
Instructor: Prof. Henda Hsu

Course Description

This course seeks to examine the history of terrorism and its manifestations in the contemporary world. We will begin the course with a discussion of definitional problems, relevant social scientific theories and religious terrorism. We will then turn the discussion to issues of domestic terrorism in the United States. The latter half of the course involves an examination of policing terrorism, homeland security, and ethical implications of the “war on terror.” 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, and be able to critically evaluate the mainstream message served to the American public.

- 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

White, Jonathan R. (2014). *Terrorism and Homeland Security, 8th Edition*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Class handouts and/or outside readings.

The textbook is available at the University bookstores

Course Requirements

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

1. Readings:

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

2. Quizzes:

There will be four quizzes worth approximately 5 points each. The quizzes will cover material from the reading assignments, lectures and class discussions. To promote active learning, through the Team-Based Learning (TBL) strategy, the format of the quizzes will be based on the Readiness Assurance Process (RAP): You will take the quiz individually and turn it in, then immediately proceed to re-take the same quiz, but this time as a team in which members must reach an agreement for each test question.

3. Teamwork and Discussion:

With Team-Based Learning, teamwork is emphasized to promote active learning by applying the concepts learned in this course. You 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, you are responsible for responding to the discussion questions in class and online on Blackboard.

4. Exam 1:

Exam 1 will cover all materials covered prior to this date. Test format will likely be Multiple-Choice, True-False, and/or Open-Ended questions. You are to bring a scantron for the exam.

5. Exam 2:

Towards the end of the semester, a take-home essay exam will be given. Students will write essay responses for 2 to 3 essay questions on the second half of the class covering domestic terrorism and homeland security. This exam will be worth approximately 40 points.

6. Journal Entries:

You are required to make four (4) personal journal entries for the semester. You will be asked to reflect on several issues during the semester relating to terrorism, homeland security, crime and justice experiences as well as other events that culminated in Aha! moments for you. Journal entries must be completed by the specified deadline given by the instructor.

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 |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Individual Quizzes | 4 | 20 |
| Team Quizzes | 4 | 20 |
| Discussions | 5 | 50 |
| Exam 1 | 1 | 40 |
| Exam 2 | 1 | 40 |
| Journal Entries | 4 | 40 |
| Attendance/Participation | - | 10 |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | - | 220 |

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 26, 28 | Defining Terrorism in Modern History | Chapter 1; Intro in Blackboard |
| Feb 2, 4, 9 | An Overview of Terrorist Group Structures | Chapter 2, 3; Discussion |
| Feb 11, 16 | The Role of Media in Terrorism & Counterterrorism | Chapter 4; Quiz 1; Journal entry 1 due |
| Feb 18, 23, 25 | Gender Roles, Tactics, and Force Multipliers in Terrorism | Chapter 5; Discussion |
| March 2, 4 | Introduction to Terrorism in the Middle East | Chapter 8, 9; Quiz 2 |
| March 9, 11 | International terror groups | Chapter 11; Discussion; Journal entry 2 due |
| March 16-20 | Spring Break | |
| March 23 | Exam 1 | |
| March 25, 30; April 1 | Domestic Terrorism | Chapter 12 |
| April 6- May 6 | Policing Terrorism & Homeland Security | Chapter 13-15; Handouts; Discussions & Quiz 3 & 4; Journal entry 3&4 due |
| May 11 | Review & Catch up Day | |

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| University Final Exam Schedule | Exam 2 essay exam due | |
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