

## **CRIJ/BOR 6320 Studies in Terrorism**

**Fall B 2020, \* “8”-Week, Online (\*Condensed to ~7 weeks due to COVID)**

### **Course Description/Overview**

This course discusses the politics of terrorism and counterterrorism in depth. Theoretical approaches to explain terrorism as a tactic are analyzed. Individual, group, and state terrorism are reviewed from a historical and political context. Students conduct an in-depth analysis of the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the advent of the USA PATRIOT ACT and its impact on civil liberties, and the development of the Department of Homeland Security as a terrorist mitigation strategy.

Instructor: Dr. Monica Koenigsberg, Ph.D.  
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### **Required Materials**

#### **Textbooks (2):**

##### ***Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues***

Author: Martin

Publisher: Sage Publications, Inc; 5<sup>th</sup> Edition or 6th Edition, as you see fit

##### ***The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State***

Author: McCants (Author), any version/edition

Both books are available online. Please check prices carefully. Rental e-versions are available for the current Martin textbook. Purchase cheaply, please! The Martin book is an oldie but goodie for this class.

Unless otherwise specified in a specific module, all reading assignments refer to the chapters and pages of these texts. Other readings are assigned and provided by the instructor through the course of completing this class.

### **Prerequisites**

The prerequisite for this course is admission to the College of Graduate Studies at A.S.U.

### **Technical Skills Required for this Course**

As with any online courses students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Students must be familiar with Microsoft Word or similar word processing program.

### **Time Spent on This Course**

The time needed for adequate study and understanding of the course material, as well as discussion posts and critical thinking for all exercises and papers amounts to between six and eight hours per week.

## **Course Objectives**

Students develop a comprehensive understanding of modern terrorism through a variety of learning projects and discussions. Among these are:

1. to define and analyze the concept of terrorism.
2. to grasp the origins of terrorism in all its forms.
3. to understand the purpose and effectiveness of government responses to attack.

## **Learning Outcomes**

There are 3 measurable learning outcomes in this course.

1. Students demonstrate their understanding of causation, political motivations, and history of terrorism through discussions and writing assignments.
2. Students demonstrate knowledge of terrorist organizational structures, operations, and tactics through development of a major project, writing assignments, and discussions.
3. The ability to critically read and critically write is an essential component of the Border Security and Criminal Justice Master's Degree programs. Therefore, students are expected to demonstrate in all their writing assignments and discussions the fundamental ability to analyze a variety of sources for content and develop critical writing skills through reporting their analysis.

## **Method of Assessing Outcomes**

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments, a multiple choice exam, and active participation in the discussions established through discussion board questions each week. The ASU ONLINE LIBRARY will provide more updated materials in the scholarly journal, PEER-REVIEWED source articles! Please look up the notion of PEER-REVIEWED and be sure to understand why it is so important to you as scholars.

## **Grading Policies**

This course utilizes one writing assignment, a unit on the Global Jihadi Threat, a major presentation (at the end) and weekly discussions to guide and assess student knowledge acquisition and comprehension. You will also be graded on your ability to critically read and critically write about the work of others. There is an extensive amount of reading assigned that will drive student responses to discussion questions and writing assignments and the student should be prepared to spend upwards of six (6) hours each week on this course. Additionally, where possible, videos are utilized to enhance student learning.

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system for graduate courses. Grades in this graduate level course are determined on a percentage scale:

- A = 90 - 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 70 - 79%
- F = 69% and below

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Global Jihadi Threat Assignment Scores & Certificate Submission	20%	Week 3 on Friday, 10-23-20 CERTIFICATE DUE TO INSTRUCTOR by email (.pdf copy)
Final Project (Slide show of your designed terrorist organization. Instructions provided in class.)	30%	Friday, 11-20-20
Participation in Discussion Board	30%	Each Week (as assigned, Sunday/Thursday)
Terrorism Competencies Exam Questions	20%	Week 6 on Friday, 11-27-20

### Writing Guidelines

Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format for Criminal Justice programs is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. However, should you wish to use CHICAGO style or a different style, it will also be acceptable as long as it is consistently applied.

- Papers should have 1-inch margins all around.
- You are expected to use a standardized font, preferably Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Double space all writing assignments. Discussion posts may be single spaced.
- Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list with every assignment. Remember, plagiarism is grounds for failing the class. Improper or missing citations are the same as plagiarism.

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a word or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then the document should be submitted as a TEXT file. Any formal papers submitted should include a cover page and reference sections (not counted as part of the paper's length). An abstract is not required.

### Rubrics

Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using a standardized rubric. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments. There are two rubrics and each will be posted in the Blackboard class under "Grading Rubrics."

### Date and Time of Final Exam

This course uses writing assignments and discussion assignments to evaluate student performance and there is no final exam.

### Late Work

Please contact your professor before the assignment is due if you believe it will be late.

## Policy on Incompletes

The University policy on grades of "Incomplete" is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes a "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an "Incomplete" will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an "Incomplete" is entirely up to the professor's personal judgment.

## Add/Drop Dates

This class begins on **10-08-20** and ends on **11-24-20**.

Students may add this course during the first week.

Students may drop this class or withdraw from the university until **11-10-20**.

## Course Organization:

This is an eight (8) week, eight-lesson, online course and there is limited time to finish the assigned readings and associated projects. Please keep this in mind as you schedule your work. The readings, assignments and associated projects have been constructed to enhance your learning process. Unless otherwise directed, you should complete one entire online lesson module each week, including the weekly discussions.

**Week1/Lesson 1:** Terrorism & Extremism, History & Global Impact, Working Definitions

**COMBINING LESSON 1 & LESSON 2 (Front loading)**

**Week1/Lesson 2:** Origins of Political Violence and State Terrorism

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**Week2/Lesson 3:** Dissident and Religious Terrorism

**Week3/Lesson 4:** Left Wing, Right Wing Extremism and International Terrorism

**Week4/Lesson 5:** Evolving Terrorism, Tactics and Tools

**Week5/Lesson 6:** Domestic Terrorism and Counter Terrorism

**Week6/Lesson 7:** Media and Terrorism and the Future of Terrorism

**Week7/Lesson 8:** Critically Summing Up / Feedback

## Participation and Communication

The essence of this course revolves around effective communication by both the instructor and students. The nature of our subject, Terrorism, means we engage in meaningful discussion and critical thinking concerning its many facets. Everyone in this class brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts count, not only to the instructor but to the entire class. Our online modules and discussions are designed to facilitate open discussion and stimulate thinking processes. This is of the utmost importance to the success of our class.

**Some of you may be taking this class as your first online class. It might seem somewhat intimidating for a person new to this model of learning. As a class we need to assist each other with this learning process and share our collective knowledge on how best to communicate, resolving technical issues and assisting each other to find answers to our questions.**

**We will learn and work as a team.**

### **Courtesy and Respect**

**Courtesy and respect are integral to this course. We will respect each other's opinions and respect points of view at all times in our class sessions. The use of profanity and harassment of any form is strictly prohibited, as are any remarks concerning ethnicity, lifestyle, race, religion, culture, etc. Violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.**

### **Contacting the Instructor**

Please post questions related to the class in the Student Lounge Discussion Forum. This way all students can see both your question and my answer. Questions of a more personal nature, such as your grade or problems completing assignments should be asked using email. See the Instructor Information section in the Blackboard class for contact information.

### **University Policies Academic Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

### **Accommodations for Disability**

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at [Student.Life@angelo.edu](mailto:Student.Life@angelo.edu) to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

### **Student absence for religious holidays**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Required Syllabus Statement on Face Masks (Even though we're an online-only program!)**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [\*Facial Covering Policy\*](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.