Course Syllabus and Policy Requirement Statement

In order to access your course materials, you must agree to the following, by clicking the "Mark Reviewed" button below.

By checking the "Mark Reviewed" link below, you are indicating the following:

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus, and that you have acquired the required textbook(s).
- You have read, understood, and will comply with class policies and procedures as specified in the online Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with computer and software requirements as specified in the Student Orientation Course.

BOR 4321
Trends in Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Course Overview

*Click this link for a printable version of the syllabus.*

Terrorism has reached the global village and it has become necessary to look back as importantly as it is to look forward in order to learn how best to anticipate and prepare for future threats facing the U.S., its citizens, and its allies. More than a decade after the 9/11 attacks on America, numerous governmental agencies throughout the world, alongside security professionals, experts from non-governmental organizations, and research institutions have engaged in collaborative research. Aggregated data and information from historical, international events combined with new intelligence now better informs U.S. counter terrorism decisions and continues the process of delineating enhanced homeland security policies for the future. According to the Heritage Foundation, "the onus is now on the President and Congress to ensure that the U.S. continues to hone and sharpen its counter terrorism capabilities and adapt them to evolving 21st-century threats" (Muhlhausen & McNeill, 2011, Abstract, p. 1). This course sets its focus on informing the student on the local, national, and global threats and trends in terrorism and counterterrorism.

The information gathered from intelligence and governmental sources indicates that the full-
scale campaign against al Qaeda and its affiliates and support structures after 9/11 is working. The international community and its military and law enforcement efforts have been effective in stopping the extremist attacks, dismantling terrorist groups, and disrupting the financial and funding networks. "A total of 136 countries offered a range of military assistance to the U.S., including overflight and landing rights and accommodations for U.S. forces" in the aftermath of 9/11 (Terrorism and National Security: Issues and Trends, 2003, CRS-2). As a result, the U.S. continues its intelligence-sharing and law enforcement cooperation with other nations to destroy terrorist cells. Now, "an encouraging sign in the anti-terrorism struggle has been the evident willingness of certain states to distance themselves from extremist groups that they had supported in the past or from international terrorism generally" (CRS-2).

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

*Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues Martin 5th Ed*

ISBN: 978-1483378985

Unless otherwise specified in a specific lesson or module, all reading assignments refer to the chapters and pages of these textbooks and assigned published articles. Other readings or media may be assigned by the instructor as part of the course completion. Additional and optional readings will serve to address interests developed by the student for his/her academic advancement.

Course Objectives

- To become familiar with definitions, terms and concepts related to terrorism and counter terrorism
- To learn about the causes and consequences of terrorism and the various nefarious factions
Learning Outcomes

Students have a right to know what their professors expect from them in terms of their course instruction and how their learning will be evaluated. This course establishes several learning outcomes that are measured objectively and subjectively. Upon completion of the course, each student should successfully complete the following:

1. Effectively define and describe the terminology used within the study of terrorism and counter terrorism
2. Comprehend the complexity, scope, and extent to which terrorism is a problem for democratic counties as well as non-democratic countries across the globe
3. Understand and identify the ideologies and groups and their causes and consequences along with their current and future interests
4. Define the landscape and terrorist environment that can contribute to and attempt to control terrorist attacks and acts of aggression
5. Discuss the terrorist trends that will shape the future homeland and national security efforts for the U.S., its citizens, and its allies

Method of Assessing the Outcomes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments, online discussions, and active participation in the cohort assignment for this course.

Through the writing assignments, the student is expected to show an understanding of the depth and breadth of disaster planning and emergency management problem across the U.S. and throughout the globe, particularly stating how the planning and response efforts affect a community's economic, social, and political health.

A major competency identified by Homeland Security professionals is the ability to produce
technical reports and briefings, to communicate coherently a wide variety of thoughts to a diverse audience that may not be as knowledgeable of a subject as the person conducting the briefing or writing the report. To address this concern, throughout the Border Security and Criminal Justice programs students are assigned writing projects of various lengths and complexities. Since the phenomenon of disaster preparedness and emergency management crosses disciplines, students of other social sciences, such as sociology, psychology, nursing, and social work, are active participants. Effective writing and critical thinking skills are necessary for a graduating student to succeed in the workplace and future employment.

Several writing exercises are assigned throughout the semester to measure the student's ability to critically analyze the cases and after action reports. Specific knowledge on topics of importance to future courses in the Border Security program as well as the Criminal Justice program is measured through the use of comprehensive exams. To measure the student's comprehensive understanding of the materials presented in this course, each writing assignment is meant to be comprehensive, inclusive of previous readings and class discussions.

Required readings are primarily taken from one textbook identified for this course. Additional and optional readings will add depth and breadth to the assigned readings and to the student led effort to submit well researched papers.

Grades

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Board Posts</th>
<th>27%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion #1</td>
<td>3 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion #2</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion #3</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<td>Discussion #4</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<td>Discussion #5</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion #6</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #2</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final: Group Project</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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This course employs three written assignments. The written assignments account for 73% of the course grade. The written assignments are relevant to the topics and reading assignments preceding them. Each written assignment must be completed within the specified time period (between two and four weeks). Each written assignment must comply with the CMS or APA elements of style: double spaced, 1" margins, and with appropriate grammar and spelling and writing mechanics. Citations must be provided and a Reference page is required. A minimum of three (3) references must be included, and font must be size 12, New Times Roman or Courier only. The papers must be submitted electronically in Word or pdf format only. If necessary, laptops are provided at the library for student use.

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

A = 90 – 100 %
B = 80 – 89 %
C = 70 – 79 %
D = 60 – 69 %
F = 59 % and below.

Assignment 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. Click the link to download the PDF document:

Discussion Rubric
Writing Assignment Rubric

General Guidelines for Each Assignment

- Be sure that your student ID is on each assignment. Don't put your name, the course number, or assignment number on the assignment you submit
- Copy and paste each question into your work and immediately follow the question with your answer
- Answer all questions per assignment
- Your answers for the questions are expected to fill two or more pages
- Answers must be typed, in 12 point font, and submitted as a WORD or PDF file
- Use default margins for your word processing program
Communication

Participation
In this class everyone brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts do count, not only to me, but the entire class. Feel free to ask questions either via e-mail or the discussion board. Check the discussion board regularly. Many student questions are applicable to the class as a whole, as are the responses. You may be surprised how many of your classmates have the same questions and concerns as you. I may simply post your particular question on the discussion board and allow your classmates to provide the answer through their own posts.

To some, this may be their first online class and naturally, it could seem somewhat intimidating. As a class, we are together to help each other with this learning process and share our collective knowledge on how best to communicate; how to resolve technical issues that may arise (if we have the expertise), and to assist each other to find answers to our questions.

We will learn and work as a team.

Courtesy and Respect

Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor
See the Instructor Information section for contact information.
Course Organization:

1: Introduction to the Conceptual Review of Terrorism
   Nature of the Beast

2: The Causes of Terrorism
   Contrasting Secular and Religious Terrorism
   **Written Assignment #1 assigned**

3: Defining and Describing the Terrorist
   **Written Assignment #1 is due at the end of this week, no later than Saturday**
   **Written Assignment #2 is assigned, it is due by the end of Week 5, Lesson 5**

4: Violent Ideologies
   International Terrorism

5: Emerging Terrorist Environment
   Tools of the Trade: Tactics and Targets of Terrorism
   **Written Assignment #2 is due at the end of this week, no later than Saturday**

6: Terrorism in the United States
   The Options for Responding to Terrorism

7: Threats and Trends of Terrorism Across the Globe

8: Conclusion: Most Current Future Trends
   The Future of Terrorism
   **FINAL PAPER due no later than noon, Monday, beginning of Week Eight, Lesson Eight**
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**
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs 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 emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

**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.