



Terrorism: Perspectives and Consequence Management

MSA 580

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

Learners in this course will thoroughly examine the complex issues surrounding terrorism via a discussion of theories, domestic and international threats of terrorism, motivations for terrorism, and a review of the various religious, ideological, nationalistic, and ethnic movements taking place around the world. Consequence management is studied with a review of the incident management system, federal response plan, weapons of mass destruction effects, mass casualty decontamination, crime scene operations, and technology and emergency response.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Nacos, B. L. (2012). *Terrorism and counterterrorism* (4th ed.). Glenview, IL: Pearson Education.

Stern, J. (2000). *The ultimate terrorists*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Sageman, M. (2004). *Understanding terror networks*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Discuss the origins and evolution of terrorism.
- Formulate a definition of terrorism.
- Differentiate and explain the causes and effects of terrorism.
- Assess the major threats from terrorism confronting the world today.
- Identify government policies and capabilities for dealing with terrorism.
- Evaluate tendencies and patterns in terrorist behavior and project future trends.
- Conduct scholarly research by integrating resources on specific terrorist groups and terrorism in general.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	360	36%
Assignments	5	200	25%
Portfolio Assignment	1	240	24%
Final Exam	1	150	15%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 1 – 3 Stern chapters 1 & 2 Introductions discussion forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Discussion Unit 1 Assignment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 4 – 6 Stern chapters 3 - 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion Unit 2 Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 7 – 9 Stern chapters 6 - 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion Unit 3 Assignment
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 10 – 13 Sageman chapters 1 & 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion Unit 4 Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 14 & 15 Sageman chapters 3 & 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Discussion Unit 5 Assignment
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacos chapters 16 – 17 Sageman chapter & conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 Discussion Portfolio Assignment Final Exam

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.