

## Fundamentalist Terrorism – 71-252-01

Bar Ilan University

Department of Political Studies

Dr. Anna Geifman

(שיעור, תרגיל, סמינר, סדנה, מעבדה וכד')	Online class in English	סוג הקורס:
	2 hours	היקף נ"ז:
	2024-2025	שנת לימודים:
	Semester 1	סמסטר:
	No assigned hours	יום ושעה
	By prior agreement	שעת קבלה:
	Anna.Geifman@biu.ac.il	מייל מרצה:
	<a href="https://lemida.biu.ac.il">https://lemida.biu.ac.il</a>	קישור לאתר למדה:

### תקציר הקורס

This course addresses a variety of historical, political, socio-cultural, and psychological issues related to fundamentalist terrorism--a unique 20th-21st-century phenomenon, essentially different from political murders in the past. Contemporary terrorism has detached itself from a particular ethno-national-cultural context; it also exceeds a political rejoinder, an extreme reaction to detrimental socioeconomic circumstances, adherence to a particular set of ideological objectives, or a manifestation of religious fanaticism. The course emphasizes modern terrorism as a global psychological warfare, a means of communication through intimidation, and a contemporary form of death-worship.

### מטרות/תוצרי הלמידה

#### ידע

##### 1. הלומדים יתארו

Students will familiarize themselves with diverse methodologies and controversial interpretation of modern terrorism by specialists from various fields and be able to describe various key concepts of the overall phenomenon.

##### 2. הלומדים יגדירו

By analyzing patterns of terrorist activity, students will define modern and postmodern terrorism and will learn how the perpetrators' objectives have shifted from punishment of individual adversaries and attempts to intimidate political elites to indiscriminate *en masse* violence against civilians, to symbolic attacks, and—in recent years—to specifically targeting children and creating “fear zones”.

##### 3. הלומדים יכתבו

Students will write analytical final papers, examining key controversies about fundamentalist terrorism.

#### מיומנויות

##### 1. הלומדים ינתחו

Reading assignments will expound upon terrorist mentality, motivation, and violent practices, all of which will be subject to analytical forum discussions.

##### 2. הלומדים יעריכו

Students will be introduced to documents related to terrorist organizations and to research by specialists, commenting on various aspects of modern terrorism. As a class, we will have a chance to discuss scholarly viewpoints and become part of the on-going controversy on ideological political violence.

#### ערכים (במידה ורלוונטי)

One of the goals of this course is to provide students with intellectual tools and methods of debate on the essence of the terrorist phenomenon, on its ethical aspects, and on possible policy implications.



## למידה פעילה - תכנון מהלך השיעורים:

הערכה תהליכית/מעצבת	קריאה/ צפיה נדרשת	למידה פעילה	נושא השיעור	מס' השיעור
This is a graded assignment.	Boaz Ganor, "Defining Terrorism--Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?"  Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i> . Introduction	Comments and forum discussion	Definition: what is fundamentalist terror? הגדרה: מהו הטרור הפונדמנטליסטי?	1
This is a graded assignment.	Eric Hoffer, <i>The True Believer</i> (selections)	Comments and forum discussion	Is there an archetypal terrorist? "הטרוריסט הארכיטיפי" – הייתכן?	2
This is a graded assignment.	Mikhail Bakunin, Sergei Nechaev, "Catechism of the Revolutionary"	Comments and forum discussion	Roots of modern revolutionary movements שורשי התנועות המהפכנית המודרנית	3
This is a graded assignment.	Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i> . Chapter 1	Comments and forum discussion	Terror against the background of modernization: case studies of Russia and the Muslim world טרור על הרקע מודרניזציה: מקרים של רוסיה ושל העולם המוסלמי	4
This is a graded assignment.	Yoram Schweitzer, "Palestinian Female Suicide Bombers: Virtuous Heroines or Damaged Goods?" Anna Geifman,	Comments and forum discussion	"Terror of the new type" "הטרור מן הסוג החדש"	5

	<i>Death Orders</i> , Chapters 2			
This is a graded assignment.	<u>Ben Arnoldy</u> , “In Afghanistan, Taliban kills more civilians than US”	Comments and forum discussion	Terror against civilians טרור נגד אזרחים	6
This is a graded assignment.	Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i> . Chapter 3  Hamas Charter (two versions)  Meir Litvak, “The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: The Case of Hamas”	Comments and forum discussion	Secular vs. religious fundamentalism הפונדמנטליזם החילוני בניגוד לפונדמנטליזם הדתי	7
This is a graded assignment.	Jessica Stern, “How Terrorists Hijacked Islam”  Jessica Stern, “The Protean Enemy”  Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i> . Chapter 4	Comments and forum discussion	Ideological justification of terror ההצדקה האידיאולוגית של טרור	8
This is a graded assignment.	“Columbia: Armed Groups Send Children to War”  Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i> . Chapter 5 “Participation of Children	Comments and forum discussion	Terrorists as common criminals מחבלים כמו פושעים רגילים  Child-terrorists ילדים מחבלים	9

	<p>and Teenagers in Terrorist Activity during the Al-Aqsa Intifada”</p> <p>Palestinian Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony (YouTube)</p> <p>A three-year old girl's interview (live), “Arabs brainwashed little girls to hate Jews”</p>			
This is a graded assignment.	<p>Shaul Kimhi and Shmuel Even, “Who are the Palestinian Suicide Terrorists?”</p> <p>Clara Beyler, “Messengers of Death: Female Suicide Bombers”</p> <p>Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i>. Chapter 6</p>	Comments and forum discussion	Terrorism as camouflaged suicide טרור כהתאבדות מוסווה	10
This is a graded assignment.	<p>Anna Geifman, “Liberals Opt for Terror,” <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 25 (2013): 550–560.</p>	Comments and forum discussion	Liberal intelligentsia responds to terror תגובתה של האינטליגנציה הליברלית לטרור	11

<p>This is a graded assignment.</p>	<p>Anna Geifman, "Red Terror in Soviet Russia, 1917-1921"</p> <p>Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: The Case of Hamas"</p> <p>Ismail Haniya, Hamas PM, Al-Aqsa TV, Gaza, 15 October 2008, "Hamas in Their Own Voices"</p>	<p>Comments and forum discussion</p>	<p>When terrorists come to power</p> <p>כאשר טרוריסטים עולים לשלטון</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>This is a graded assignment.</p>	<p>Anna Geifman, "In Dire Straits"</p>	<p>Comments and forum discussion</p>	<p>The impact of "new type of terror" on state and society</p> <p>השפעת "הטרור מן הסוג החדש" על השלטון והחברה</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>This is a graded assignment.</p>	<p>Anna Geifman, <i>Death Orders</i>, Epilogue</p> <p>David Brooks, "Cult of Death"</p> <p>Paul Berman, "Armageddon in Its Modern Versions"</p>	<p>Comments and forum discussion</p>	<p>"Why do they hate us?" "למה הם שונאים אותנו?"</p> <p>Terrorism as a modern "death cult"?</p> <p>הטרור כ"פולחן מוות" המודרני?</p>	<p>14</p>

משקל בציון הסופי	תיאור התוצר
50% מהציון הסופי	Online class participation and weekly assignments.
50% מהציון הסופי	Final paper

## דרישות הקורס

Weekly assignments will be done in forums, where students will answer questions based on assigned readings. Having completed this, students will read and comment on their colleagues' replies.

**Academic Honesty:** students are responsible for maintaining academic honesty, a key value in scholarship. They are to certify the integrity of all their work, including weekly or by-weekly online submissions and final paper. Students must understand clearly what constitutes plagiarism, which will not be tolerated. They should only submit work which is their own and cite or reference their sources, i.e., the intellectual input of others. Students must never employ unauthorized assistance in preparing and completing assignments.

## דרישות קדם

There are no prerequisites for this class, but since it is taught in English, students must have working knowledge of the language, especially proficiency in reading and sufficient writing skills.

## ביבליוגרפיה: תכנים לקריאה, צפיה והאזנה (רצוי עדכני)

Textbooks and other reference books:

Anna Geifman, *Death Orders: Vanguard of Modern Terrorism in Revolutionary Russia* (Praeger Course Security International, 2010).

Please see announcement about a correction in relation to pp.120-121 in Chapter 7 of the book: [http://lemida.biu.ac.il/course/view.php?id=2264363.3250947GEI d \(001214564\)](http://lemida.biu.ac.il/course/view.php?id=2264363.3250947GEI%20d%20(001214564))

Other required readings (selections):

Ben Arnoldy, "In Afghanistan, Taliban kills more civilians than US," *The Christian Science Monitor*, 31 July 2009, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0731/p06s15-wosc.html>

Clara Beyler, "Messengers of Death: Female Suicide Bombers" (12 February 2003), <http://www.ict.org.il/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=470>

David Brooks, "Cult of Death," *New York Times*, September 7, 2004, <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/07/opinion/07brooks.html>

"Columbia: Armed Groups Send Children to War." Human Rights Watch (21 February 2005), <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2005/02/21/colombia-armed-groups-send-children-war>

John Dawson, "The Bali Bombers: What Motivates Death Worship?," *Capitalism Magazine* (19 October 2003), <http://www.capmag.com/article.asp?ID=3000>

Boaz Ganor, "Defining Terrorism--Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?," <http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/tabid/64/Articlsid/432/currentpage/1/Default.aspx>

Anna Geifman, "In Dire Straits: How Russian-Style Nihilism Aided the Rebirth of Antisemitism in the United States," *HaShiloah* (May, 2024).

Hamas Charter (18 August 1988), <http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>

Ismail Haniya, Hamas PM, Al-Aqsa TV, Gaza, 15 October 2008, "Hamas in Their Own Voices," [http://mignews.co.il/news/politic/world/170109\\_134656\\_15869.html](http://mignews.co.il/news/politic/world/170109_134656_15869.html)

Shaul Kimhi and Shmuel Even, "Who are the Palestinian Suicide Terrorists?," JCSS (Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies: Tel Aviv University ), vol. 6 No. 2, September 2003, [http://www.isranet.org/Israzine/Israzine\\_V1N3\\_WhoareTerrorists.htm](http://www.isranet.org/Israzine/Israzine_V1N3_WhoareTerrorists.htm)

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: The Case of Hamas," *Middle Eastern Studies* 34, 1 (January 1998) <http://actveng.haifa.ac.il/PDF/islam/Litvak-Hamas-Islamization%20of%20conflict.pdf>

Denis MacEoin, "Suicide Bombing as Worship," *Middle East Quarterly*, vol. XVI, no. 4 (Fall 2009), <http://www.meforum.org/2478/suicide-bombing-as-worship>

"Sergey Nechayev 1869 : The Revolutionary Catechism," <http://www.marxists.org/subject/anarchism/nechayev/catechism.htm>

Palestinian Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WHdWqES-Uw&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

"Participation of Children and Teenagers in Terrorist Activity during the Al-Aqsa Intifada," 30 January 2003, [http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/2000\\_2009/2003/1/Participation+of+Children+and+Teenagers+in+Terrori.htm](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/2000_2009/2003/1/Participation+of+Children+and+Teenagers+in+Terrori.htm)

Oliver Roy, "Why Do They Hate Us? Not Because of Iraq," *New York Times* (22 July 2005), <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/22/opinion/22roy.html? r=1>

Simon Romero, "Cocaine Trade Helps Rebels Reignite War in Peru ," *The New York Times*, 17 March 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/18/world/americas/18peru.html? r=2>



Yoram Schweitzer, "Palestinian Female Suicide Bombers: Virtuous Heroines or Damaged Goods?," <http://www.labat.co.il/articles/palestinian%20female%20suicide%20bombers.pdf>

Jessica Stern, "How Terrorists Hijacked Islam," *USA Today* (1 October 2001), [http://www.alhewar.org/SEPTEMBER%2011/how\\_terrorists\\_hijacked\\_islam\\_by.htm](http://www.alhewar.org/SEPTEMBER%2011/how_terrorists_hijacked_islam_by.htm)

Jessica Stern, "The Protean Enemy," *Foreign Affairs* ( July/August 2003 ), [http://www.cfr.org/pub6146/jessica\\_stern/the\\_protean\\_enemy.php](http://www.cfr.org/pub6146/jessica_stern/the_protean_enemy.php)

A three-year old girl's interview (live), "Arabs brainwashed little girls to hate Jews," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZL0C2Qvqll0&NR=1>