Text prices are available online

1. Louise Richardson. "What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat." Random House, 2007. ISBN 978-0812975444

2. Laura Sjoberg and Caron E. Gentry "Women, Gender, and Terrorism." University of Georgia Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0820341309
3. Jessica Davis. "Women in Modern Terrorism." Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. ISBN 978-1442274983
4. Other required readings, articles, book chapters provided by the instructor and will be uploaded to Canvas course site.
5. Mandatory films which are part of the course and which can be viewed for free online (links to be provided by instructor).

**OU Email:**

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

**Course Objectives:**

- Describe what terrorism is, the history of terrorism, diverging views associated with defining/identifying/labeling acts of terrorism.
- Identify multiple ways in which gender and gendered bodies are used as a tactic and tool in acts of terrorism.
- Assess challenges concerning media coverage of terrorist attacks, in particular how gendered narratives are used in that coverage.
- Describe the roles women have historically played in terrorist organizations and terrorist attacks (both as targets of terrorism and as perpetrators of terrorism), and assess how those roles may/may not be changing in the 21st Century.

**Course of Study**

The course will follow a series of 8 lectures with associated readings spread out across the duration of the three weeks of the class. Non-lecture days will allow students to focus on readings and engage in online reflections. Lecture slides and readings will be available for download from the Canvas course webpage prior to the first class. These lectures are entitled:

1. What is Terrorism and Where Does it Come From;
2. History of Terrorism;
3. "Violent" Women?;
4. Women's Role in Terrorism Organizations;
5. Women as Suicide Bombers;
6. Gender and (Social) Media Portrayals of Terrorism;
7. Gender, Counter-terrorism and Foreign Policy: Drones, Targeted Killings, and Torture; and
8. Domestic Terrorism and Counter Measures: Security vs. Freedom, Society of Surveillance

**Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**

Detailed assignment instructions will be made available to students on the Canvas course webpage one month prior to the first class. All assignments will employ either the APA, MLA, or Chicago style guides.

**Course Schedule – including reading assignments and due dates for assignments are subject to change at instructor's discretion**

Assignment	Due Date(s)	Percent of Grade
<b>3 Movie Reflections of 500-750 words each</b> (due on or before first day of class)	June 15, 2021	15% (5% each)
<b>250-Word posts to 5 discussion forums.</b> Students will earn participation and engagement points in the online environment by providing 250 word (minimum but can be more) postings to answer questions posed by the instructor in 5 discussion groups. Students are encouraged to respond to other student's posts although this is not mandated	18 June, 20 June, 24 June, 26 June, 28 June	25% (5% each posting)
<b>Media Memo (1-2 pages single spaced).</b> Students will write a media memo on competing news sources' coverage of an act of terrorism (list to be provided by instructor from which students can choose one).	23 June	30%
<b>48-hour Policy Memo/Brief (3-4 pages single spaced).</b> Students will be given a prompt on the last day of class. They will have 48 hours to complete the assignment and write a memo or brief that provides concrete policy suggestions/action to be taken based on the information provided in the prompt	29 June	30%

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

**Policy for Late Work:**

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

**Attendance Policy:**

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

**Incomplete Grade Policy:**

A grade of "I" is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a "Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade" form. An "I" can never be used in lieu of an "F" nor can an "I" be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

**Technical Support Information:**

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

**Note:** Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct**

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://integrity.ou.edu/students\\_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

### **Accommodation Statement**

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

### **Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

### **Title IX Resources**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu) or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

### **Course Policies**

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

## INSTRUCTOR VITA

Stephanie Szitanyi, PhD

### Education

- 2016 PhD (Political Science) Rutgers University, NJ, USA
- 2006 MA (International Relations and European Studies) Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2005 BA (International Studies) Adelphi University, Garden City, NY, USA

### Current Positions

Assistant Dean, Schools of Public Engagement, The New School, NY USA

### Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Women in the military
- Civilian-military relations
- Feminist IR theory
- Militarism and Militarization

### Representative Publications and Presentations

- *Gender Trouble in the U.S. Military* (2019). Palgrave MacMillan, Forthcoming
- “Female Vets Could Lead the Change in 2020” The Hill. Published online 13 Nov. 2018.
- “This Year Congress Could be Invaded by Female Combat Veterans,” The Hill. Published online 27 Apr 2018.
- “Semiotic Readings of the USS Midway Museum: Making Women Disappear in the Military,” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. DOI: 10.1080/14616742.2013.876300. Published online 27 Mar 2014.

### Major Professional Affiliations

- Reviewer, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.
- Committee Member, Fulbright Student Program. The New School, NY. 2018.
- Guest Lecturer, 2016 New York University Center for Global Affairs “Role of Women in U.S. National Security.” New York, NY.
- Chair, 2016 International Studies Association (ISA) Conference “Feminist Activism and Peace.” Atlanta, Georgia.
- Executive Committee Graduate Student Representative, 2015-2016 International Studies Association (ISA), Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section.
- Discussant, 2014 International Studies Association (ISA) Conference “Envisioning the Global – Visual Methodologies and Approaches to Research.” Toronto, Canada.
- Discussant, 2013 International Studies Association (ISA) Conference “Militarizing Gendered and Racialized Effects of the ‘War on Terror.’” San Francisco, California.
- Chair, 2012 International Studies Association (ISA) Conference “The Aftermaths of the War on Terror: Renegotiating Gendered National Identities” San Diego, California.