

# Understanding and Combating Terrorism (HMSY 1342) Online



**Credit:** 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

**Prerequisite/Co-requisite:** Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self-Assessment:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

## Course Description

Theories of terrorism as well as why America is a terrorist target, methods of terrorism domestic and international, Islam and Radical Islam, terrorist operations, cyber-terrorism, narco-terrorism, the mind of the terrorist, and organized crime and terrorism will be researched in order to understand and combat terrorism. *This course is time-bound, structured, and completed totally online.*

## Required Text and Materials

1. *Understanding Terrorism*, Gus Martin, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, ISBN 9781506385815

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify terrorist groups and organizations
2. Examine terrorism's political, economic, and environmental impact on public administration and the private sector
3. Identify the legal changes required to combat terrorism
4. Present the results of terrorism research

## Course Outline

- 1) Terrorism: First Impressions
  - a) First Considerations
  - b) Conceptual Considerations: Understanding Political Violence
  - c) Recent Attacks in the United States: Symbolism and Aftermath
  - d) Terrorism and Criminal Skill: Three Cases in Point
  - e) The Past as Prologue: Historical Perspectives on Terrorism
- 2) The Nature of the Beast: Defining Terrorism
  - a) Understanding Extremism: The Foundation of Terrorism
  - b) Defining Terrorism: An Ongoing Debate
  - c) A Definitional Problem: Perspectives on Terrorism
  - d) The Political Violence Matrix
- 3) Beginnings: The Causes of Terrorism
  - a) Political Violence as the Fruit of Injustice
  - b) Political Violence as Strategic Choice
  - c) The Morality of Political Violence

Approved 11/2020

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- 4) Terror From Above: State Terrorism
  - a) The State as Terrorist: A State Terrorism Paradigm
  - b) Violence Abroad: State Terrorism as Foreign Policy
  - c) Violence at Home: State Terrorism as Domestic Policy
  - d) The Problem of Accountability: Monitoring State Terrorism
- 5) Terror From Below: Dissident Terrorism
  - a) The Rebel as Terrorist: A Dissident Terrorism Paradigm
  - b) Warring Against the State: Anti-state Dissident Terrorism
  - c) Warring Against a People: Communal Terrorism
  - d) Operational Shifts: Dissidents and the New Terrorism
- 6) Violence in the Name of the Faith: Religious Terrorism
  - a) Primary and Secondary Motives: The Idiosyncratic Quality of Religious Terrorism
  - b) Historical Cases in Point: Fighting, Dying, and Killing in the Name of the Faith
  - c) State-Sponsored Religious Terrorism in the Modern Era
  - d) Dissident Religious Terrorism in the Modern Era
  - e) The Future of Religious Terrorism
- 7) Violent Ideologies: Terrorism from the Left and Right
  - a) Reactionaries and Radicals: The Classical Ideological Continuum
  - b) Left-Wing Ideologies and Activism
  - c) Class Struggle and National Liberation: The Terrorist Left
  - d) Right-Wing Activism and Extremism
  - e) Race and Order: The Terrorist Right
  - f) Violent Ideologies in the New Era of Terrorism
- 8) Terrorist Spillovers: International Terrorism
  - a) Defining International Terrorism
  - b) Globalized Revolution: Reasons for International Terrorism
  - c) Globalized Solidarity: International Terrorist Networks
  - d) The International Dimension of the New Terrorism
  - e) The "Stateless Revolutionaries"
- 9) Emerging Terrorist Environments: Gender-Selective Political Violence and Criminal Dissident Terrorism
  - a) Culture and Conflict: Gender-Selected Victims of Terrorist Violence
  - b) Protecting the Enterprise: Criminal Dissident Terrorism
  - c) A Global Problem: Regional Cases of Criminal Dissident Terrorism
- 10) Tools of the Trade: Tactics and Targets of Terrorism
  - a) The Purpose: Terrorist Objectives
  - b) The Means: Terrorist Methods
  - c) The Focus: Terrorist Targets
  - d) The Outcome: Is Terrorism Effective?
- 11) The Information Battleground: Terrorist Violence and the Role of the Media

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- a) Two Perspectives: The Media and Governments
  - b) Exploring the Role of the Media
  - c) A New Battleground: The War for the Information High Ground
  - d) The Public's Right to Know: Regulating the Media
- 12) The American Case: Terrorism in the United States
- a) An Introduction to the American Case
  - b) Background to Terrorism: Leftist Activism and Ideological Extremism in America
  - c) Left-Wing Terrorism in the United States
  - d) Background to Terrorism: Rightist Activism and Ideological Extremism in America
  - e) Right-Wing Terrorism in the United States
- 13) Responding to Terror: The Options
- a) Background: The Scope of Options
  - b) Warlike Operations: Counterterrorism and the Use of Force
  - c) Operations Other Than War: Repressive Options
  - d) Operations Other Than War: Conciliatory Options
  - e) Applying the Rule of Law: Legalistic Options
- 14) What Next? The Future of Terrorism
- a) The Future of Terrorism: New Threats
  - b) Controlling Terrorism: New Challenges
  - c) Prospects for Terrorism in the United States

### Grade Scale

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 90 – 100 | A |
| 80 – 89  | B |
| 70 – 79  | C |
| 60 – 69  | D |
| 0 – 59   | F |

### Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Unit Tests     | 50% |
| 2. Course Project | 30% |
| 3. Final Exam.... | 20% |

## **HMSY 1342 Online**

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#### **Course Policies**

1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.

#### **Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

[https://help.blackboard.com/en-](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy)

[us/Learn/9.1\\_2014\\_04/Student/015\\_Browser\\_Support/015\\_Browser\\_Support\\_Policy](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy) A

functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

#### **Disabilities Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the online resource:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

#### **Student Code of Conduct Statement**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu) or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.

#### **Starfish**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

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