



CRJU-3223 Terrorism
Spring 2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Atkins
Office: Enter office #MA110
Office hours: M 9-11 Tu 9-11 Wed 9-11 (email for appointment)
Office phone: (940) 397-6295
E-mail: ben.atkins@msutexas.edu

Course Description

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.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Martin, G. (2017). *Understanding Terrorism, 6th Edition or newer: Characteristics, Perspectives, and Issues*. SAGE Publications.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

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 individuals 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	%
Discussions	40
Exams	60

Grading Scale

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

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

The 14 Discussion Assignments will account for 40% of your final grade. 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. Late submissions will receive a score of ZERO.

Exam 1

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and Essay (2 question) formats. 70 minute time limit taken online in D2L. Due Feb. 26 by 11:30pm

Exam 2

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and Essay (2 question) formats. 70 minute time limit taken online in D2L. Due Apr. 9 by 11:30pm

Exam 3

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice (50 questions) and Essay (2 question) formats. 70 minute time limit taken online in D2L. Due May 7 by 11:30pm

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: January 20
Deadline to file for graduation: February 20
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 27 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 tests 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 <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

Notice

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

Course Schedule: See following page...

***See the D2L Calendar for weekly discussion and chapter quiz due dates.**

Week or Module	Topic	Assignments
Week 1 (Jan. 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Overview/Syllabus • Terrorism: 1st Impressions 	Martin, Ch. 1 Answer Discuss
Week 2 (Jan. 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of the Beast: Defining Terrorism & Extremism 	Martin, Ch. 2 Answer Discuss
Week 3 (Jan. 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginnings: Causes of Terror 	Martin, Ch. 3 Answer Discuss
Week 4 (Feb. 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terror Above: State Terrorism 	Martin, Ch.4 Answer Discuss
Week 5 (Feb. 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terror Below: Dissident Terror 	Martin, Ch. 5 Answer Discuss
Week 6 (Feb. 20)	EXAM #1 Due Feb. 26	EXAM #1 (Ch. 1-5)
Week 7 (Feb. 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Faith: Religious Terrorism 	Martin, Ch. 6 Answer Discuss
Week 8 (Mar. 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent Ideologies: Terrorism from the Left and Right 	Martin, Ch. 7 Answer Discuss
Week 9 (Mar. 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING BREAK 	
Week 10 (Mar. 20)	International Terrorism	Martin, Ch. 8 Answer Discuss
Week 11 (Mar. 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerge Environments: Gender-Selective Criminal Dissidents • Tactics and Targets of Terrorists 	Martin, Ch. 9 Answer Discuss Martin, Ch. 10 Answer Discuss
Week 12 (Apr. 3)	EXAM #2 Due April 9	EXAM #2 (Ch. 6-10)
Week 13 (Apr. 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study: Propaganda, Role of Media 	Martin, Ch. 11 Answer Discuss
Week 14 (Apr. 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study: Terrorism in the United States 	Martin, Ch. 12 Answer Discuss
Week 15 (Apr. 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterterrorism: The Options • The Era of Homeland Security • What Next? The Future of Terrorism and Extremism 	Martin, Ch. 13 Answer Discuss Martin, Ch. 14, Answer Discuss Martin Ch. 15 (No discussion)
Week 16 (May 1)	FINAL EXAM (Exam #3) Due May 7	(Ch. 11-15)

