



Course Syllabus: CRJU-4273 Homeland Security Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Atkins

Office: Martin #101

Office hours: Mon. 830-1130 Tues 8-930, Thurs. 8-930(email for appointment)

Office phone: (940) 397-6295

E-mail: ben.atkins@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the modern homeland security environment in the United States. Emphasis will be placed on policies and systems designed to prevent, respond to, and mitigate terrorist incidents. Discussions critically investigate and assess contemporary terrorism, and how governments and homeland security agencies respond to domestic threats. In light of domestic terrorist incidents in Oklahoma City, on September 11, 2001, and the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as domestic hate crimes, the course will also weave a thread of response options and alternative policies and procedures throughout the semester. The role of public administrative agencies will be highlighted.

The course is organized into four thematic sections: Part 1 provides a conceptual context for understanding homeland security. Part 2 investigates threats and vulnerabilities. Part 3 focuses on preparedness, response, and recovery including countering plausible threat scenarios in the United States. Finally, Part 4 looks at ongoing considerations for homeland security.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Martin, G. (2023). *Understanding homeland security*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. 4th Edition

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of

work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

Percentage Breakdown

Assignments	%
Quizzes & Discussions	40
Exams	60

Grading Scale

Grade	%
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Quizzes

Quizzes have specified time limit and will be taken online. Quiz questions may be in Multiple Choice, True-False, Short Answer, Fill-in-the-blank, and/or short essay.

Exams

3 exams will be taken online. These will consist of multiple choice, true false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions.

Discussion Guidelines

Be sure to meet ALL the minimum requirements if you would like to earn an "A" on your discussions.

Discussion answers for EACH question must be a MINIMUM of 150 words. This is only the minimum. If you only complete the minimum, you are unlikely to receive full credit for the discussion. Thus, more than 150 words is highly encouraged.

Discussion answers must be posted (typed or pasted) directly to the discussion forum. If you prefer to type your answers in Microsoft Word, you must copy and paste your answers from Word to the Discussion Forum. Do not upload a Microsoft Word Document as you would an attachment in an email. If you do not post directly to the forum you will not receive any credit for the discussion.

Your initial post must include your Discussion answers. You cannot see your classmates' posts until after you have posted your own answers.

A good discussion answer offers insight that goes beyond simply restating a few sentences directly from your textbook. **In order to receive full credit for any given discussion you must provide a substantial comment/reply to at least 2 of your classmates' discussion posts for that week.** This will help you gain a more thorough understanding of the content. Make an effort to expand the dialogue by reflecting on the topic with your thoughts, opinions,

experiences, etc. The idea is to answer the questions in a manner that fosters discussion amongst your class mates. Replies such as "Good job!! I completely agree with your answer" are not substantial comments and will not be recognized.

The most important element of a good Discussion answer is that it specifically addresses all parts of the questions at hand.

See the "Calendar" for Discussion Due Dates/End Dates. Late submissions will receive a score of ZERO...no exceptions.

Exam 1

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 2

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 3

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not accepted

Late Work

Late work will receive a grade of F unless a prior agreement exists between the student and Dr. Atkins

Make Up Work/Tests

This is an online course, make-ups not allowed. Missed assignments will automatically receive a grade of F unless a prior arrangement exists between Dr. Atkins and the student.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes:	Aug. 27
Deadline to file for Dec. graduation:	Sept. 21
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"	Nov. 23 by 4:00pm
Refer to:	Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor

Attendance

Coursework will be completed online.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and exams are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide

appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#)

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Readings and Exam Schedule

***See the D2L Calendar for weekly Discussion and Quiz due dates.**

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 (Aug. 24)	Policy and History—Defining Homeland Security	Ch. 1
Week 2 (Aug. 31)	Homeland Security and the All-Hazards Umbrella	Ch. 2
Week 3 (Sept. 7)	Legal Foundations of Homeland Security	Ch. 3
Week 4 (Sept. 14)	Civil Liberties and Securing the Homeland	Ch. 4
Week 5 (Sept. 21)	Agencies and Missions: Homeland Security Federal Level	Ch. 5
Week 6 (Sept. 28)	Exam #1 (ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) Due by 11:30pm on Sunday Oct. 4	Exam #1
Week 7 (Oct. 5)	Prediction and Prevention: The Role of Intelligence	Ch. 6
Week 8 (Oct. 12)	Homeland Security at State and Local Levels	Ch. 7
Week 9 (Oct. 19)	Sea Change: The New Terrorism and Homeland Security	Ch. 8
Week 10 (Oct. 26)	The Threat at Home: Terrorism in the United States	Ch. 9
Week 11 (Nov. 2)	Exam #2 (Ch. 6,7,8,9) due by 11:30pm on Sunday Nov.8	Exam #2
Week 12 (Nov. 9)	Porous Nodes: Specific Vulnerabilities	Ch. 10
Week 13 (Nov. 16)	Always Vigilant: Hardening the Target	Ch. 11
Week 14 (Nov. 23)	- Critical Resources: Resilience and Planning. - Critical Outcomes: Response and Recovery	Ch. 12, 13
Week 15 (Nov. 30)	The Future of Homeland Security	Ch. 14
Week 16 (Dec. 7)	Exam #3 (covers ch. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) due by 11:30pm on Dec. 8	Exam #3 (Final Exam)