



Terrorism – Motivations and Adversaries

SMGT424

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course reviews the events, ideas, motivations, and histories that result in terrorist acts. In addition, it examines the theories that help explain the volatile behavior surrounding international and domestic terrorism, as well as domestic extremist groups in the United States. There is also a conceptual overview of terrorism which progresses to a focused discussion of the terrorists, investigation of the nuances of the terrorist trade, and concludes with a final analysis of modern terrorism.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Martin, G. (2015). *Understanding terrorism: Challenges, perspectives, and issues* (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

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:

1. Describe the human behavior that is foremost in the study of terrorism
2. Explain the fundamentals of terrorist violence
3. Investigate the roots terrorism through the review of events, ideas, motivations, theories, and histories that result in terrorist violence.
4. Assess terrorism from the perspectives of homeland security, international security, criminal justice administration, political conflict, armed conflict, and social movements.
5. Explore the use of social media and counterterrorism options in contemporary terrorism.
6. Assess the future of terrorism as it relates to the different threats to the homeland and its effects on civil liberties

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	300	30%
Unit 2 Analysis	1	200	20%
Unit 4 Case Study Analysis	1	200	20%
Unit 6 Compare & Contrast Analysis	1	300	30%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 1-3 Chapters 1-3 PowerPoints Introductions discussion Collaborate Session The Definition of Terrorism: A Fundamental Counter-Terrorism Measure video Thinking Like a Terrorist – Naval Post Graduate School – Center for Homeland Defense and Security video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Discussion
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 4-6 Chapters 4-6 PowerPoints The Taliban – Council on Foreign Relations video Religious and Theologically Motivated Terrorism: Part 1 video Religious and Theologically Motivated Terrorism: Part 2 video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion Unit 2 Analysis
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 7-9 Chapters 7-9 PowerPoints Islamic State Militants – A Sensible Discussion video Mia Bloom - Seeing the New Face of Terrorism video Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy: Inside a School for Suicide Bomber video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 10-12 Chapters 10-12 PowerPoints Could the Boston Bombings been Prevented? video Is social media a gateway for terrorist propaganda? video Assessing "Homegrown" Extremism in the United States video WMD: The Nightmare Scenario video Reflecting on the 9/11 Commission: Are We Safer Today video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion Unit 4 Case Study Analysis

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13-14 • Chapter 13-14 PowerPoints • When should we negotiate with terrorists video • An Assessment of Counterterrorism Policy video • International Perspectives on Terrorism and Counterterrorism video • Understanding and responding to homegrown terrorism video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 15 • Chapters 15 PowerPoint • Imagination First and The Guiding Lights video • Striking the Right Balance between Security and Liberty video • Sen. Rand Paul Speaks on PATRIOT ACT video • Homeland Security Secretary Johnson on ISIS, Ebola, and Preventing Homegrown Terrorism video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Discussion • Unit 6 Compare & Contrast Analysis

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.