

California University of Pennsylvania  
Guidelines for New Course Proposals  
University Course Syllabus  
Approved: 2/4/13

Department of Professional Studies

A. Protocol

Course Name: Terrorism, Threats & Vulnerability  
Course Number: AST 740  
Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: None  
Maximum Class Size (face-to-face): NA  
Maximum Class Size (online): 25

B. Objectives of the Course:

- Summarize and describe the historical causation and other factors in the development of terrorism.
- Identify the various motivations, reasons, and other mental justifications that terrorists generate.
- Evaluate the extent of terrorism in the world.
- Identify the various terrorist groups and corresponding ideology.
- Create specific policies that react to threat and internal vulnerabilities.
- Explain the complexities of asymmetric warfare and the many challenges it poses for conventional military response.
- Write specific recommendations that thwart terrorist threats and makes it less opportune for the terrorist to act.
- Analyze the diverse motivations in the terrorist mind.
- Identify terrorist thought processes in order that conduct might be anticipated.
- Describe specific terrorist groups of that pose an extraordinary threat to the United States.
- Outline the workings of Al Qaeda, and what steps will effectively disarm this enemy of the United States.
- Illustrate local and community settings where terrorism would likely find a place to hide.

C. Catalog Description:

The course will help "bound the problem" of Homeland Security by examining how terrorism has spurred sharp changes in US strategy, policy and governmental design, and how those changes should continue over the near and longer term. Elements of Threat and Vulnerability Assessments will be thoroughly discussed, as well as various procedures for assessments and the method of tailoring the assessment to the facility/area under study. Manners of protecting the facility/area in question will then be addressed as well as evacuation plans and emergency plans.

D. Outline of the Course:

- 1) The Nature and Definition of Terrorism
- 2) The Nature, Ideology, and History of Terrorism
- 3) Understanding the Threat of Global Terrorism
- 4) Suicide Terrorism: Methods, Strategies, Tactics
- 5) Al Qaeda

- 6) Hezbollah, Hamas, and al Qaeda Affiliates
- 7) U. S. Counterterrorism
- 8) Radicalization in America

E. Teaching Methodology:

- 1) Traditional Classroom Methodology: NA
- 2) Online Methodology

A variety of teaching methodologies will be used in this course. These methods include: lecture notes, podcasts, power point presentations, case studies, threaded discussions, chat room sessions, and guided reading assignments.

Quality Matters™ Statement – The online course follows the standards of the Quality Matters™ rubric.

F. Text

- 1) Brigitte L Nacos, *Terrorism and Counterterrorism 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.* (Pearson, 2012) ISBN: 978-0205005802.
- 2) *Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 20th ed.* (Harvard Law Review, 2015) ISBN: 978-0-692-40019-7.

G. Assessment Activities:

- 1) Traditional Classroom Assessment: NA
- 2) Online Assessment

White Paper and WP Proposal: You must write a graduate level paper on a homeland security policy topic. The paper will include the following components: research of relevant academic, legal and professional material; and analysis of terrorism policy issues related to the topic. Detailed instructions will be provided.

Discussion Boards: Each week students will be required to participate in threaded discussions on various topics. Online courses lend themselves to the creation of a learning community which is an informal learning environment where the emphasis is moved from teaching to learning. The discussions will reflect the intellectual reasoning of the students relating to the topics and questions raised by the instructor and each other. Engaging in an interactive discussion with multiple substantive responses is the key to a good grade in these discussions. There will be detailed instructions for each discussion.

Long War Essay: You will be required to write an essay on the book, *Winning the Long war: Lessons from the Cold War for Defeating Terrorism and Preserving Freedom*. This book will be provided to you free in PDF format. You will receive specific instructions for the essay which will be due at the end of Unit 5.

Final Exam: This course has a 10-question Final Examination.

The exam answers must be well-researched, analytical, well-written, and focused on providing a through intellectually reasoned response. The exam answers are in the form of responses to analytical legal questions, case studies, or exercises. The answers require students to research the assigned topic, analyze the relevant aspects of the topic using the electronic resources available on the university's online library system, and develop well-written, organized succinctly stated responses. Exam answers require the student to exhibit a thorough knowledge of the topics, to provide evidence the students has read and understood the reading assignments, to complete additional research on the topic, to cite the sources used to support the exam answers, and to demonstrate the ability to articulate an intellectually reasoned analysis of the topics.

- 20% Discussion Board Posts
- 20% Long War Essay
- 20% Final Exam

40% White Paper (including Proposal)

H. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

OSD

Revised June 2015

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students reserve the right to decide when to self-identify and when to request accommodations. Students requesting approval for reasonable accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are expected to adhere to OSD procedures for self-identifying, providing documentation and requesting accommodations in a timely manner.

Students will present the OSD Accommodation Approval Notice to faculty when requesting accommodations that involve the faculty.

Contact Information:

- Location: Carter Hall G-35
- Phone: (724) 938-5781
- Fax: (724) 938-4599
- Email: [osdmail@calu.edu](mailto:osdmail@calu.edu)
- Web Site: <http://www.calu.edu/osd>

I. Title IX Syllabus Addendum

**California University of Pennsylvania  
Reporting Obligations of Faculty Members under Title IX  
of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq.**

California University of Pennsylvania and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator, Dr. John A. Burnett, Special Assistant to the President for EEO, Office of Social Equity, South Hall 112, [Burnett@calu.edu](mailto:Burnett@calu.edu), 724-938-4014. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the person designated in the University protection of minors policy.

The University's information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at:

- **Office of Social Equity**, South Hall 112, 724-938-4014
  - Social Equity Home Page [www.calu.edu/SocialEquity](http://www.calu.edu/SocialEquity)

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- Social Equity Policies [www.calu.edu/SEpolicies](http://www.calu.edu/SEpolicies)
- Social Equity Complaint Form [www.calu.edu/SEcomplaint](http://www.calu.edu/SEcomplaint)
- **Counseling Center**, Carter Hall G53, 724-938-4056
- **End Violence Center**, Carter Hall G94, 724-938-5707
- **Student Affairs**, Natali Student Center 311, 724-938-4439
- **Wellness Center**, Carter Hall G53, 724-938-4232
- **Women’s Center**, Natali Student Center 117, 724-938-5857
- **Threat Response Assessment and Intervention Team (T.R.A.I.T.) & Dept. of Public Safety & University Police**, Pollock Maintenance Building, 724-938-4299
  - **EMERGENCY:** From any on-campus phone & Dial **H-E-L-P** or go to any public pay phone & **Dial \*1**. (\*Identify the situation as an emergency and an officer will be dispatched immediately.)

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Please Note:

This syllabus attachment is also available in electronic format:

Go to: Microsoft Outlook  
 Open: Public Folders  
 Open: All Folders  
 Highlight: Faculty/Staff Resources  
 Open: Announcement – Academic Syllabus Attachment

- J. Supportive Instructional Materials, e.g. library materials, web sites, etc.  
Cal U Online Orientation

If this is your first online course with Cal U you should visit the following web Site:  
<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/online-student-resources/new-student-online-orientation/index.htm>

The university student handbook is available at:  
[http://www.calu.edu/current-students/student-services/files/11-12\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.calu.edu/current-students/student-services/files/11-12_Handbook.pdf)

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. ""Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and the informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace." The Netiquette Home Page <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/> provides links to both summary and detailed information about Netiquette.

"The Core Rules of Netiquette" can be found at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>  
 Learn Netiquette basics by reading this concise overview of network etiquette excerpted from the book Netiquette by Virginia Shea. Shea's "Core Rules" are the classic introduction to the subject and are widely cited in cyberspace.

Library Services:

Online Library Services:

As a student taking a Web-based course, you have access to the print and electronic resources of the Manderino Library. You may receive reference assistance, library instruction, document delivery, limited interlibrary loan, and access electronic course reserves. To learn more about resources and services, please go to the Library's Web page at: <http://library.calu.edu/home> . The electronic resources of the Cal U library are extensive. You are expected to use these resources to locate source material.

#### Distance Learning Library Support:

You may ask questions about distance education library support by contacting Bill Denny, a Distance Learning Librarian. He can be contacted at 724-938-4451, Monday –Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, EST. Every attempt will be made to answer your questions within 48 hours but questions received over holidays and semester breaks will be answered upon his return. In addition, a librarian can be reached Monday – Thursday, until 9:00 PM, EST, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, EST, and Sunday 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM, EST by calling the reference desk at 724-938-4094. <http://library.calu.edu/distance-ed>

#### Library FAQ's for Distance Learning Students

This library web site has information about the resources available online through the Cal U Library.  
<http://library.calu.edu/guidelist>

#### D2L Technical Support

If you are having difficulties using any of the course tools, please contact Desire2Learn Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or [Click Here](#) to submit an issue via email. The D2L Help Desk is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

System Maintenance: Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 1am - 7am Eastern Standard Time.

#### Additional Resources

The D2L Help Desk above is only for D2L related issues. Here are additional resources that you may utilize.