



Department of Security Studies

Global Terrorism and Homeland Security

Syllabus: SCST 2363.02 Online Fall 2017

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Class Hours: ONLINE
Classroom: ONLINE
Office Hours: Available through Blackboard's Virtual Office

TEXTBOOK:

The following text is **required** for all students attending this class. The dates for specific reading assignments are in the attached calendar. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIAL PRIOR TO THE DATES SPECIFIED IN THE "CLASS SCHEDULE."**

- Introduction to Homeland Security Policy, Organization, and Administration ISBN-13: 9781284045833

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Course Description This course will introduce you to the fundamental components of terrorism and homeland security as well as their importance and interrelated duties and relationships. Historic events that have had an impact on homeland security will be examined as well as providing students with a fundamental understanding of responsibilities, techniques, and methodology in the detection and prevention of terrorism.

This course provides an overview of the elements involved in the homeland security function. It also covers the challenges critical infrastructure managers in government and industry can/will face while maintaining mission operations and staff accountability in the midst of multiple overlapping roles and responsibilities in our rapidly changing world.

Course Objectives

- 1.To provide students with a working definition of terrorism and a thorough knowledge of terrorism and homeland security.
- 2.Describe, discuss, and assess the motivations, ideologies, and rationales of terrorist groups along with the common methods, tactics, and execution of terrorist activities.
- 3.Develop an understanding of different regional terrorist groups.
- 4.Identify, examine, and evaluate challenges involving terrorism and homeland security that face U.S. government officials and the various agencies responsible for addressing terrorism and providing domestic homeland security.
- 5.Appraise, assess, and evaluate various types of legal, administrative, and procedural changes that have occurred in response to terrorism in the United States since 9/11.
- 6.Understand the challenges of confronting terrorism both internationally and domestically, and to assess the likely future tactics and changes to international terrorism and the impact on the United States.



ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Since this class is being offered in a non-traditional (on-line) format, there are no formally scheduled class sessions. However, “class attendance” requirements will be followed in accordance with the spirit of Academic Policy Statement 800401 which instructs students that they are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and allows the professor to reduce grades depending on a student’s failure to regularly attend classes. Although there are not any assigned class sessions for the on-line format of this class, you are expected to visit the Blackboard website for the class regularly (***at least three times each week throughout the semester***) to check to see if any assignments or additional material has been posted to the site.

There are “**Discussion Sessions**” associated with each learning module posted at the Blackboard website and your active participation in these sessions is “**mandatory**,” all students are expected to read the discussions as they take place.

Discussions end on Wednesday at midnight each week, they are open to view and get ahead but, when the close they are closed. You must respond to two of your classmates for full credit.

Exams will primarily draw from material included in the required text book and learning modules presented through the Blackboard platform but information included in the “Discussion Sessions” is also eligible for inclusion on the exams. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that students visit the Discussion Sessions on a regular basis and review them prior to the exams. You are responsible for all material discussed during these sessions. Unannounced “reaction papers” described below will be called for on an irregular basis for class management purposes and will be used in the determination of your final semester grade. Points lost for those assignments cannot be made-up.

GRADING POLICY:

- A. **REGULAR EXAMS:** There will be **regular exams** given throughout the semester. The format for these exams will be “multiple-choice” and “true/false” in nature. While taking the exam, you will be able to access your notes, book, and other handouts provided throughout the semester. Each exam will be “timed” so that students need to prepare for the exam as if no notes were available and final scores may be reduced depending on the length of time taken to complete the exam.
- B. **REACTION PAPERS:** **TWO times throughout the semester** you will be required to write a brief paper in response to some issue or event brought to your attention by your professor. The dates and subject matter of these reaction papers will be determined by your professor and **WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE**. These reaction papers must be submitted when they are called for and you will receive from 0 to 40 points each for a total of 80 “reaction paper points” possible throughout the semester.

APA FORMAT! No less than 500 words – APA FORMAT!

There are two purposes for these papers: 1) to require you to apply concepts and principles to demonstrate your familiarity with the material being covered, and; 2) to reinforce the importance that you visit the class Blackboard platform regularly throughout the semester. *If you fail to submit a response by the date a reaction paper is called for, you will NOT be able to make it up.*



D. GRADING:

A	(90% - 100%)
B	(80% - 89%)
C	(70% - 79%)
D	(60% - 69%)
F	(< 60%)

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All exams will be delivered through the Blackboard learning platform with a window of time allowing students to complete them so there should be no need for "make-up" opportunities.

CLASS BEHAVIOR:

Some of the substance of this course is likely to be controversial in nature. When discussing moral or ethical thoughts on various matters, people often present a dogmatic or ideological position akin to a religious or political belief system. Our discussions will sometimes force us to examine ideas that are repugnant to such belief systems. In the best scenario, we will do so with an open mind welcoming the opportunity to set one belief system beside another, gaining insight from the comparative perspective. In the worst scenario, we will become defenders of our beliefs and/or enemies of alternative belief systems.

Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another person's belief system will not be tolerated. They will be identified as such by the professor (or any other class participant who senses that discussions have moved to a personal level) and stopped. *Students who continue to engage in personal level challenges will first be counseled by the professor but may ultimately be dropped from the class.*

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student Guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines that refer to instances of "academic dishonesty" (available in the Office of Student Life or on-line at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/studlife.html#conduct>). In accordance with the statement, any student engaged in academic dishonesty in this class will receive an "F" for the semester and will, consequently, be terminated from the graduate program.

The professor may require that written material submitted in fulfillment of any of the requirements for this class be submitted for an evaluation through Turnitin.com so all work submitted must include appropriate source citation and must represent the original work of the student with appropriate and full source attributions. Information about Turnitin.com can be found at their web-site <http://www.turnitin.com>.



SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

Please see the information located online at the following site:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Please see the information located online at the following site:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

Please see the information located online at the following site:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf