

*Instructor:* Prof. Henda Hsu

### **Course Description**

This course seeks to examine the study of policing terrorism through a situational perspective. Various important topics of terrorism, homeland security, and terrorism research are explored. A primary aim of this class is to evoke critical thinking and reasoning skills that can lead to the development of innovative thoughts and ideas. To accomplish this, this class is heavily based on team-based learning. Students do not only learn about terrorism concepts, but also how to apply them in meaningful ways in order to delve into complex ideas and generate critical thinking. We will engage in active learning techniques that will involve individual thought and team discussions and application of course material. Ultimately, team learning and applications create a high level of interactivity that makes learning engaging and fun.

In closing, beyond my instruction of course material, I am here to encourage you to excel, develop new ideas, and empower you as a thinker and an individual. As Nelson Mandela once said, “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

### **Course Objectives**

After successful completion of this course:

- Students will be able to critically assess information about terrorism from a variety of sources
- Students will have a foundational knowledge of the study of terrorism and response to terrorism
- Students will improve writing and analysis skills through application of course materials to writing assignments pertaining to terrorism and homeland security
- Students will have a sound understanding of the problem of terrorism

- Students will be able to discuss course material with the professor and fellow students, focusing on learning to think critically and to appreciate different ideas rather than always arriving at “correct answers”

**Required Textbook**

Clarke, Ronald and Graeme Newman. (2006). *Outsmarting the Terrorists*. Praeger Security

Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler. (2012). *The Political Economy of Terrorism, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Cambridge University Press

Class handouts and/or outside readings.

The textbooks are available at the University bookstores





## Course Requirements

The grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Readings:

All students must read the assigned readings **before** the first lecture day on that material. All students should bring all assigned readings to class and be prepared to discuss and critically think about what they have read.

2. Assignment:

You will be required to complete one current event article summary assignments for this course. Your job is to find a recent, published article about any current event that relates to terrorism, homeland security, and/or any course topics, and complete the article summary template attached to this assignment in Blackboard. A grading rubric will also be provided.

3. Teamwork and Discussions:

With Team-Based Learning, teamwork is emphasized to promote active learning by applying the concepts learned in this course. Students will be assigned to teams of their choosing at the outset of the semester and will engage in regular teamwork and discussion throughout the semester. While you will conduct discussions with your group, **each student** is responsible for responding to the discussion questions in class and online on Blackboard.

4. Paper Assignment:

A paper will be due towards the end of the semester. The purpose of this assignment is to analyze and discuss scholarly research pertaining to terrorism. The estimated length for the paper is 20 pages (excluding title and reference pages). More information about the paper and the grading rubric will be provided.

5. Exam 1:

Exam 1 will cover all materials covered prior to this date. Test format will likely be Multiple-Choice, True-False, and possibly Open-Ended questions. You are to bring a scantron and no.2 pencil for the exam.

6. Presentations:

You are required to make two (2) presentations to the class using PowerPoint slides, Prezi, or any other presentation software. The first presentation is on your assigned chapter for the Enders and Sandler book. The second presentation is on a terrorism conflict in a country or terrorist organization. Each of your presentation is to be **approximately 15 minutes** (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Further information and a grading rubric will be provided.

7. Attendance/Participation: Participation is based on your attendance and involvement in class activities and team discussions (see above for further details).

| Requirements             | Quantity | Approximate Total Points |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Discussions              | 4        | 40                       |
| Exam 1                   | 1        | 40                       |
| Current Event Assignment | 1        | 20                       |
| Paper Assignment         | 1        | 40                       |
| Presentation             | 2        | 40                       |
| Attendance/Participation | -        | 10                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | -        | 200                      |

### Course Outline and Reading Assignments

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion based on the progress of the class or unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

| <u>Date</u>         | <u>Topic</u>                              | <u>Readings/Assignments</u>   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Jan 21              | Introduction                              | Syllabus overview   |
| Jan 28 – Feb 4      | Analyzing our Vulnerabilities             | Chapter 1-6 (C&N); Ch.1 (E&S)                                       |
| Feb 11-18           | Opportunity Structure of Terrorism        | Chapter 7-10 (C&N); Ch.2 (E&S); <b>Current Event Assignment Due</b> |
| February 25-March 4 | Terrorism Research <b>Presentation #1</b> | Enders & Sandler assigned chapters for presentations & questions    |
| March 11            | Targets Near & Far/Terrorist Groups       | Ch.11-12 (C&N); Ch. 8 (E&S)   |
| March 16-20         | Spring Break                              |   |
| March 25            | <b>Exam 1</b>                             |   |
| April 1-8           | Terrorism Prevention                      | Chapter 15-18 (C&N); Chapter 4, 9, 11 (E&S)                         |

|                            |  |                             |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| April 15-22                | Displacement/Substitution Effect;<br><b>Presentations #2</b> | Ch. 3, 5, 7 (E&S); Handouts |
| April 29-May 6             | Future of Terrorism  | Ch. 14 (C&N); Ch. 12 (E&S)  |
| University Final Exam Week |  | <b>Paper Assignment Due</b> |