

# Syllabus- Terrorism CRJU-3233

---

CRJU-3233-X10 Terrorism  
Midwestern State University

Instructor: Dr. Nathan R. Moran, Ph.D.  
\*Email: Nathan.Moran@mwsu.edu  
Office: Martin Hall #105  
Office Hours: By Appt  
Phone: 940-397-4752

*\*The most efficient way to contact me is through email.*

---

## Course Overview

This course will introduce students to the phenomena of contemporary terrorism and extremism. Emphasis will be placed on extremism as a foundation for terrorist behavior, types of terrorism, and how governments and law enforcement agencies respond to terrorism. In light of domestic terrorist incidents in Oklahoma City, on September 11, 2001, and the Fort Hood, Texas incident as well as domestic hate crimes, the course will also include discussion of extremist literature and perspectives throughout the semester. The role of law enforcement and other public administrative agencies in thwarting terrorism will be discussed as well.

The course is organized into four thematic sections: Part 1 provides a conceptual context for understanding terrorism and extremism. Part 2 examines terrorist states and groups. Part 3 focuses on the tools of the terrorist trade including the case study of extremism and terrorism in the United States. Finally, Part 4 looks at counterterrorism, homeland security, and the future of, terrorism and extremism.

## Learning Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to give you an understanding of the motives, origins, and rationales for extremist beliefs and terrorist behavior, as well as how governments respond to these phenomena. You will be challenged to critically assess extremist ideology and the practice of terrorism. You will also be challenged to evaluate the notion that the practice of terrorism is limited exclusively to the "lunatic fringe" - indeed, is one person's terrorist another person's freedom fighter? After participating in this course, you will:

- Be able to discuss how American public administrative agencies, particularly law enforcement and national security agencies, deal with the problems of domestic and international hate crimes and terrorism.
- Understand the underlying theories that explain the origins of extremist beliefs, and how one should define "terrorism."
- Clearly differentiate terrorism from above (state terrorism) and terrorism from below (dissident terrorism).
- Demonstrate familiarity with the different types of terrorism.
- Apply references from American cases of extremism and terrorism toward developing a global framework for understanding extremist beliefs, and terrorist behaviors, in other countries and cultures.

## Course Requirements

Weekly readings will be assigned from the following required text and/or supplemental materials posted or linked in D2L

### Required Text:

**Martin, G. (2016). *Understanding Terrorism, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition: Characteristics, Perspectives, and Issues*. SAGE Publications.**

You are required to read each assignment. It is critical that you adhere to the reading schedule so that you will be prepared to participate in an online discussion of each week's topic. The class format is online, and will include online discussion board and/or a quiz over the weekly material.

**Attendance.** We will not meet for class as this is an online course, however, you are expected to contribute to the weekly discussion board over the topic, and you should log in to the course daily on Monday through Friday so you do not miss important announcements and/or changes to the course.

**Grades.** Three tests and weekly discussion posts/participation assignments will be assessed to determine your final grade.

**Discussion Answer Guidelines:**

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 you have posted your 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. Late submissions will receive a score of ZERO...no exceptions.

**Make-ups for Exams and Discussions are not offered... the weekly course schedule provides a minimum of 6 days for the completion of discussions and exams. If you foresee any issues that may hinder your ability to complete the assignments by the due dates, you should notify me by email ASAP so that PRIOR arrangements can be made. If you do not complete an exam or discussion prior to its closing, you will receive an F for that assignment, do not email and ask to complete an assignment once it has closed...any such emails will be deleted without response.**

**Further explanation of grading criteria is included below in this syllabus.**

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Absolutely no cheating will be permitted in this course. Plagiarism is a type of cheating and will not be permitted. Note: All Midwestern State University rules and procedures apply to this class.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

**The Final grade will be calculated from the following formula:**

<b>Exam 1.....</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>90% = A</b>
<b>Exam 2.....</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>80% = B</b>
<b>Exam 3.....</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>70% = C</b>
<b>Discussion/Participation.....</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>60% = D</b>
		<b>59% = F</b>

**EXAMINATION FORMAT**

**Each of the three tests will be timed, open-book, and taken online.**

Class Schedule is on following page.  
Schedule and due dates are also listed in the D2L Calendar.

**Class Schedule**

