

Syllabus
CJUS 416: Terrorism
Online Course

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Office Hours: This course is conducted in a strictly online format.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this class, the successful student should be able to:

- Provide a working definition of terrorism
- Explain the difference between domestic, international and single issue terrorism
- Describe the relationship between gangs and terrorism
- Describe the characteristics of terrorism and terrorists

Course Text: White, Jonathan R. (2006). *Terrorism and Homeland Security*, 6th ed. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

Recommended reading: Johnson, W. et al. (2005). *The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual*, 3rd ed. NY: Prentice-Hall
Coplin, W. (2003). *10 Things Employers Want You to Learn in College: The Know-How You Need to Succeed*. Ten Speed Press.

NOTE: We will use class discussions via Blackboard, videos, current events, and the text to achieve our goals. Class discussion will not necessarily be a repetition of material in the texts; however should you have questions feel free to bring them up during class discussion or with me via email.

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information in the texts.

It is my philosophy that real learning takes place outside the classroom. The purpose of the classroom is to HELP focus on major issues, to assist in the synthesis of knowledge, to engage in constructive criticism, and to interject material not found in the reading assignments.

The opportunity to become educated lies with you. To be successful in this course, you will need to engage in active learning. Class participation via the Discussion Board is vital in order to complete this class successfully.

This is an online class which means that class will be composed of completely online work. Make sure you check BB for the calendar of class activities, discussions and assignments.

Class Discussion Assignments: This refers to that part of the class that occurs on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to make sure you know what's happening and when assignments are due. These assignments are designed to encourage interaction between the class participants. The first student to post an answer to the given weekly discussion will simply provide their answer. All subsequent students must not only post their answer, but must also provide some form of response to at least two other postings made by other students. Feedback on at least two previous postings is required, and of course students should avoid ridicule or sarcasm when giving their opinion. Student submissions will be graded on quality and quantity of postings that are submitted during the week that they are

assigned. All students should post their answers on the Discussion Page (On Blackboard course menu click on COMMUNICATION, then click on DISCUSSION to post your answer). Please note that Discussion Board Communication is 25% of your grade; last minute postings will are not acceptable. Also note that the instructor will monitor the discussion throughout the week, the instructor will reserve comments until the end of the week and will often simply provide an overview or re-cap of this discussion.

The instructor will post each question(s) the night prior to the beginning of the week. Students will only have 7 days to respond to the questions or issues presented. **Students will not be allowed to progress ahead of the class schedule with weekly assignments. Also, there will be no exceptions to the timely completion of the weekly Discussion Board assignments.**

Exams: There will be two (2) tests, a midterm and final exam, consisting of any combination of essay style questions at the instructor's discretion. **Both tests will be given online.** Please note that each test will count equally toward your overall final grade. The final exam will be comprehensive in nature.

Grading: A student's overall course grade will be determined and weighted according to the following composition:

Undergraduate mid-term grades will be posted on-line for students to view via Arrow. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance outcome of a student

Online Introduction & Syllabus Quiz 10%

Movie Review 15%

Test One (Midterm) 25%

Test Two (Final Exam) 25%

Discussion Board Activity 25%

100%

Course Grading System: The final course grade, as well as all tests, papers and projects assigned throughout the semester, will be based on the typical letter grade system as follows:

A = 90 - 100 B = 80 - 89 C = 70 - 79 D = 60 - 69 F = 59 & Below

Midterm Grades: Please note that midterm grades will be reported based on your scores that are current during that time. They will remain on the Arrow System for roughly 2 weeks for all students to view. They will be reported through the Arrow System similar to your final grade. Please note that unlike your final grade, the midterm grade is simply used for your benefit to provide you with a preliminary indicator of your class progress. It is not a final grade, simply an informative tool to check your progress.

Attendance and Participation: This refers to the Blackboard Section of the course. One of the many benefits of an online course is the flexibility in the delivery of the instruction, providing more flexible schedules for students. While there is obviously no classroom attendance as with a traditional course, participation is vitally important and required. Likewise, participation in the on-line weekly discussion board is mandatory for this course.

Makeup policy for exams: Typically, there will be no make-up exams for this course. All exams will be given online and students will have a week to finish each one. Regardless of personal emergencies, students should have sufficient time and flexibility to arrange their social responsibilities around their academic obligations. If a situation should arise where a student believes

that a make-up exam is justified, such a determination will be based solely upon the discretion of the professor.

Course Schedule:

Week One (Begins August 18th)

August 18th Introduction to course

August 18th Online Assignments

Students complete their online personal introduction and the syllabus contract(10 Pts.)

Week Two (Begins August 25th)

August 25th Introduction (Part 1)

August 25th Chapter 1 Terrorism Defined

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Three (Begins September 2nd)

Labor Day Holiday- September 1st-(:

September 2nd Chapters 2 and 3

Complete Discussion Board Assignments

Week Four (Begins September 8th)

September 8th Chapters 4 and 5

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Five (Begins September 15th)

September 15th Chapter 6 and 7

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Six (Begins September 22nd)

September 22nd Chapter 8 and 9

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Seven (Begins September 29th)

September 29th Chapter 10

Week Eight (Begins October 6th)

October 9th and 10th: FALL BREAK:

Midterm Exam

(Test Given October 6th and Due by 11:59 p.m October 12th)

Week Nine (Begins October 13th)

October 13th Chapter 11

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Ten (Begins 20th)

October 20th Chapter 12

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Eleven (Begins 27th)

October 27th Chapter 13

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Twelve (Begins November 3rd)

November 3rd Chapter 14

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Thirteen (Begins November 10th)

November 10th Chapter 15

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Fourteen (Begins November 17th)

November 17th Chapter 16

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

Week Fifteen (Begins November 24th)

November 24th Chapter 17

Complete Discussion Board Assignment

NOTE: Thanksgiving Break: November 26th – 30th

Week Sixteen (Begins December 1st)

Final Exam Due by, no later than 5:00 p.m. Today (Test to be made available on December 1st, 2008 and is to be completed by midnight of December 5th, 2008)

Instructional Methods Classroom activities will consist assigned readings and ongoing “discussion” each week in response to questions that are presented by the instructor during the week. The “discussion board” section of the course Blackboard website will be used extensively for this purpose.

The movie review

Is an analysis of the movie of your choice, however, must be approved by the instructor and related to class discussions. Details will be posted at a later date. An analysis not a summary. You may devote only one paragraph to this 500-750 word essay. How terrorism was portrayed, how the terrorists were portrayed? More information can be found under the ASSIGNMENTS tab in BB. If you have any trouble finding a movie/video, let me know and an alternate movie will be suggested. Waiting until the last minute to do this, WILL NOT change the due date.

Feel free to check out <http://townhall.com/BooksMovies/> for really good examples of both book and movie reviews.

All assignments are due by 0900 on the due date. Assignments received by 1200 that date will receive a 5% reduction in grade. Assignments received after 1200 on their due date will receive a 10% reduction for each 24 hr period in which they are late.

NOTE 4: All written assignments must be typed, double spaced throughout with standard margins (1.5" on left, 1" at the top, bottom and right) and include pagination. Assignments will be graded using a holistic method (more information can be found on Blackboard). **Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.** Written assignments must follow an APA style format. Whenever in doubt as to writing mechanics, take a look at the journals *Justice Quarterly* or *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and follow that style. Use a recent issue, one published within the past year.

Another great reference is Johnson, Jr. et.al., *The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual* (3rd ed). In writing for this class, remember the words of Winston Churchill, “Say what you have to say as clearly as you can and in as few words as possible” (Hayward, 1997: 106). This was Churchill’s commandment and should be yours as well.

You should also keep these words from Robert Ringer in mind as you write for this class: “Simplicity is crucial. I learned this gem from William Strunk's timeless little classic *The Elements of Style*. This book has been around for decades, and everything in it holds true today, especially the little jewel that follows:

‘Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.’

Simplicity is a crucial aspect of quality writing. I often remind would-be writers that the power of the understatement is enormous. I'm always amazed by how many extraneous words and sentences people leave in their finished literary offerings - from books to e-mails. Extraneous words and sentences can actually detract from a writer's main point.”

All written assignments must be submitted through the appropriate section on blackboard.

Blackboard can be found at <http://blackboard.ulm.edu/> or through the ULM website “quick links.” If the section does not appear, it probably means you are late with your assignment. **NOTE: any assignment submitted anywhere other than it’s section – without instructor approval – will not be graded.**

In addition, class announcements, the final experience and other important information will be posted on Blackboard. It would be in your best interest to check it out at least three times per week if not more frequently.

All submissions need to be saved in WORD 2003 or earlier, and MUST have your name in the text of the document; **AS WELL AS** your last name, course number and assignment included in the file name. Please add the **appropriate extension (.doc or .rtf)** to your work before submitting –

Particularly if you are using Works or Word Pad

Format: [last name][course number][assignment]. [extension - .doc, .rtf, .txt]

For example: Hickey416TurnerDiaries.doc.

Submissions not in this format *will not* be accepted or graded (as I won’t be able to tell whose they are). Submissions without a .doc .rtf or .txt extension are unreadable; those using Works or Word Pad need to **MAKE SURE** to save their document as an .rtf file.

All papers will be submitted to turnitin.com and any paper with a 30% or higher comparison rate will receive a grade of F. No “second try” will be accepted.

Failure on your part to plan for exigent circumstances does not change the assignment’s due date.

Feel free to turn in any assignment early.

REMEMBER: Computers are man-made technology, and things don’t always work out the way they are supposed to, so be proactive when completing and planning for assignments. **Individual problems will be dealt with individually and at the discretion of the instructor.** Neither the lack of a personal PC nor **computer and printer problems will be accepted as vital excuses.** *Remember also, that failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.*

Attendance: Your attendance(Discussion Board) and participation in class discussions is encouraged and expected. You cannot participate if you do not post. There will be material covered in this course that is not covered in the text, and not all reading assignments will be discussed. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, and **attendance will determine all borderline grades!**

Class schedule: Please begin reading in White, noting the comments above.

Important Dates:

9 – 10 October Fall Break!

26 - 30 November Thanksgiving

1 – 5 December FINALS

Others may be announced on Blackboard, so pay attention!

Reminders:

The **Southern Criminal Justice Association** will be meeting in New Orleans, LA in October 2007.

The **Academy of Criminal Justice Science's** annual meeting is in 46th Annual Meeting
"Theorizing Criminal Justice: Practical Applications for the Field"
March 10-14, 2009
Boston, MA

If you are interested in attending either of these professional conferences, please talk with your parents, significant other or whoever must grant permission and/or help fund the trip and let me know. Links to their site are also under external links on BB.

Notice: This syllabus does not constitute a contract. It is possible that I will make changes to fit changing circumstances. If there are modifications, students are responsible for updated information. Additionally, this syllabus is subject to modification at any time during the semester.