# Terrorism and Security (Fall 2023)

## Term Paper Guidelines

A term paper for this course is worth 30% of your final grade. Following these guidelines should help you prepare and write a successful paper for this course. This is an individual assignment; however, you are free to discuss your topic as well as its contents with your classmates. It is, actually, advisable that you seek peer feedback. Naturally, I will be glad to consult you as well.

Begin by finding a good topic. A topic is good if it is interesting, argumentative, contemporary, thought provoking and resourceful. How to find such topic? First, consult your lecture notes, slides, textbook chapters and seminar papers. Try to remember if there were interesting topic ideas that came to your mind. For additional inspiration take a look at what’s going on in the world right now in the sphere of combatting terrorism and international security. For example:

* There was a terrorist attack recently in Europe and no terrorist organization claimed it. Why?
* Counterterrorist measures of some country(-ies) have been quite ineffective since specific period of time. Why?
* A certain terrorist organization changed its tactics and/or rhetoric. Why?
* A group of countries can not arrive at a common counterterrorist policy. Why?
* In a certain country/region, there has been a steady growth of terrorist sympathizers. Why?
* By comparing two terrorist organizations try to explain why one of them was more successful in achieving their goals than another.
* Argue why you think a certain terrorist organization is actually a liberation movement (freedom fighters).

As you can see, your topics should be analytical rather than descriptive. Make sure your argument is debatable. However, should you wish to describe a phenomenon, it has to be relatively new and understudied.

You are highly encouraged to consult academic sources and where applicable refer to past and present policy papers. Your claims must be supported with authoritative evidence. Beware, not every web resource or newspaper article is a reliable source (think fake news!). Consider bias, subjectivity, political agenda, etc. Your paper must be structured as a classical academic paper with proper introduction, body and conclusion.

**Plagiarism and AI**

Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and will not be tolerated. All papers uploaded via Moodle are automatically checked for plagiarism by TurnItIn. Consult your Academic Writing class notes and materials about how to avoid plagiarism.

AI-generated content is detectable and will be detected. You are allowed to use AI for brainstorming or similar activities. Beware of using AI generated content in your term paper.

In the event of detected plagiarism or AI generated content, you will fail this and paper presentation assignment. I reserve the right to take this case to disciplinary committee.

## Format

Strictly adhere to formatting. Failing to do so will affect your grade.

* 2500 words ± 10% including bibliography
* 12 pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, 2.5 cm paper margins
* Pages must be numbered
* APA writing style
* No cover page is necessary
* Put your name, ID, paper title and word count
* At least three academic references
* You may include any visual aids such as tables, graphs, maps, etc. with proper source attribution
* Run a spellcheck and ensure professional presentation. This will affect your grade.

## Grading criteria

*Argument*: your argument must be debatable and controversial. The simpler it is the better which means that it should be easy to understand and explain. The logic of argument should be sound and clear. If your argument is controversial then there would be counterarguments which you must acknowledge and somehow respond to.

*Analysis*: how deep and nuanced is your analysis? Stay away from descriptive content in favor of analytical one. You can analyze by comparing and contrasting across time and space, cases, personalities and phenomena. You can also enrich your analysis by applying a theory (-ies). Good analysis should not come at a cost of overcomplicating your argument. You should express your opinion openly and freely by utilizing the ‘I believe’, ‘I argue’, ‘I maintain’ words.

*Evidence*: there can be no argument without evidence; therefore, provide supporting evidence which is academic (preferably), trustworthy and reliable. Aim at two or three (maximum) pieces of evidence from reputable sources such as academic journal, official statistics, NGO reports, media articles, etc. Evidence that is not verifiable is not evidence.

*Style*: you are writing an academic essay, not a blog post or media article. Refrain from journalistic and literary tones. Write clearly with proper punctuation and reasonable paragraph lengths. Sentence meanings must not be obscured by lengthy sentences, typos, grammatical and stylistical errors. Watch out for in-text citations and quotations which must match the APA style. Last but not least, strictly follow the paper format guidelines above.

## Deadline

Upload your term papers to Moodle no later than **7 December 23.59**. Late submissions are penalized by deducing 5 points/hour.