COURSE TITLE: TERRORISM AND SYSTEM COUNTERMEASURES

Master course
ECTS credits: 6

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Aims of the course:
General objective of this course is to present the problem of terrorism and ways of addressing this threat at national and international level. Specific goals of the course include improvement of understanding of the motives for terrorism, types of terrorism and terrorist modus operandi by analyzing the biggest or latest terrorist attacks or most known terrorist groups. The students will be also familiarized with the role of multiple organizations in the fight against terrorism, including UN; EU and NATO. The objective is also to understand the basic dilemmas of counterterrorism in democratic states: how to fight extreme terrorist violence with minimal infringement of human rights.

The educational goal of this course is to stimulate participation of students of various disciplines and nations to address the problem of terrorism from different perspectives, such as security, international relations, psychological, economic, communication/media and other aspects.

Course syllabus:
The conceptual part of this course is focused on the definition of terrorism and violent extremism, terrorist goals, forms of terrorism and its causes. The intention is to show the complexity of terrorism as a tool for achieving political goals. Additionally, the concepts of state terrorism and unconventional (nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological) terrorism will be addressed. The empirical part of this course will address case studies of many terrorist groups and their modus operandi (attacks or foiled attacks).

Second part of this course will address the concept of modern counter-terrorism at national and international level. Students will acquire knowledge on multiorganizational approach to address terrorism (the role of police, intelligence services, armed forces, diplomacy, FIU, etc.) and the need for strong interorganizational cooperation and coordination. The role of individual states and EU, NATO, UN etc. in fighting terrorism will be presented and analyzed. The last part of the course is focused on the conceptual, political, democratic, legal and human dilemmas of the counter-terrorism. The basic focus will be on the violations of human rights based on concrete cases and ways to minimize this.
Bibliography:
Basic:

Additional:

Teaching methods:
Lectures, debates in groups with oral and written reporting, short homework exercises, individual or group research paper on chosen terrorist attack or terrorist group, oral presentation of research paper.

Prerequisites:
Fluent English, web search capabilities.

Examination methods:
Research paper and other activities (60%), written exam (40%).