

CRIJ 4340: Terrorism (online)  
Spring 2017.

Instructor: Frances Bernat, JD, PhD  
Title: Professor  
Class time: online  
Office Phone: 956-326-2644

### **Course Description:**

A study of modern day terrorism; groups and individuals associated with terrorism will be discussed. Counterterrorism measures will be assessed.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

- Analyze the contemporary controversies regarding terrorists and terrorism.
- Analyze responses to terrorism.
- Describe the reasons why people may become terrorists.
- Indicate appropriate responses to terrorists and terrorism.

### **Course Prerequisites**

None, but having completed any introductory criminal justice or criminal law classes will help you understand our legal system and how crimes are prosecuted.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

Please email me through the course message system (Blackboard) and I will respond to you promptly. Please allow up to two full workdays for a response; please do not expect a response at night or on the weekend. If you have questions about the materials, then use the Attorney's Bar to ask questions so that all students have the benefit of my response.

### **Required Textbook and Readings:**

Cynthia Combs, *Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century*, 7<sup>TH</sup> edition, Pearson, 2013.  
ISBN: 9780205851652.

Brigitte Nacos, *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Routledge, 2016.  
ISBN: 9781138190146.

### **Course Schedule:**

Week 1: Introductions  
*Optional: Combs, Preface*  
*Optional: Nacos Chapter 1*

Week 2: What is terrorism?

Read: Combs, Chapter 1

Read: Nacos, Chapter 2

Week 3: Who are terrorists?

Read: Nacos, Chapters 1 and 3

*Optional: Combs, Chapter 2*

Week 4: Why commit terrorism?

Read: Combs, Chapter 3

Read: Nacos, Chapter 6

Week 5: Individuals choosing to be terrorist

Read: Combs, Chapter 4

Read: Nacos, Chapter 7

Week 6: Goals of terrorism

Read; Nacos, Chapter 8

Week 7: Training, organizing and financing of terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 7

Read: Nacos, Chapter 9

Week 8: International terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 10

Read: Nacos, Chapter 5

Week 9: American terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 9

Read: Nacos, Chapter 4

Week 10: State terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 4

Week 11: Media and terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 8

Read, Nacos, Chapter 16

Week 12: Weapons

Read: Combs, Chapter 14

Week 13: Cyberspace and terrorism

Read: Combs, Chapter 15

Read: Nacos, Chapter 15

Week 14: Fighting terrorism and the law

Read: Combs, Chapters 11 & 12  
Read: Nacos, Chapters 11 & 12

Week 15: Post 9-11 and future directions  
Read: Combs, Chapter 13  
Read: Nacos, Chapters 13 and 17

## Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. For more information, contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) via phone at 956.326.2230, online at <http://www.tamui.edu/wellness/disability.shtml>, or by visiting the staff at the Zaffarini Student Success Center, room 138.

## Grading Scale

All earned points on all of the requirements will be added together to determine your grade for the course using the scale below.

Percentile	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<59	F

## Course Requirements

**Term Paper (70%):** Each student is required to write a term paper about a nation and the terrorism in that nation. The minimum number of pages for the body of the paper is 10 (ten); this does not include the title page, abstract, reference page or other supplemental pages. You must use a minimum of 10 (ten) refereed journal articles and/or books on the

topic. Please look at term paper directions for other important details concerning the paper and point scores.

**Discussion (30%).** You will be scored on your participation in class discussions. You are expected to post comments and respond to inquiries by the instructor and peers.

### **Term Paper Directions:**

Your term paper that is **due on Friday, April 14th**. Late papers will have significant point deductions and will not be accepted if submitted after April 28th. No papers will be accepted after the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **Term Paper Topic and Analysis:**

You must select a foreign nation (not ones that I will list as excluded nations in an email announcement) and analyze terrorism in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Explain the political, social, cultural and legal conditions that led to the development of terrorism. Identify key terrorist figures and their acts of terrorism. Explain what counterterrorism efforts arose due to the stated terror in the nation.

You must submit the paper through **Turnitin** to ensure originality. Plagiarized papers will receive a grade of zero and an F in the course. You will be able to **test your originality** score **once** and correct defects found by Turnitin prior to the final submission for grade, see COAS policy for penalties for plagiarism.

Your reference page must include a minimum of 10 refereed journal articles (a law review article will count as a peer source). Readings used in the course are **not** counted towards the 10 required articles – you have to use the library to find authoritative sources.

You must cite references in APA style. If you are unfamiliar with APA style you may consult this online tool: <http://sonofcitation.com/>.

### **Term Paper Grading Rubric:**

The total paper will be awarded a total score of 100 points; these points will count as 70% of your grade in the course. You will receive the largest percentage of your points based upon your writing and how well you analyze the theory and its components vis-à-vis the particular crime. Do not start from the supposition that the theory works just because one or more of your sources used it; analyze the theories parts and explain how it can/ should apply to the offense. Indicate weaknesses in the theory, if any, for use to explain the cybercrime.

**90- 100%** - the paper shows well developed analysis of the nation and terrorism in that nation. The student has indicated an understanding of the criminal law and the theories that explain terrorism. The student has appropriately followed the directions of this assignment and written a strong term paper. The student cites, appropriately, the authoritative sources required.

**80- 89%** - the paper shows competent development of the nation and terrorism theories but has not shown a full understanding of topic and does not fully address the theoretical frame to explain terrorism.

70-79% - the paper is missing major components to understand terrorism in the nation; the paper is weak in the analysis of the paper's major question and its application; or, the paper is missing substantive points as noted below.

Under 60% - the paper is missing substantive analysis, is poorly written and analyzed, the paper loses points for being late and or lacking formatting requirements; the paper is missing two or more theories.

In addition, you will lose points if you do not correctly submit a properly formatted term paper:

- Lose 1 point for each page less than the minimum required. The paper's body must be a minimum of 10 pages (excluding title page, reference pages, and abstract page). E.g., if there is a title page, abstract page, reference page and 5 pages of text, then the student will lose 5 points since the paper's body is 5 pages less than the minimum required (10).
- Lose one point not citing enough refereed sources; you will lose one point for each missing peer reviewed source. You can use non-refereed articles (e.g., newspaper or online materials or the textbook) in your paper but these will not count toward the minimum number of required sources.
- Lose 1 point if the margins are not 1" margins,
- Lose 1 point if the paper does not use New Times Roman font,
- Lose 1 point if the font size is not 12 point.
- Lose 1 point if the paper's body is not APA style.
- Lose 1 point if a title page is not attached.
- Lose 1 point if the paper is not paginated.
- Lose 2 – 4 points if the paper does not have an appropriate originality score from Turn-it-in: 2 points if the originality score is between 5 and 10, 3 points if the originality score is between 11 and 15, 4 points if the originality score is higher than 15. If the paper is plagiarized, then the student will receive a zero score and be reported for student misconduct. (I look at this, I don't consider sources that might get swept up by Turnitin or the use of common words, I am looking for non-original writing concerns; but if the paper is plagiarized then you will get a zero score).
- Lose 2 points for each day that it is late (weekend days are included). If the paper is not submitted before the end of the semester, the student will receive a zero score.

As noted in the syllabus, COAS policies are as follows: ***Penalties for Plagiarism:*** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

• ***Caution:*** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. ***Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft.*** If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.

• ***Caution:*** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.

## Policies of the College of Arts and

# Sciences

(Required on all COAS Syllabi / Last Revised: January 17, 2017)

## Classroom Behavior

The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

## Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

- 1) **Borrow** someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
- 2) **Borrow** someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
- 3) **Present** someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

*Plagiarism:* Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

- ***Penalties for Plagiarism:*** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a “zero” for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of “F” (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.
  - ***Caution:*** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that “it was only a draft” will not be accepted.
  - ***Caution:*** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
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- ***Penalties for Cheating:*** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W.”
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- ***Student Right of Appeal:*** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member’s e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides more details.

### **Use of Work in Two or More Courses**

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course.

### **UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert**

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU’s UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect

and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see [www.tamtu.edu](http://www.tamtu.edu)). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text-messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

### **Copyright Restrictions**

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

*Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as an article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.*

### **Students with Disabilities**

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

### **Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy**

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.24) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.25), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: <http://www.tamtu.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml>).

### **Pregnant and Parenting Students**



Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. If a student would like to file a complaint for discrimination due to his or her pregnant or parenting status, please contact the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lauren A. Jones, J.D., 5201 University Boulevard, KL 159B, Laredo, TX 78045, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600).

The University advises a pregnant or parenting student to notify his or her professor once he or she is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is first recommended that the student and professor attempt to work out the reasonable accommodations with each other. The Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement (Mayra Hernandez, MGHernandez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodations. In the event that a student will need a leave of absence for a substantial period of time from the University, the University urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence as outlined in the Student Handbook. As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (<http://www.tamiu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml>).

### **Incompletes**

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
- 2) The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
- 3) The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
- 4) The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college.

This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

### **WIN Contracts**

WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

### **Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course**

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

### **Independent Study Course**

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

### **Grade Changes & Appeals**

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

### **Final Examination**

Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.