Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

# TEACHING GUIDE

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

## GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 25-06-2026

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| I.-Subject Identification | |
|---|---|
| **Type** | OBLIGATORIA |
| **Teaching period** | 3 course, 2Q semester |
| **Nº of credits** | 6 |
| **Language in wich the subject is taught** | English |

## II.-Presentation

**The course addresses the evolution of international terrorism as a changing and diversified phenomenon from its origins to the present. It examines the various manifestations, spheres of action, and facets of a threat that, in the 21st century, is also widely global. It also deals with the strategies, policies, and programs, both national and intergovernmental, developed against international terrorism as well as to counter the processes of radicalization or the financing methods that reproduce and perpetuate the phenomenon.**

**It is divided into six modules of varying lengths. The first, introductory module helps define the phenomenon of international terrorism and the levels of analysis used when studing its different expressions. The second is dedicated to the phases through which terrorism related to global jihadism has passed. The third module explores current actors, scenarios, and trends in this latter manifestation of international terrorism with a global reach. The fourth addresses the growing internationalization of rightwing, supremacist terrorism in Western societies. A fifth module focuses on different expressions of state sponsorship of international terrorism or the use of terrorism ans a foreign policy tool. The sixth module studies the strategies and policies, both national and international, implemented against the threat. Throughout the course, special attention will be paid to Western Europe in general and Spain in particular.**

## III.-Learning outcomes

CG01. Students must be able to possess and understand their own knowledge of the area of institutional relations, based on general secondary education.
CG06. Students must have developed the learning skills required to deal with further study with a high degree of independence.
CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.
CE03. Students must be able to identify, understand and analyse the source, basic principles and development of a democratic and plural society, as well as its confrontation with other lifestyles.
CE07. Students must be capable of identifying and independently analysing the main features of International security, defence and threat.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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## IV.-Contents

### IV.A.-Syllabus

**Module I. Introduction to the study of international terrorism**
**Module II. Global jihadism and terrorism: from Al Qaeda to Islamic State**
**Module III. Current actors, scenarios and trends of jihadist terrorism**
**Module IV. On the internationalization of rightwing terrorism**
**Module V. When international terrorism is state-sponsored**
**Module VI. Strategies and policies to counter international terrorism**

### IV.B.-Training activities

| Type | Title |
|---|---|
| Lectures | Required course readings for each module of the course. |
| Theoretical sessions | Sessions on substantive and analytical course contents. |
| Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies | In-class exercises and discussion panels. Related activities. |

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| V.-Student workload | |
|---|---|
| Theoretical sessions | 30 |
| Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc. | 28 |
| Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc. | 0 |
| Tests and/or exams | 2 |
| Academic tutorials | 2 |
| Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc. | 46 |
| Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study | 40 |
| Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc. | 20 |
| Preparation for tests and/or exams | 12 |
| Total student workload | 180 |

**VI.-Methodology and academic programme**

| Type | Period | Content |
|---|---|---|
| Theoretical sessions | Week 1 to Week 15 | Presentations by the instructors on the topics and content corresponding to the different modules that make up the course, based on the compulsory readings assigned to each module. Questions, discussion, and clarification of doubts. |
| Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies | Week 2 to Week 15 | Contingent on the characteristics of the group, as well as on circumstances and opportunities, there will be panel discussions, problem-solving sessions, and case studies. Also analysis of current events related to the subject. |
| Academic tutorials | Week 2 to Week 15 | Tutorials will focus on how students are engaging with the course and aimed at providing academic support as well as guidance in adopting a critical perspective, developing classroom activities, and preparing for written exams. |

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**VII.-Assessment methods**

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

**VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities**

Students in this course can earn up to four points (up to 40% of the final grade) through their participation in a series of continuous assessment or formative activities. Attendance is mandatory, and these activities will take place during course sessions and will be detailed at the beginning of the academic term. These specific activities are closely related to the content of the compulsory readings or to the application of acquired knowledge and developed skills to the analysis of current events, requiring active clasroom presence. These activities are cumulative and can not be re-evaluated. They do not require a minimum passing grade.

Additionally, students may obtain up to 6 points (that is, 60% of the final grade) as a result of a written exercise to be held at the end of the semester, in coincidende with the official date for ordinary examinations. In this written exercise, students will have two hours to answer and develop three questions related to the substantive and analytical contents of the mandatory readings for the course. At least one question may eventually take the form of a text commentary. To pass this written exercise students must score a minimum of 3 points. This written exercise can be re-evaluated on the ocassion of the extraordinary call.

**VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance**

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

**VII.C. Review of assessment activities**

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

**VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs**

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In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

**VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty**

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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| VIII.-Teaching resources and materials |
|---|
| **Basic bibliography** |
| János Besenyõ, ed., ***NATO's Regional Challenges. Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Sahel*** (Ankara: Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism, 2025)<br>Daniel Byman, ***Spreading Hate. The Global Rise of White Supremacist Terrorism*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022)<br>*Tore Hamming,* ***Jihadi Politics. The Global Jihadi Civil War 2014-2019*** (London: Hurst, 2022)<br>Lewis Herrington, ***Understanding Islamist Terrorism in Europe. Drugs, Jihad, and the Pursuit of Martyrdom*** (London: Routledge, 2022)<br>Bruce Hoffman y Jacob Ware, ***God, Guns and Sedition. Far-Right Terrorism in America*** (New York: Columbia University Press, 2024)<br>Gilles Kepel, ***Terror in France. The Rise of Jihad in the West*** (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017)<br>Farhad Khosrokhavar, ***Jihadism in Europe: European Youth and the New Caliphate*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)<br>Peter Nesser, ***Islamist Terrorism in Europe*** (London: Hurst, 2018)<br>Fernando Reinares, Al-Qaeda's Revenge. The 2004 Madrid Train Bombings (New York: Columbia University Press, 2017 and 2022)<br>Marc Sageman, ***Understanding Terror Networks*** (Filadelfia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004)<br>***Compilation of Additional Selected Readings on International Terrorism*** (Journal articles, book chapters, working papers and reports provided freely by the instructors throughout the subject's Aula Virtual) |
| **Consultation bibliography** |

| IX.-Professors | |
|---|---|
| **Name and surname** | ÁLVARO VICENTE PALAZÓN |
| **E-mail address** | alvaro.vicente@urjc.es |
| **Department** | Derecho Público I y Ciencia Política |
| **Campus** | Madrid - Vicálvaro |
| **Category** | Profesor/a Ayudante Doctor/a |
| **Academic degree** | Doctor |
| **Person responsible for the subject** | Yes |
| **Tutorial timetable** | Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico |
| **Number of quinquennia** | 1 |
| **Number of sexennia** | 1 |
| **No. of positive evaluations by Docentia** | 1 |
| | |
| **Name and surname** | FERNANDO REINARES NESTARES |
| **E-mail address** | fernando.reinares@urjc.es |

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Department** | Derecho Público I y Ciencia Política |
| **Campus** | Madrid - Vicálvaro |
| **Category** | Catedrático/a de Universidad |
| **Academic degree** | Doctor |
| **Person responsible for the subject** | No |
| **Tutorial timetable** | Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico |
| **Number of quinquennia** | 6 |
| **Number of sexennia** | 6 |
| **No. of positive evaluations by Docentia** | 0 |

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