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HSTR 291.80: ST - Honors Terrorism Seminar

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Richard Drake
Spring 2019

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. 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, 12 April. The other fifty per cent of the semester grade will be based on seminar attendance and 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.

Learning Outcomes

The course has two main pedagogical aims. One concerns the development of speaking skills in a seminar setting. Students are encouraged to offer their views about the weekly readings and themes for HSTR 272E based on an intelligent mastery of the material and in a spirit of mutual respect. The second aim has to do with proficiency in writing. Students are expected to acquire an understanding of sound professional standards for a book review. We devote much time in the seminar to the elements of style and substance in this important genre of scholarly writing. I base my instruction for the writing component in the seminar on the more than one hundred scholarly book reviews that I have published during my career.

Meetings

11 January
Introduction

18 January
Discussion: Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

25 January

Discussion: *Danton*

1 February

Discussion: Joseph Conrad, *Under Western Eyes*

8 February

Discussion: Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*

15 February

Discussion: The Holocaust as an Act of State Terrorism

22 February

Discussion: Mark Danner, *Massacre at El Mozote*

1 March

Discussion: Terrorism in the Middle East

8 March

Discussion: Ayatollah Khomeini (Articles available on Moodle)

15 March

Discussion: Ahmed Rashid, *The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*

22 March

Discussion: *The Battle of Algiers*

25-29 March Spring Break

5 April

Discussion: The Years of Lead in Italy (Articles available on Moodle)

12 April

Discussion: Terrorism in Europe Today

Book Reports due

19 April

Discussion: *American History X* and *If a Tree Falls*

26 April

Discussion: Osama bin Laden, *Messages to the World*

Students will take the final examination for HSTR 272E, at 10:10-12:10 on Tuesday May 2.