1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
   a. PLS 3233
   b. International Terrorism
   c. 3 - 0 - 3
   d. Spring-odd-numbered years
   e. Intl Terrorism
   f. International Terrorism is a course designed to give the student an understanding of terrorism as a political tool. The class will examine the various motivations behind political terrorism, what groups use terrorism as a political tool and why, trends in political terrorism, and problems which states (especially relatively open, pluralist democracies) have in facing the challenge of political terrorism. WI.
   g. No prerequisites
   h. Initial term of course offering is Fall 2006.

2. OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATIONS
   a. Students upon successful completion of the course will be able to:
      1) identify differing motivations behind political actors’ decision to resort to terrorism
      2) recognize and explain the differing ways in which terrorist actions are viewed by differing polities
      3) analyze the actions of governments when they choose differing actions in dealing with terrorism as a political problem
      4) explain the actions of the US government in its differing policies in dealing with terrorism
      5) explain the uses and limits of both diplomacy and force in dealing with terrorism
   b. Students will be assessed through 3 in-class exams (60% of final grade, 20% each), two individual papers, (20% of final grade, 10% each) and one group paper and presentation (20% of final grade, paper 15% and presentation 5%). The individual papers will examine 1) a specific terrorist act and 2) a specific US policy response towards terrorism. The group paper/presentation will examine a particular terrorist organization. Objectives 1 through 5 will all be assessed in the three exams. Objectives 2 and 4 will also be assessed through the two individual papers. Group papers and presentation will also assess 1, 3 and 5.
   c. This course is delivered in the traditional format.
   d. This course is not available for graduate credit.
   e. This is a writing intensive course. Writing assignments are used to deepen the understanding of the course content and to increase the student’s capacity for critical thinking. All three papers can be revised and resubmitted. Group papers may not be submitted for the Electronic Writing Portfolio.

3. OUTLINE
   Week 1 - Definitional Problems and the History of Terrorism as a Political Tool.
Week 2 - Nationalism and Radical Politics as a Motivator

Week 3 - Religion and Terrorism

Week 4 - State-Sponsored Terrorism - External and Internal Dimensions

Week 5 - The Mass Media and Terrorism   FIRST EXAM

Week 6 and 7 - The Threat to Mass Populations - Nuclear, Biological and Chemical

Week 8 - Controlling Terrorism - General Questions   FIRST PAPER DUE

Week 9 - Democracy and Terrorism - Options and Realities   SECOND EXAM

Week 10 and 11 - US Government and Terrorism: The Patriot Act and Beyond

Week 12 - Military Options and Limits in Fighting Terrorism

Week 13 - International Law and International Organizations

Week 14 - Future Trends: Actions and Responses   SECOND PAPER DUE

Week 15 - Group Presentations   GROUP PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM according to University schedule

4. RATIONALE
   a. This course has been taught in the Department as a “Special Topics” course since the early 1990s. Enrollment has always been high, and it is one of the subject areas that students have indicated in Department assessment as being desired. The current global political environment, as well as domestic US government policy, is such that interest in the topic is likely to remain high for the foreseeable future. The Department offers no other course which deals primarily with this topic.
   b. Course content and student responsibilities are suitable for Junior-level students.
   c. This course is not similar to any existing course in the Department. The concept of terrorism is touched on tangentially in several course in comparative politics and international relations, but these courses generally deal with terrorism as an isolated incident or an individual government’s policy.
   d. This course will count toward fulfilling the Departmental major requirement in International Relations, or for elective credit.

5. IMPLEMENTATION
   a. Course will initially be taught by Dr. David Carwell. Other qualified faculty may be assigned to teach the course.
   b. No additional fees will be required.

6. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER
   A Community College course will not be accepted as a substitute for this course

7. APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT  ___December 6, 2005_______

8. APPROVED BY COLLEGE OF SCIENCES  ___January 20, 2006_____ 

9. APPROVED BY CAA  ____February 9, 2006_____