BOR 4344 Terrorism and Homeland Security

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.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues
Author: Martin
Publisher: Sage Publications, Inc; Fourth Edition
Year: 2013
ISBN: 978-1-4522-0582-3

Available at Amazon to rent or purchase

https://www.amazon.com/Understanding-Terrorism-Challenges-Perspectives-Issues/dp/1452205825

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

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Technical skills required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet certain minimum requirements to operate Blackboard.

Time spent on this course

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week to complete all the readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as the student will require to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Course Objectives

Objectives focus on content and skills that are important withing the course. Objectives can be thought of as inputs into the course.

Objective One: To define and analyze the concept of terrorism

Objective Two: To grasp the origins of terrorism in all its forms.

Objective Three: To understand the purpose and effectiveness of government responses to terrorist attack.

Learning Outcomes

In general, these should be statements which describe desired knowledge, skills or attitudes of the students. When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate your understanding of causation, political motivations, and history of terrorism through discussions and writing assignments.
2. 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 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.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments and active participation in the cohort discussions established through discussion board questions each week.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Discussion Board	30%	Weekly by midnight Sat night
Mid-term Paper	30%	Week 4 on Sunday at midnight
Final Paper	40%	Week 8 on Friday at midnight

Grades

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.

Writing Guidelines

Each writing assignment deals with the topic under discussion. These writing assignments cumulatively account for 75% of the student's grade. Writing assignments are expected to be about 1500 - 2000 words.

Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to this link: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

Should you wish to use CHICAGO style that will be acceptable. The APA or MLA styles are also acceptable, if you wish, and are familiar with either. The Chicago Style guide can be found at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org. Papers should have 1-inch margins all around. You are expected to use a standardized font - preferably Times New Roman, 12 point. Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list and cover page with every assignment.

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a WORD or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then copy the text you have written directly into the assignment section of Blackboard during the appropriate week. **Do NOT** submit writing assignments in Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, or some e-mail format. They will not be accepted.

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

Mid-Term Assignment

You are to design the perfect terrorist organization. We understand that there are flaws in every organizational structure but try to be as thorough as possible in addressing potential design flaws. Your design should incorporate everything you currently know about terrorism ideologies, groups, group structures, hierarchy, financing, communications, planning, security (internal and operational), as well as the impact of historical terrorist events. Use all the resources available to you, in particular the expertise that your text and the weekly readings have given you.

The due date for final submission of your design is midnight Sunday, week 4.

Your design should include lines of communication, ideologies and the means in which you intend to carry out your terror campaigns. Be specific! Include the sources of financing you will establish. Discuss your ultimate goals and address how you will maintain survivability across countries, continents and generations. A terrorist organization with a single charismatic leader is not considered multi-generational, nor is it survivable should a single cell/group be discovered and exploited by counter-terrorism agencies. Your organization should be international in character with global aspirations.

The paper should be a minimum of 6 pages, double-spaced, with at least four sources and citations. Any format (MLA, APA, Chicago Style).

Final Exam

Pick one of the domestic or international terrorist groups you have been studying this term. Complete an analysis of the organization and submit it through the Assignment link in lesson 8. Your analysis should include a thorough review of the functionality of the overall organization. How effective is the structure

and do you see any particular points of vulnerability? If you were working in a counter-terrorism office and this organizational structure were to come across your desk, what would you recommend to the head of your section as the best way to penetrate and disrupt this group?

Present your analysis in memorandum format, using Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, and address it to your hypothetical supervisor. Be sure that in carrying out your analysis you incorporate the lessons you have learned in the readings associated with this class, as well as reporting and incorporating any other resources you may find useful on the Internet or through the university library or other resources.

Your analysis should be at least 10 pages in length, not counting a title page (optional) or bibliography, which should contain at least six sources, with corresponding citations, using any format (APA, MLA, or Chicago Style).
Read the following 2 documents for inspiration for your analysis:

- Homeland Security Thesis - 1
- Homeland Security Thesis - 2

This course uses a writing assignment, instead of a final exam.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1:	Defining Terrorism.
Lesson 2:	Origins of Political Violence/Causes of Terrorism.
Lesson 3:	Dissident and Religious Terrorism.
Lesson 4:	Extremism and International Terrorism. **Assignment 1 is due on Sunday of week 4.**
Lesson 5:	Criminal Violence and Terrorism.
Lesson 6:	Tactics and Tools of Terrorists.
Lesson 7:	Terrorism and the Media / The Future of Terrorism.
Lesson 8:	Terrorism in the U.S./Counterterrorism. **Critical Analysis assignment due on Friday at midnight of week 8.**

Administration

Communication

Students are expected to participate regularly through the course discussion forum. Students may receive occasional emails from the course instructor and are expected to respond promptly. Asynchronous communication (i.e. face-to-face or "real-time" communication is not required for this course, however your professor is available for phone conversation, chat sessions, or video conferencing via Blackboard Collaborate during the published office hours, or during other times with prior arrangement.

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.

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.

We will learn and work as a team.

Attendance

This is an online course and attendance is not taken. However, failure to participate in the discussion board, to communicate or respond to e-mails from the professor, is an indication something is wrong. Therefore, we have made both a significant component of the course grade as an enticement to keep you engaged in the learning process. Failure to participate or communicate on the part of a student will result in an appropriate reduction of your grade and possibly in your failure of this course.

Late Work

You must contact your professor before the assignment is due if you believe it will be late. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment.

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

Students may add this course up to Friday of the first week of class.

Students may drop this course up to the 6th day of the class or the last drop date as specified by the University Administration.

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.