



Sam Houston State University

Department of Security Studies

SCST 3394 Syllabus

Course# & Title:	SCST 3394.01 Global Terrorism & Homeland Security
Semester:	Spring 2018
Delivery Mode:	Fully Online
Class hours:	Discretionary times – 3hrs per session
Office and Hours:	Virtual Online with Bb or Email Anytime
Professor:	Mark V. Denham
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Description

Welcome to Global Terrorism and Homeland Security distant learning class. This course will introduce students 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. I hope you will enjoy the experience.

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.

Course organization

A detailed schedule will be accessible from Blackboard. However, throughout the semester I will be providing reminders and other information to you using your **SHSU email address**. It will be **your responsibility to stay connected** to ensure that you are not missing important information. I encourage you to connect SHSU Outlook to your mobile device, if you possess one, to assist you in communications.

Textbook

There is only one required text for this course. Getting a grip on the reading will certainly make your online experience more rewarding.

Your required reading is:

Terrorism and Homeland Security, 9th Edition.

Jonathan R. White (Author)

- Publisher: Cengage Learning (2015)
- Language: English
- ISBN: 978-1-305-63377-3
- Loose-leaf Edition ISBN: 978-1-305-66020-5

About the book:

TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY is widely recognized as one of the most comprehensive, balanced, and objective text available for this topic. It provides engrossing examples and cutting-edge discussions as well as a theoretical and conceptual framework to help understand how terrorism arises and how it functions. White discusses the theories of the world's best terrorist analysts, while focusing on the domestic and international threat of terrorism and basic security issues. Essential historical background is provided on the phenomenon of terrorism and the roots of contemporary conflicts, current conflicts shaping the world stage, emerging groups (e.g., Boko Haram, Ansaru, and ISIS), and theoretical and concrete information about Homeland Security organizations. Each chapter also contains a new analysis of probable future trends in terrorism and security.

You may purchase from any bookstore including from Amazon or the [Sam Houston State University Bookstore](#). You will need to enter or choose the following information to purchase through this site:

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Department: SCST
Course: 3394
Section: 01

The required readings represent a framework to guide us through the course. Reading outside this framework will enhance your experience and I encourage you to post links in the course *webliography* for any interesting journal articles you find. In that way we can all share.

Attendance & Participation

With the convenience of an online course, attendance and participation should not be an issue for students. Not participating during a session is the equivalent to being absent. **Only one absence will be allowed without prior approval. Any additional failure to attend class by not participating will require physician's note if illness occurred or approval by me. The decision will be made regarding each specific case. Any additional failure to attend class without a physician's note or prior approval will result in one final grade reduction per occurrence.** Time management is crucial but I also understand that life happens. Therefore it is imperative to contact me ahead of time or during the session if an event is preventing you from participating. Communication is the key and should be originated by you!

Each week, the session will begin on Sunday at 12:01am and close at midnight on the following Saturday. Please do not leave it to the end of the week to contribute as this will disadvantage other members of the class. **With that said, you are required to provide your original posting regarding the topic by midnight of each Wednesday. You are further required to engage in discussions by replying to at least *two* other student's original postings prior to the end of each week's sessions. Your contributions should be scholarly discussions with support of the reading assignments by highlighting the concepts and theories learned. Points will be deducted from each session if you do not participate with the aforementioned requirements.**

Most sessions I will initiate a discussion assignment which is listed in each Session's menu list. Everyone must participate in these discussions so it is important that you check daily to read and respond to your fellow students postings. To be a true discussion, you must be responsive to questions that your fellow student may ask or if their opinion of the reading assignment strongly differs from yours.

Your discussions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Responsiveness - Does your discussion accurately and fully focus on each of the issues raised in the assignment? Did you engage in a true discussion by responding to another student's strong opposing thoughts pertaining to the reading assignment or answering questions from another student?
- 2) Support - Do you rely on the assigned readings along with additional outside information to help inform your discussions?
- 3) Involvement - Do you (individually) contribute to the discussion in a clear and meaningful way?

Method of Evaluation

Four products will count toward your final grade. This will include:

- ✚ Written section examinations 420 points
 - ✚ Written video assignments 208 points
 - ✚ Quizzes 160 points
 - ✚ Class participation and attendance 224 points
- Total points possible 1,014 (Including the short introduction session there are 14 extra points.)

Exams

There will be four section examinations during the term. These exams will consist of multiple choices and true/false questions. Each examination will be worth a possible total of 105 points. The final examination is not comprehensive. Students must take the exams on the scheduled dates. There will be no make-ups.

Written Assignments

Students must complete a written video assignment. Each assignment is worth 13 points.

Quizzes

There will be 16 short quizzes worth 10 points each.

Discussions

There will be 16 discussion boards worth 14 points each.

Grading System

- A 900–1000 points
- B 800–899 points
- C 700–799 points
- D 600–699 points
- F 599 points or less

Course Policies

Student Expectations

Online courses require a special personal discipline to keep up with the work load and make the whole program an enjoyable and enlightening experience. You will not achieve this experience if the requisite reading is not undertaken. The reading list contains *required* texts. Additionally, articles and video links will be posted on the web which you will want to read or view. These may, or may not, have tests attached to them which you are expected to complete. These results go towards the demonstration of attendance and participation evaluation product. This does not mean that you have to read only the

required texts and posted articles. During the course, you may be asked to find and post to the web certain articles that, for example, either support or reject a particular theory.

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each online class.

Student Academic Policies

The University's policies on Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Spam Mail & Netiquette

Please do not use the collaboration tools in this course as an outlet for general mail messages. The purpose of these areas of communication is to facilitate collaborative learning among all students involved in the class. Use cautious discretion about what material you post or email to other students and make sure it pertains to the ongoing discussion or contributes to the general class discussion.

All initial emails should start with a form of salutation with minimally addressing the recipient by name, there after provide your communication, and concluding with your name. This does not have to be a formal business letter but please do not send a one line email asking a question without providing who the email is intended for and who is sending it at the completion of the communication. If several reply emails regarding this same topic occur then naturally you can then become more direct.

Online Resources

Newton Gresham Library

The [Newton Gresham Library \(http://library.shsu.edu/\)](http://library.shsu.edu/) has many resources you will want to use in this course. These include databases, reference materials, journals, digital collections, and Google Scholar. You will also find research information such as Citation Guides and research assistance and instruction in the use of library resources, especially the electronic resources, for SHSU students enrolled in SHSU Online courses. This instruction can be via [mail to: lib_ref@shsu.edu](mailto:lib_ref@shsu.edu), or telephone, (936) 294-1599 or 1-866-NGL-INFO (toll-free), what ever is most convenient for the student. To take advantage of these services you will need to register as a Distance Education student with the Library by filling out a registration form.

SHSU Writing Center

The <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Distance.pdf> provides services including generating ideas for your term paper, identifying your target audience, organizing your paper, improving your writing style, identifying and correcting grammatical errors, and more. If you chose to use these services you will need to provide them the information about your paper found at <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Distance.pdf> through email. Be aware that they will need 48 hours to review a paper.

Disabled Student Policy

“Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.” The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

Any student in this class may request special learning assistance by submitting a written statement describing your particular need. If it is necessary, you will be directed to the University’s Counseling Center for additional assistance, however, most needs should be able to be accommodated directly through your professor. Please feel free to discuss any particular need you may have with your professor.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is located in the Counseling Center, Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building). SSD provides academic accommodations and auxiliary aids and services for otherwise-qualified students with mental or physical impairments that substantially limit their academic functioning. To be considered for accommodations, a student must submit documentation of his/her impairment to SSD and complete the disability intake process. The student may schedule an intake appointment by contacting the Counseling Center at (936) 294-3512 (TDD: (936) 294-3786). The Counseling Center email address is disability@shsu.edu and Web address is www.shsu.edu/disability. The hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Additional information on the procedure for requesting services and the SSD documentation requirements is available at the Counseling Center or at www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html. Decisions regarding accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis, as supported by the student’s documentation and self-report. Students requesting auxiliary aids and/or services that may require advance planning and coordination are advised to submit their requests to SSD in a timely manner. SSD recommends a minimum of two months advance notice for the provision of sign language/oral interpreting or real-time captioning for the deaf. One month notice is recommended for alternative text formats. Adaptive technologies are available at various locations on the SHSU campus, including the Counseling Center, the Newton Gresham Library, the Reading Center, and various Computer Labs. These technologies include CCTV video magnifiers, screen magnification and reader software, scan-read software, and assistive listening devices. Comparable technologies are available in the library and computer lab on the third floor of the LSC University Center in The Woodlands. A complete listing of the adaptive technologies and their locations on the SHSU campus is available at the above-noted web address. Any student who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of a disability by SHSU faculty, staff, or administration may file a grievance by contacting the ADA Student Coordinator at the Counseling Center. Additional information on the grievance procedures, as well as institutional policy regarding students with disabilities, is detailed in the Academic Policy Statement 811006--Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities may request assistance with the admissions or registration process by contacting, respectively, the Admissions Office at (936) 294-1828 or the Registrar’s Office at (936) 294-1040. Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) locations are as follows with corresponding telephone numbers: • Dean of Students’ Office: (936) 294-3785 • Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities: (936) 294-3786 • University Police: (936) 294-3787 • Office of Undergraduate Admissions: (936) 294-3788 • Registrar’s Office: (936) 294-3789.

Technology Requirements

Computer & Internet

Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web. Some users may need to download special "plug-ins" to be able to use the discussion board and all students will be required to download and view *Microsoft Word documents*, *Excel* spreadsheets, and *PowerPoint* presentations. **Please be sure to contact the SHSU 24/7 helpdesk if you have any problems connecting or access materials or tools in this course (online@shsuonline.net or 1-877-870-9214)**

Document Formatting

Any material submitted to your professor for grading must be sent in a format compatible with *Microsoft Word 2007* version (ending with the suffix *.docx*). Students using any other word processor should select the option that allows them to save their material as a "Rich Text Format" (RTF) document before submitting it to your professor. You are advised to keep a "hard copy" as well as a back-up electronic copy of your material in case of technical problems.