

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

**HI357A: ACTS OF TERROR: VIOLENCE AND AUTHORITY IN
NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE**

30 CREDITS: 11 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

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TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see [MyAberdeen](#)

Students can view their university timetable at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to explore the historical dimensions of politically motivated violence: nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Europe witnessed increasing numbers of bombings in public spaces and attempts to assassinate leading political authorities. Such acts of violence could be interpreted as realization of radical political thought. Students will examine how acts of terror that occurred in Spain, France, Russia or England challenged notions of national and international security and peace in times of deep-felt political and social change. The course also encourages debate as to how an awareness of the historical nature of acts of terrorism can contribute to an informed analysis of acts of violence against the state and ordinary people in 21st-century societies.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To gain a better understanding of the problematic nature of political terrorism as a historical phenomenon and of its contemporary relevance
2. To develop an enhanced ability to reflect historically on the nature of social and political changes in 19th- and early 20th-century Europe
3. To critically appraise and effectively utilise relevant primary and secondary source materials and to discuss and compare results of historical analysis
4. To acquire greater insight into the problems of conducting historical study that will inform an approach to other honours history courses
5. To develop and refine skills of verbal and written expression and organisation through group presentations, assessments and the resultant staff feedback

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | The 19 th century – seriously, a century of political violence in Europe? |
| Week 2 | The tough task of stabilizing the European Great Power system (1815-1848) – and who wanted to destabilize it? |

Week 3	A very, very short history of 19 th -century anarchism
Week 4	Britain: A safe haven for anarchists?
Week 5	Russia: How to kill a Tsar
Week 6	<i>No seminar session this week. We will meet up individually to finalize essay topics and literature.</i>
Week 7	France: Communards and café bombings
Week 8	Italy: Propaganda of the deed
Week 9	Spain: A labyrinth of violence?
Week 10	Austria: Why Sisi's assassination mattered
Week 11	USA: The Haymarket legacy

READING LIST

A detailed reading list will be provided on MyAberdeen.

- Avrich, Paul, *The Haymarket tragedy* (Princeton, NJ, 1984).
- Bach Jensen, Richard, *The Battle against Anarchist Terrorism. An International History, 1878-1934* (Cambridge, 2014).
- Bookchin, Murray, *The Spanish Anarchists: The Heroic Years 1886-1936* (Edinburgh, 1998).
- Burleigh, Michael, *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism* (London, 2008).
- Ford, Franklin L., *Political Murder: From Tyrannicide to Terrorism* (Cambridge, 1985).
- Joll, James, *The Anarchists* (London, 1979).
- Jones, Peter, *The 1848 Revolutions* (London, 1991).
- Laqueur, Walter, *Terrorism* (London, 1977).
- Merriman, John, *The Dynamite Club. How a Bombing in Fin-de-Siècle Paris Ignited the Age of Modern Terror* (New Haven/London, 2016), first edition 2009.
- Mommsen, Wolfgang J. and Gerhard Hirschfeld, *Social Protest, Violence and Terror in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century Europe* (London, 1982).
- Murphy, Paul Thomas, *Shooting Victoria. Madness, Mayhem, and the Rebirth of the British Monarchy* (London, 2012).

- Neuburger, Luisella, and Tiziana Valentini, *Women and Terrorism* (Basingstoke, 1996).
- Oliver, Hermia, *The International Anarchist Movement in Late Victorian London* (London, 1983).
- Paola, Pietro di, *The Knights Errant of Anarchy: London and the Italian Anarchist Diaspora (1880-1917)* (OUP 2016).
- Porter, Bernard, *The origins of the vigilant state: the London Metropolitan Police Special Branch before the First World War* (London, 1987).
- Porter, Bernard, *The refugee question in mid-Victorian politics* (Cambridge, 1979).
- Short, Kenneth R.M., *The Dynamite War. Irish-American Bombers in Victorian Britain* (Dublin, 1979).
- Sperber, Jonathan, *The European Revolutions, 1848-1851* (Cambridge, 1994).
- Tilly, Charles, *The Rebellious Century, 1830-1930* (Cambridge/Mass. 1975).
- Venturi, Franco, *Roots of Revolution. A History of the Populist and Socialist Movements in 19th Century Russia* [1952] (London, 2001).
- Verhoeven, Claudia, *The Odd Man Karakozov. Imperial Russia, Modernity, and the Birth of Terrorism* (Ithaca, 2009).
- Ward, Colin, *Anarchism. A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2004).
- Zamoyksi, Adam, *Holy Madness. Romantics, Patriots and Revolutionaries 1776-1871* (London 1999).

ASSESSMENT

- **Gobbet exercise** (primary source analysis) 1500 words (30%)
- **Essay** 2500 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography) on a topic agreed in advance with the course co-ordinator (50%)
- **Presentation and responses:** Presentation of 2x 500-word commentaries, and responses to presentations (20%)
- **Resit:** Gobbet exercise 1500 words (40%), essay 3000 words (60%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

GOBBET EXERCISE: 1500 words

A gobbet exercise is a concise analytical comment on an extract from a primary source. It is an exercise in de-construction, aimed at extracting the maximum historical understanding from the text provided. The answer should be focussed on the issues arising from the text. A choice of gobbets will be provided on MyAberdeen.

The following guidelines are not prescriptive, but are offered as an aid in developing an effective gobbet exercise technique.

Preparation: Make sure that you fully understand the extract provided. Highlight key words or phrases in the text, and thoroughly research the issues to which they refer (many gobbets offer three or four such points for analysis).

Writing a gobbet answer: maintaining a tight, three-part, paragraph structure for your answer will aid concentration on the key elements required.

1. **Context** (approx. 20% of the answer)
With the aid of the source information provided with the extract, identify the type of document concerned: Why was it written (or created)? Who composed it, for whom and when? What is the tone of the text? This information should be placed in its historical context. What was going on at the time, before and after?
2. **Analysis** (approx. 60% of the answer)
Subject each of the previously identified key words or phrases, in turn, to rigorous scrutiny. Identify any individuals referred to and explain the developments mentioned. Pay attention to the language used and comment on the veracity of statements made. Look for fine nuances in the text and compare the contents with similar documents if possible.
3. **Evaluation** (approx. 20% of the answer)
Evaluate the historical significance of the extract (and the source), relating it to the general theme of the course concerned. Compare the contemporary impact of the material with its historical significance. Is the extract typical of exceptional? Does it pose any particular problems to the historian?

Please note that you are not required to paraphrase the extract, nor to write a short essay round the subject concerned. The gobbet exercise is referenced according to the School's referencing guide (on MyAberdeen) and comes with a **bibliography**. Depending on the topic the bibliography should consist of **4-6 titles**. Footnotes are included in the word count, the bibliography is excluded. Please note that the bibliography should only list titles that feature in the footnotes.

ESSAY: 2500 words

The strongest written work demonstrates wide reading on the chosen topic. A major aim of university education is to enhance the ability to find information on any topic within your field. Students are encouraged and expected to show initiative in developing this ability, notably in the essay. The supplemental bibliography on MyAberdeen provides points of departure for further reading.

Students will design an individual essay topic and question; these need to be discussed in advance with the course coordinator. The essay topics can evolve around one of the seminar topics (or an aspect thereof), in order to develop this much further than we do in class. Individual meetings for this purpose will be held in **week six**, but please feel welcome to discuss ideas any time before that.

Students will use the assigned readings and supplemental bibliography to assist in constructing their own reading list. The bibliography should feature between **8 and 12 titles, a mix of monographs, scholarly articles and primary sources**. Please note that the bibliography should only list titles that feature in the footnotes.

Before starting the essay, consult the section on essay writing in the Student Handbook and check the 'submission arrangements' section below. It will have a negative impact on the mark given for any written work if:

- the formatting style deviates strongly from the History referencing guide (on MyAberdeen);
- if the submitted work is more than 10% too long or too short;
- if the submitted work is not thoroughly proof read (evidence of inadequate proof-reading, for example, are repeated typos, incomplete sentences, the use of contractions);
- if the submitted work fails to make adequate use of end-/footnotes

Every written work should be double spaced and page numbered and submitted in word-processed format, accompanied by a bibliography and foot-

or endnotes conforming to the School's referencing guide (available on MyAberdeen). Please see Departmental Guidelines (and below) for information on extensions and the late submission of work.

PRESENTATION PROJECT (over weeks 2-11)

Students are expected to prepare for seminars and contribute willingly and continually to discussions. The presentation project is an exercise in commenting and responding. Students will be asked to write two comments (**500 words each**). The comments will be on secondary reading and primary sources used in the seminars. The mark will be given jointly for all elements of the project:

- The first written comment will be **uploaded** to the course's discussion forum. Each student will be given a partner who is given the task to write a response to the comment.
- The second written comment will be presented to the class (**5 minutes per presentation**), and students are expected to respond to the presentation.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

- Gobbet Exercise: Wednesday, 6 February, 3 pm (week 4)
- Essay: Wednesday, 13 March, 3 pm (week 9)
- Presentations: during weeks 2-11

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

1. Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word count.
2. Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through [My Aberdeen](#).
3. In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HI357A Essay 1.

4. When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 HI357A Essay 1.

Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: *Safeassign* text-matching software will be used. However the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right also to submit material to *TurnitinUK* when deemed necessary.