



DESALES UNIVERSITY

Division of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Sciences

**TERRORISM and COUNTERTERRORISM**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE 374**  
*Course Syllabus – Fall 2011*

**Instructor:** Mr. Albert Sproule. Phone: 610-282-1100, x-1463  
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**Tucker House, Room 102**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 11:00am to 12:00noon, Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00noon, Thursday, 11:00am to 12:00noon and 2:00pm to 3:00pm. I am also available to meet with you by appointment.

**Course Description:**

An introductory course investigating the historical background of terrorism, modern terrorist tactics, counterterrorism tactics, and the social, economic, and political factors that foster terrorism. Modern terrorist and counterterrorist tactics will be examined. Finally, an evaluation and assessment of the struggle against violent Islamic extremism will be an important focus of the course.

**Required text:**

White, Jonathan R. **Terrorism and Homeland Security**. 7th Edition.  
Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Belmont, California, 2012.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

Communicate their knowledge of the history of terrorism.

Articulate their comprehension of the economic, political, and social context of terrorism.

Detail terrorist and counterterrorist tactics as they are practiced by the United States in a complex geopolitical environment.

## Student Learning Outcomes: (cont'd)

Conduct research and report the results orally and in writing concerning a matter related to terrorism and/or counterterrorism.

Assess and evaluate the current status of the struggle against violent Islamic extremism.

### Methods:

This course will combine lecture, discussion, use of video, research opportunities, with presentations by guest lecturers. Participation by students is necessary, expected, and an important part of the learning process. **Angel**, including **Illuminate**, will be an important vehicle for providing course documents, course information, assignments, etc. It will also be a means of communication for discussion groups as well as contact with the instructor.

### Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. If absences do occur (for whatever reason) it is the student's responsibility to make up work that has been missed. The instructor is not under any obligation to make special arrangements for students who are absent. Students who are absent more than six times in the semester may be barred from examinations and may forfeit credit in the subject at the discretion of the instructor. The "attendance policy" of this course will be in line with the attendance policy as cited in the current DeSales University Bulletin of Information.

### Course Expectations and Grading

Grading distribution is as follows:

93% - 100% A	73% - 76% C
90% - 92% A-	70% - 72% C-
87% - 89% B+	67% - 69% D+
83% - 86% B	60% - 66% D
80% - 82% B-	Below 60% F
77% - 79% C+	

1. The instructor will assign a research project to be followed up with a summary presentation in class. The project will be terrorist related (i.e. groups or individuals) or about issues associated with terrorism / counterterrorism. The project and presentation will account for **15%** of the final grade.
2. Short quizzes and participation in a current events terrorism/counterterrorism blog, throughout the semester, will collectively be worth **10%** of the final grade. Students will not have an opportunity to make up any quiz if absent.

## Course Expectations and Grading cont'd:

4. There will be three examinations during the course. Each will be worth **15%** of the final grade. If because of unforeseen circumstances you will miss a scheduled exam; you must **notify me prior to such absence** for a make-up exam to be arranged.
5. There will be a final exam worth **20%** of the final grade.
6. Class participation in all phases of the course will be worth **15%** of the final grade. Full credit will be given to those students who regularly provide observations in class, ask thoughtful questions during discussions, and make significant contributions during group activities.

**A/A-** Indicates mastery of the course content accompanied by evidence of exceptional achievement in critical, independent and creative thought competently expressed.

**B+/B/B-** Indicates a good grasp of course content accompanied by evidence of a marked achievement in critical, independent and creative thought competently expressed.

**C+/C/C-** Indicates an adequate grasp of course content accompanied by evidence of an average achievement in critical, independent and creative thought and the capacity to express it.

**D+/D** Indicates a limited grasp of course content and evidence of minimal achievement in critical, independent and creative thought.

**F** indicates an insufficient grasp of course content with evidence of an unacceptably low achievement in critical, independent and creative thought.

### Online Information and Assistance:

Access to information about **Angel**, as well as information about the hardware and software requirements for online aspects of the course, are available via the **ACADEMICS** link of the DeSales University homepage.

Problems in the technical area of online instruction can be resolved by contacting the **HELP Desk** at x 4357.

### Academic Honesty:

Any plagiarism, cheating, or other inappropriate behavior, will be reported to the academic authorities of the College. The policy of this course will reflect the language found as cited in the current DeSales University Bulletin of Information.

### Disabilities:

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic adjustments should contact the Coordinator of Learning and Disability Services (Dooling Hall, room 26, extension 1453).

## **CoursEval:**

At the conclusion of the course, each student will be asked to evaluate the course and the instructor. This will be accomplished by a process known as CoursEval. Students will receive extra credit in class participation after they provide the instructor with a receipt reflecting completion of the CoursEval process.

## **Schedule of Reading Assignments and Course Outline**

Week of:

August	25	Course introduction and syllabus review. The course text is: <b><i>Terrorism and Homeland Security</i></b> by Jonathan R. White <b><u>Part 1 – An Introduction to issues in Terrorism</u></b> Chapter 1- <b>Terrorism Defined</b>
	30	Chapter 2- <b>The Social Underpinnings of Terrorism</b> Chapter 3- <b>The Organization and Financing of Terrorism</b>
		<b>(9-5-11, Labor Day Holiday)</b>
September	6	Chapter 4- <b>Terrorism and the Media</b>
	13	Chapter 5 – <b>Gender Roles, Tactics, and Force Multipliers In Terrorism</b>
	20	Chapter 6 – <b>The Roots of Modern Terrorism</b>
	22	Examination #1 – Chapters 1-6
		<b><u>Part II – International Terrorism: National and Ethnic Movements</u></b>
	27	Chapter 7 – <b>Long Term Separatist Terrorism</b>
October	4	Chapter 8 – <b>Nationalistic and Endemic Terrorism</b>

## **Pacer Weekend - October 10 and 11**

- October 13 Chapter 9 – **Background to the Middle East**
- 18 Chapter 10 – **Terrorism in Israel and Palestine**
- 20 Examination – Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10

### **Part III – International Terrorism: Ideological and Religious Movements**

- 25 Chapter 11 – **International Umbrella Groups and Terror Networks**
- November 1 Chapter 12 – **Al Qaeda and Jihadist Networks**
- 3 Examination #3 – Chapters 11 and 12

### **Part IV – Domestic Terrorism and Homeland Security**

- 8 Chapter 13 – **Domestic Terrorism**
- 15 Chapter 14 – **An Introduction to Homeland Security**
- 22 Chapter 15 – **Law Enforcement and Homeland Security**

**(11-24-11, Thanksgiving Holiday)**

	29	Chapter 16 – <b>Law Enforcement and Constitutional Issues</b>
December	6	Chapter 17 – <b>Security, Terrorism, and the Future</b> Course Review and Evaluation
	12	Finals Week

- **This syllabus is subject to change by announcement during the course.**