**Instructor:**
Email: alexander.mark.lee@rochester.edu
Office: Harkness Hall 327
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-2

**Course Goals:**
Over the past century, terrorism has become a common feature of world politics, enabling small groups of individuals to have a disproportionate influence on the politics of both developed and underdeveloped countries. This course explores some of the fundamental questions of terrorism: Why individuals join terrorist groups, why terrorist groups adopt certain tactics such as suicide bombing, how terrorist groups organize themselves, and what counterterrorism strategies are effective? It aims to develop critical thinking about these basic questions, knowledge of the details of a few selected cases, and give students experience constructing social-scientific arguments.

**Textbooks:**


**Grading:**
- Class Participation — 20%
- Midterm — 20%
- Data Exercise — 30%
- Final — 30%

**Course Policies:**
Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty.

**Course Requirements:**
*Attendance and Reading:* Students will be required attend discussion sections on six specific regularly scheduled class dates, generally Thursdays. On these Thursdays (indicated in the syllabus) students should come prepared to discuss the readings for that week and the previous week. Students will be asked to sign up for specific section locations on the first day of class.

*Midterm:* A midterm exam on October 17th will ask students to identify and explain key concepts from the first six (6) weeks of the course.

*Final:* A final exam will ask students to identify and explain key concepts from the last eight (8) weeks of the course, and write essays on themes covering the whole of the course material.

*Data Exercise:* Students will be expected to produce an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words that identifies a questions or puzzle concerning terrorism, develops a hypothesis about its solution, relates
the questions and answer to the course readings, and provides statistical evidence to support the hypothesis. The statistical evidence should be drawn from one of three data sources:

The Global Terrorism Database: [http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/)

The Lee Dataset of Bengali Nationalists: Blackboard Server

Gallup Survey of International Reactions to the Death of Osama Bin Laden: [http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/33503](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/33503)

Readings

**Weeks 1: Definitions**

*Introduction: September 2nd, Introduction to Statistics: September 4th*

**Weeks 2: Introduction and Definitions**

*Introduction to Data Sources: September 9th, Lecture: September 11th*

*Readings:*


**Week 3: The History of Terrorism**

*Lecture: September 16th, September 18th*

*Readings:*


**Week 4: The Strategies of Terrorist Groups**

*Lecture: September 23rd, Section: September 25th*

*Readings:*


Week 5: The Collective Causes of Terrorism
Lecture: September 30th, Section: October 2nd

Readings:
Li, Quan. "Does democracy promote or reduce transnational terrorist incidents?." Journal of Conflict Resolution 49.2 (2005): 278-297.


Week 6: The Red Army Faction
Lecture: October 7th, October 9th [Cross Tab for Data Exercise Due]

Readings:


Donatella della Porta, Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995. 36-50, 137-142

Week 7:
Midterm: October 16th

Week 8: The Individual Causes of Terrorism
Lecture: October 21st, Section: October 23rd

Readings:


Week 9: The IRA
Lecture: October 28th, October 30th [Topic for Data Exercise Due]

Readings:

**Week 10: Networks and Group Structure**

*Lecture: November 4*th*, Section: November 6*th*

*Readings:*


**Week 11: The PLO**

*Lecture: November 11*th*, November 13*th*

*Readings:*


**Week 12: Suicide Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 18*th*, Section: November 20*th*

*Readings:*


**Week 13**

*Thanksgiving, No Class*

**Week 14: Al-Qaida**

*Lecture: December 2*nd*, December 4*th* [Data Exercise Due]*

*Readings:*


**Week 15: Counterterrorism**  
*Lecture: December 9th, Section: December 11th*

*Readings:*


**Week 16**  
*Final Exam, Friday December 19th at 4pm.*