

Syllabus for HLS-420

HOMELAND SECURITY: PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION, AND DETERRENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Prevention, and Deterrence focuses on how strategic planning, incident control systems, and intelligence techniques combine to provide the necessary foundation for anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness. Topics covered include infrastructure protection, National Incident Management System, threat and vulnerability assessments, information sharing, resource planning, and other issues relating to terrorism prevention and deterrence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain and analyze the preparedness model.
2. Identify and analyze resources for preparedness.
3. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between disaster planning and terrorism planning.
4. Identify and evaluate sources of information used in Homeland Security.
5. Discuss how the National Incident Management System and the Incident Control System are used to integrate the necessary components of planning for Homeland Security and emergency preparedness.
6. Explain information sharing regulations used in law enforcement and national security and evaluate their effectiveness.
7. Identify, assess, and rank critical infrastructure and other significant targets in order of vital significance and vulnerability to support allocation and effective use of protective sources.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to do the work of the course. The required textbooks are available from the College's textbook supplier, [MBS Direct](#).

Required Textbooks

- Arthur S. Hulnick, *Keeping Us Safe: Secret Intelligence and Homeland Security*. (Praeger, 2004)

ISBN-13: 978-0-27-598150-1

- Marilyn B. Peterson, Bob Morehouse, and Dick Wright, *Intelligence 2000: Revising the Basic Elements; A Guide for Intelligence Professionals* (IALEIA and LEIU, 2001)

ISBN-13: 978-0-97-068870-5

- 9/11 Commission, *The 9/11 Commission Report* (W.W. Norton, 2004)

ISBN-10: 0-16-072304-3

NOTE: The 9/11 Commission Report is also available online and links to it will be provided in the individual assignment modules.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Prevention & Deterrence is a three-credit online course, consisting of **seven** (7) modules. Each module is built around your assigned readings. Modules include learning objectives, study materials, and assignments. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: The Preparedness Model**
- **Module 2: Planning Against Terrorism and Disasters – How Does it Work?**
- **Module 3: NIMS and ICS**
- **Module 4: Risk, Threat and Vulnerability Assessments in Homeland Security Prevention**
- **Module 5: Collecting Data in the Information Age: Too Little Clarity?**
- **Module 6: Is Information Sharing Too Regulated? Has a Lack of Sharing Caused a Key Intelligence Failure?**
- **Module 7: Resources for Preparedness**

Consult the course Calendar for assignment due dates.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in seven (7) online discussion forums, complete four (4) written assignments, and complete a final paper that will be worth 40 percent of your grade. See below for more details.

Consult the course Calendar for assignment due dates.

Discussion Forums

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Prevention and Deterrence has **seven** (7) graded online discussions, each focusing on a different subject. There is also an ungraded but required discussion in Module 1 titled "Introductions." All class discussions take place on the class Discussion Board.

Communication among fellow students and with the mentor is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online discussions involves two distinct assignments: an initial response to a posted question (discussion thread) and subsequent comments on classmates' responses. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate, the reading, or your mentor, state **and support** your agreement or disagreement. You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation. Responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, professional, and respectful.

For posting guidelines and help with discussion forums, please see the Student Handbook located within the General Information page of the course Web site.

Written Assignments

Homeland Security: Preparedness, Prevention & Deterrence has **four** (4) written assignments. Each written assignment tests your comprehension of reading material assigned in the appropriate module.

Take the time to familiarize yourself with the individual Assignment Modules and read through the written assignment questions before you begin each lesson. Your answers to the assignment questions should be well developed and convey your understanding of the course materials. Formulate responses in your own words (do not merely copy answers from your reading materials), citing text materials where appropriate and in an appropriate manner.

Prepare your written assignments using whatever word processing program you have on your computer. Include your name at the top of the paper, as well as the course name and code and the semester and year in which you are enrolled.

Before submitting your first assignment, check with your mentor to determine whether your word processing software is compatible with your mentor's software. If so, you can submit your work as you prepared it. If not, save your assignment as a rich-text (.rtf) file, using the Save As command of your software program. Rich text retains basic formatting and can be read by any other word processing

program.

For help regarding preparing and submitting assignments, see the Student Handbook located within the General Information page of the course Web site.

Final Paper

You are required to submit a final paper at the end of the course. This paper will be worth 40% of your final grade.

For help regarding preparing and submitting assignments, see the Student Handbook located within the General Information page of the course Web site.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (7)**—32 percent
- **Written assignments (4)**—28 percent
- **Final paper**—40 percent

All assignments will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	=	93–100
A–	=	90–92
B+	=	88–89
B	=	83–87
B–	=	80–82
C+	=	78–79
C	=	73–77
C–	=	70–72
D	=	60–69
F	=	Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of D or higher on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings, etc.).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take the time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course, how to schedule exams, and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State College.
- Arrange to take your examination(s) by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Online Student Handbook.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with Web-based learning be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the course Calendar. The Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and scheduling and taking examinations.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students at Thomas Edison State College are expected to exhibit the highest level of academic citizenship. In particular, students are expected to read and follow all policies, procedures, and program information guidelines contained in publications; pursue their learning goals with honesty and integrity; demonstrate that they are progressing satisfactorily and in a timely fashion by meeting course deadlines and following outlined procedures; observe a code of mutual respect in dealing with mentors, staff, and other students; behave in a manner consistent with the standards and codes of the profession in which they are practicing; keep official records updated regarding changes in name, address, telephone

number, or e-mail address; and meet financial obligations in a timely manner. Students not practicing good academic citizenship may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension, dismissal, or financial holds on records.

Academic Dishonesty

Thomas Edison State College expects all of its students to approach their education with academic integrity—the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception. All mentors and administrative staff members at the College insist on strict standards of academic honesty in all courses. Academic dishonesty undermines this objective. Academic dishonesty takes the following forms:

- Cheating
- Plagiarizing (including copying and pasting from the Internet without using quotation marks and without acknowledging sources)
- Fabricating information or citations
- Facilitating acts of dishonesty by others
- Unauthorized access to examinations or the use of unauthorized materials during exam administration
- Submitting the work of another person or work previously used without informing the mentor
- Tampering with the academic work of other students

Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the College. Students who submit papers that are found to be plagiarized will receive an F on the plagiarized assignment, may receive a grade of F for the course, and may face dismissal from the College.

A student who is charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge. If a mentor or College official believes the infraction is serious enough to warrant referral of the case to the academic dean, or if the mentor awards a final grade of F in the course because of the infraction, the student and the mentor will be afforded formal due process.

If a student is found cheating or using unauthorized materials on an examination, he or she will automatically receive a grade of F on that examination. Students who believe they have been falsely accused of academic dishonesty should seek redress through informal discussions with the mentor, through the office of the dean, or through an executive officer of Thomas Edison State College.

Plagiarism

Using someone else's work as your own is plagiarism. Although it may seem like simple dishonesty, plagiarism is against the law. Thomas Edison State College takes a strong stance against plagiarism, and students found to be plagiarizing will be severely penalized. If you copy phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or whole documents word-for-word—or if you paraphrase by changing a word here and there—without identifying the author, then you are plagiarizing. Please keep in mind that this type of identification applies to Internet sources as well as to print-based sources. Copying and pasting from the Internet, without using quotation marks and without acknowledging sources, constitutes plagiarism. (For information about how to cite Internet sources, see Online Student Handbook > Academic Standards > "Citing Sources.")

Accidentally copying the words and ideas of another writer does not excuse the charge of plagiarism. It is easy to jot down notes and ideas from many sources and then write your own paper without knowing which words are your own and which are someone else's. It is more difficult to keep track of each and

every source. However, the conscientious writer who wishes to avoid plagiarizing never fails to keep careful track of sources.

Always be aware that if you write without acknowledging the sources of your ideas, you run the risk of being charged with plagiarism.

Clearly, plagiarism, no matter the degree of intent to deceive, defeats the purpose of education. If you plagiarize deliberately, you are not educating yourself, and you are wasting your time on courses meant to improve your skills. If you plagiarize through carelessness, you are deceiving yourself.