

Geographical Perspectives on Terrorism and Resistance: Intersections of Cultural and Political Geography

GEOG 597B

Dr. Lorraine Dowler and Dr. Colin Flint

Monday 6-9pm

Walker 319

Lorraine can be found in 324 Walker, her office hours are Tuesdays 1-3. E-mail, lx17@psu.edu. Phone # 863-1806.

Colin resides in 312C Walker, he has no office hours this semester but will be in most days until mid-afternoon. Either drop by or make an appointment. E-mail, flint@geog.psu.edu. Phone # 865-2493.

Terrorism has become the key domestic and international issue since last September. But terrorism may be seen as a subset of behavior under the broader title of resistance. What are terrorism and resistance, why are certain social groups moved to extreme and violent acts of terrorism while others resist in non-violent ways, why are particular nations and symbols targeted by terrorists, and in which spaces and how is resistance practiced? This seminar aims to address these questions by critically engaging the intersections of four literatures: the analyses of terrorism and resistance on the one hand, plus the perspectives of cultural and political geography on the other.

Geographers study the spaces of political struggle and also the politics to everyday spaces, through which political identities constantly flow and fix. Resistance may take the form of terrorist acts broadcast across the world, that are overt and visibly conflictual. Resistance also takes the form of simply enduring, and writing one's identity back into geopolitical interpretations.

Topics that will be covered include:

the geohistorical context of contemporary terrorism and the role of physical settings in mediating resistance; resistance as a practice of everyday life; the relationship between terrorism/resistance and governance (including political discourses and communicative processes); resistance and social networks; the relationship between terrorism/resistance and governmentality (including symbolic meanings, bodily practices and envisioned desires and hopes); the rise of religious resistance/terrorism and its connection to trans-state conflict and religious idioms.

Two broad seminar goals are I) to foster a geographic understanding of contemporary terrorism and resistance and II) to explore the ways in which political and cultural geography literatures intersect to provide opportunities for innovative and exciting research.

Reading

The following books are required reading and available at the bookstore:

Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*

Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*

Susie Jacobs, Ruth Jacobson, and Jennifer Marchbank, *States of Conflict*

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*

Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars*

Robin Morgan, *The Demon Lover*

Additional readings will be placed in a box marked “Geography of Terrorism and Resistance” in Walker 304. Either read the article in that room, or photocopy and return immediately.

More readings may be assigned, depending on the course our conversations take.

Academic Integrity

The academic senate says we have to say this, so... this course adopts the College's academic integrity policy. For more details, if you wish, see <http://www.ems.psu.edu/admin/integ.html>.

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be assigned under the following schema

40% of the grade will be based on your final term paper. Submit two copies of an approximately 20 page paper that builds upon the literature discussed in the seminar to address an original idea. The paper is due at 5pm on Tuesday 17th December.

10% of your grade will be an evaluation of the in-class presentation of your seminar paper.

20% of your grade will be based upon your performance in leading one of the week's discussions.

30% of your grade will be based upon your class participation – your ability to add to the critical discussion of the readings.

Your Responsibilities

It is expected that you will read all the assigned material, and be able to make critical comments on them as part of the class discussion. Each week, one or two students

(working together as a team) will lead the class discussion. After consultation with Lorraine and Colin, the discussion leader(s) will forward 4 or 5 discussion questions to the whole class no later than 4pm on Friday.

And, obviously, you are also responsible for writing an individual term paper, giving a 15 minute in-class presentation summarizing the paper, and producing and discussing a one-page abstract of the proposed paper in class on October 21.

Schedule:

Sept 9 Ch1. "Defining Terrorism" in *Inside Terrorism* by Hoffman, pp. 13-44.

Steve Pile, "Opposition, political identities, and spaces of resistance", in *Geographies of Resistance*, S.Pile and M. Keith (eds), Routledge, 1997, pp. 1-32. (This is in the "box" in Walker 304).

Ch. 1 "Introduction: States of Conflict" in *States of Conflict* by Jacobson, Jacobs, and Marchbank, 1-24.

Sept 16 Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars*

Sept 23 Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of *States of Conflict*

Sept 30 Different geographic approaches to terrorism and resistance.

Lorraine Dowler and Jennifer Fluri "Klanbake: Gender, Etiquette and Racilized Space" *Historical Geography*, co-author , Jennifer Fluri, Penn State Geography, vol 30, at press, 2002.

Lorraine Dowler "Terror Tours: Political Tourism in West Belfast Northern Ireland." *Cultural Geographies* (formerly: *Ecumene*) forthcoming.

Colin Flint, 2001. "A TimeSpace for electoral geography: economic restructuring, political agency and the rise of the Nazi party." *Political Geography* 20, 301-329.

Colin Flint, 2001. "Right-wing resistance to the process of American hegemony: the changing political geography of nativism in Pennsylvania, 1920-1998." *Political Geography* 20, 763-786.

Oct 7 Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* and selections from Frantz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Oct 14 Fall Break. No Class.

Oct 21 In-class presentation of term-paper proposals

Oct 28 Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*.

Nov 4 Robin Morgan, *The Demon Lover*.

Nov 11 Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*.

Nov 18 Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of *States of Conflict*

Nov 25 We have not finalized the readings for this week yet. The topic will be contemporary terrorism and resistance, focusing upon the events of 9/11/01 and their aftermath. The readings are likely to consist of a selection of articles written by both Lorraine and Colin, plus some extras.

Dec 2 – Presentations

Dec 9 - Presentations