TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE U.S.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the phenomenon of terrorism as it relates to the United States as well as to American interests in other countries, primarily in the time period from the Cold War to the present. The attacks on the United States 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, as well as essential components of a mechanism for homeland security, will be presented. Other key topics include the relationship between homeland security and preparation; terrorism response and recovery mechanisms; and goals, objectives, and strategies. The importance of coordinating various plans and strategies among local, state, and federal government response organizations will be stressed.

COURSE TOPICS

1. Defining terrorism
2. Causes of domestic, international, state, dissident, and religious terrorism
3. Violent ideologies and emerging terrorism environments
4. High-value targets and common terrorist tactics
5. The role of the media in terrorism
6. Responses to terrorism: now and in the future

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this course is to provide an understanding of the motives, origins, and rationales for extremist beliefs and terrorist behavior and at the same time to explain 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"; put another way, 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 aspects of the origin, history, and elements comprising terrorism.

2. Identify, examine, and evaluate challenges involving terrorism and homeland security that face U.S. government officials 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 who are responsible for addressing terrorism and providing domestic homeland security.

4. Examine, evaluate, and discuss the methods used by law enforcement and national security agencies to address the various problems involving domestic and international hate crimes and terrorism.

5. Discuss, synthesize, and explain the various theories that attempt to address 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 that have occurred in response to terrorism in the United States since 9/11.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Texts

- Martin, G. (2016). *Understanding terrorism: Challenges, perspectives, and issues* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.
  ISBN-13: 978-1483378985

- The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. (2004). The 9/11 Commission Report. W. W. Norton & Co.

ISBN-10: 0393326713 (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** modules. Modules include an overview, topics, study materials, and activities. 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**

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.

Promoting Originality

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in this document.

Written Assignments

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

Each module contains one written assignment. For each, you must prepare and submit an essay from 3 to 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 be 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** graded discussion forums. Discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

💬 *Web Exercises*

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

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

📋 *Final Project: Research Paper*

You are required to complete a research paper as your final project. The 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 activities 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	B	= 83–87
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–82
B+	= 88–89	F	= Below 73

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or higher on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., assignments, discussion postings, projects, etc.). Graduate students must maintain a B average overall to remain in good academic standing.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University recognizes disability as a facet of diversity and seeks to advance access to its educational offerings. Students with disabilities may seek accommodations by contacting the Office of Student Accessibility Services via email at ada@tesu.edu or phone at (609) 984-1141, ext. 3415. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the TTY line at (609) 341-3109.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- University-wide policies
- Undergraduate course policies and regulations
- Graduate academic policies
- Nursing student policies
- Academic code of conduct