UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING RADICALISATION AND TERRORISM

Key Information

Module code
ISSU0017

Taught during
Session Two: Monday 22 July - Friday 9 August 2019

Module workload
45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours

Module leader
Dr Amy Thornton

Department
Security & Crime Science, Faculty of Engineering

Credit
15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US

Level
Level 1, first year Undergraduate

Pre-requisites
Standard entry requirements

Assessment
Presentation (25%), Essay (75%)

Module Overview

This module provides students with an introduction to the phenomena of radicalisation and terrorism, including key definitions, causal accounts, empirical trends, past and present manifestations, current groups and tactics. With a rigorous grounding in the empirical reality of terrorism trends and processes, the course then outlines a number of prevalent counter-terrorism practices and asks the question: what works in countering terrorism?

Week One

- History of Terrorism
- Understanding Terrorism
- Radicalisation

Week Two

- Jihadi Terrorism
- Lone Actor Terrorism
- Mental Health Issues
- Terrorist Methods

Week Three

- Situational Crime Prevention
- Deradicalisation Programmes
- Attacking the Financial Basis of Terrorism

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Module Aims
Through successive case studies, students will familiarise themselves with five approaches to prevention and disruption: 1) Efforts to anticipate and prevent terrorism acts through situational measures; 2) enforcement measures used to disrupt, disable or suppress the activities of terrorist networks; 3) interventions aimed at the individual actor, their risk factors, belief systems and pathways out of terrorism involvement; 4) removal of the economic basis for terrorist activities by attacking organized crime; 5) strategies which focus on the "root causes" of terrorism and radicalisation.

Teaching Methods
Interactive lectures and seminars, open class and small group discussions, excursions, group work and private study. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Be able to understand terrorism and radicalisation from a distinctive security and crime science perspective
- Understand ‘what works’ in preventing and disrupting radicalisation and terrorism
- Critically reflect on the conceptual and methodological issues involved in studying radicalisation and terrorism as concrete scientific problems
- Be able to consider what a scientific approach implies for the design and implementation of preventative or disruptive social technologies

Assessment Methods

- 10-minute presentation (25%)
- 2,500-word essay (75%)

Key Texts

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.