



DESALES UNIVERSITY

Division of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Sciences

## **TERRORISM and COUNTERTERRORISM CRIMINAL JUSTICE 374**

*Course Syllabus – Fall 2013*  
(3 credits)

**Instructor:** Mr. Albert Sproule. Phone: 610-282-1100, x-1463  
E-mail Address: albert.sproule@desales.edu.

### **Tucker House**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 11:00am to 12:00noon, Thursday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.  
I am also available to meet with you by appointment either in person or online.

### **Course Description:**

An introductory course examining the historical background of terrorism, modern terrorist tactics, and counterterrorism tactics. The social, economic, and political factors that foster terrorism will also be considered. Finally, an evaluation and assessment of the ongoing struggle against violent Islamic extremism will be an important focus of the course.

### **Required text:**

White, Jonathan R. **Terrorism and Homeland Security**. 8th Edition.  
Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Belmont, California, 2014.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

For the **Criminal Justice** major, at the successful completion of this course the student will demonstrate the following Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe and apply key ideas from the criminal justice system.
3. Research, write, and present findings concerning significant issues in the criminal justice field and related areas of interest.
6. Explain the multidisciplinary approach to criminal justice problems and an understanding of the roadblocks to an efficient management of the criminal justice system.

## **Student Learning Outcomes: (cont'd)**

After successful completion of **this course**, the student will also demonstrate the following Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Communicate their knowledge of the history of terrorism.
2. Articulate their comprehension of the economic, political, and social context of terrorism.
3. Describe terrorist tactics and corresponding counterterrorist tactics employed by the United States.
4. 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. **Blackboard Learn**, including **Blackboard Collaborate**, 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 Undergraduate Catalog.

## **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+ |              |

## Course Expectations and Grading (cont'd)

1. The instructor will assign a terrorism/counterterrorism **article review**. The student will report the results of the article review in writing and in an oral presentation to the class. The article review and oral 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.
3. There will be three examinations during the course. Two exams will be worth **15%** of the final grade and one will be worth **10%** 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.
4. There will be a final exam worth **20%** of the final grade.
5. Class participation in all phases of the course will be worth **15%** of the final grade. **Maximum 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 and **outstanding** completion of all course requirements. Evidence of **exceptional** achievement in critical, independent and creative thought, competently expressed, is **essential**.

**B+/B/B-** Indicates an excellent grasp of course content and above average completion of all course requirements. Evidence of significant achievement in critical, independent and creative thought, competently expressed, is important.

**C+/C/C-** Indicates an adequate grasp of course content and satisfactory completion of all course requirements. Evidence is present 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 as well as other course requirements.

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

### **Online Information and Assistance:**

Access to information about **Blackboard Learn**, 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 Undergraduate Catalog.

### **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 is expected to evaluate the course and the instructor. This will be accomplished by a process known as CoursEval. Students will receive **three (3) points** on the final exam after they provide the instructor with a receipt reflecting completion of the CoursEval process.

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

### **Week of:**

|           |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August    | 29 | Course introduction and syllabus review. The course text is:<br><b><i>Terrorism and Homeland Security</i></b> by Jonathan R. White<br><b><u>Part 1 – Terrorism in Historical and Social Contexts</u></b><br>Chapter 1- <b>Defining Terrorism in Modern History</b><br><b>(9-2-13), Labor Day Holiday</b> |
| September | 3  | Chapter 2- <b>The Social Underpinnings of Terrorism</b><br><br>Chapter 3- <b>The Organization and Financing of Terrorism</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |

- 10 Chapter 4- **Terrorism and the Media**
- September 17 Chapter 5 – **Gender Roles, Tactics, and Force Multipliers  
In Terrorism**
- 19 Examination #1 – Chapters 1-5

**Part II – International Terrorism: National and Ethnic  
Movements**

- 24 Chapter 6 – **Long Term Separatist Terrorism**
- October 1 Chapter 7 - **Nationalistic and Endemic Terrorism**

**Pacer Weekend - October 7 and 8**

- 10 Chapter 8 – **Background to the Middle East**
- 15 Chapter 9 – **Terrorism in Israel and Palestine**
- 17 Examination – Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9

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

- 22 Chapter 10 – **Revolutionary and Counterrevolutionary  
Terrorism**
- 29 Chapter 11- **Al Qaeda and Jihadist Networks**
- 31 Examination #3 – Chapters 10 and 11

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

|          |    |                                                                        |
|----------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November | 5  | Chapter 12 – <b>Domestic Terrorism</b>                                 |
| November | 12 | Chapter 13 – <b>An Introduction to Homeland Security</b>               |
|          | 12 | <b><u>Article Reviews</u> due and <u>Oral Presentations</u> begin.</b> |
|          | 19 | Chapter 14 – <b>Law Enforcement and Homeland Security</b>              |
|          | 26 | Chapter 16 – <b>Law Enforcement and Constitutional Issues</b>          |

**(11-28-13, Thanksgiving Holiday)**

|          |    |                                                         |
|----------|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| December | 3  | Chapter 17 – <b>Security, Terrorism, and the Future</b> |
|          | 10 | Course Review and Evaluation                            |
|          | 16 | Finals Week                                             |

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