

## **Syllabus for HLS-500**

# **TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE U.S.**

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the phenomenon of terrorism as it relates to the U.S. as well as American interests in other countries, primarily from the Cold War to the present. The attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001 and the subsequent adoption of a formal U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be examined in the context of the global terrorist threat and the more general concept of homeland security. Emphasis is on the identification and understanding of appropriate definitions and concepts so that students may critically evaluate the threats present and the range of responses available in our democratic society. Appropriate historical foundations will be included. The essential components of a mechanism for homeland security will also be presented. The relationship of homeland security to preparation, response and recovery mechanisms for terrorism, including goals, objectives and strategies, will be explored. The importance of coordinating various plans and strategies among local, state and federal government response organizations will be stressed.

## **COURSE TOPICS**

1. Student Impression and Understanding and Defining Terrorism
2. Various Causes of Domestic, International, State, Dissident and Religious Terrorism
3. Violent Ideologies and Emerging Terrorism Environments
4. High Value Targets and Common Tactics of Terrorists
5. The Role of the Media in Terrorism
6. Various Responses to Terrorism: Now and in the Future

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The primary goal of this course is to give you an understanding of the motives, origins, and rationales for extremist beliefs and terrorist behavior, as well as how governments respond to these phenomena. You will be challenged to critically assess extremist ideology and the practice of terrorism. You will also be challenged to evaluate the notion that the practice of terrorism is limited exclusively to the "lunatic fringe" - indeed, is one person's terrorist another person's freedom fighter? After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify, define, explore and discuss various aspects of the origins, history and elements comprising terrorism.
2. Identify, examine, and evaluate the various challenges facing United States government officials involving terrorism and homeland security and the various agencies responsible for addressing terrorism and providing domestic homeland security.

3. Explain, assess, and describe the specific law enforcement and national intelligence agencies comprising homeland security within the United States responsible for addressing terrorism and providing domestic homeland security.
4. Examine, evaluate, and discuss the methods used by law enforcement and national security agencies address the various problems involving domestic and international hate crimes and terrorism.
5. Discuss, synthesize, and explain the various theories that attempt to address and explain the origins of extremist beliefs related to terrorism and then differentiate between terrorism from above (state terrorism) and terrorism from below (dissident terrorism) in a coherent and comprehensive manner.
6. Describe, explain, compare, and discuss terrorist activities against United States interests since World War II and the core issues that contributed to the spectrum of terrorist activities.
7. Describe, discuss, and assess the motivations, ideologies, and rationales of terrorist groups along with the common methods, tactics, and execution of terrorist activities.
8. Appraise, assess, and evaluate various types of legal, administrative, and procedural changes in response to terrorism in the United States since post 9/11.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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

### Required Texts

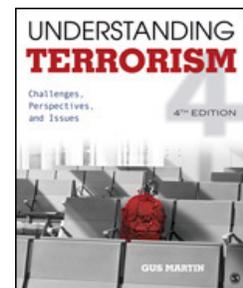
- Martin, Gus. *Understanding Terrorism; Challenges, Perspectives, and Issues*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2013.

**ISBN: 978-1-45220582-3**

- The National Commission On Terrorist Attacks Upon The United States. *The 9/11 Commission Report*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2004.

**ISBN 0-393-32671-3** (paperback)

- You can also get the report using the following link (PDF):  
<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>



## COURSE STRUCTURE

**Terrorism and Homeland Security In The U.S.** is a three-credit online course, consisting of six (6) modules. Modules include an overview, topics, study materials, and assignments. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Terrorism: A Conceptual Review**
- **Module 2: The Terrorists: State and Dissident Terrorism**
- **Module 3: The Terrorists: Ideologies, Religions, Spillovers and Environments**
- **Module 4: The Terrorist Trade**
- **Module 5: Terrorism in the United States**
- **Module 6: Terrorism: Responding and the Future**

Consult the course **Calendar** for assignment due dates.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums and complete written assignments, web exercises, and a final project. See below for more details.

Consult the course Calendar for assignment due dates.

### **Written Assignments**

You are required to complete **six (6)** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the courses modules.

Each module contains one written assignment (total four written assignments). For each, you must prepare and submit an essay from 3 – 8 pages in length (double spaced, 12 point type) as directed in the assignment. All citations included in your response(s) must follow APA format guidelines and submitted as a Microsoft Word document file. If you do not have Word, submit the document as an .rtf (rich text) file so it can be read.

### **Discussion Forums**

You are required to participate in **six (6)** graded discussion forums. Discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the courses modules.

### **Web Exercises**

You are required to complete **five (5)** web exercises assignments. The web exercises are on a variety of topics associated with the courses modules.

These exercises are designed to help students delve deeper into the subject matter by using the recommended Web sites to answer questions on chapter topics. Key words are also provided for more in-depth research on terrorism.

## **Final Project**

You are required to complete a final project. Final project will be 18-20 pages in length. See the Final Project area of the course website for more details.

## **GRADING AND EVALUATION**

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (6)**—20%
- **Written assignments (6)**—25%
- **Web exercises (5)**—20%
- **Final project**—35%

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:

<b>A</b>	=	93–100
<b>A–</b>	=	90–92
<b>B+</b>	=	88–89
<b>B</b>	=	83–87
<b>B–</b>	=	80–82
<b>C+</b>	=	78–79
<b>C</b>	=	73–77
<b>C–</b>	=	70–72
<b>D</b>	=	60–69
<b>F</b>	=	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.).

## **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
- 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 General Information > 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.