

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

Syllabus

CJ 384 (Section 01W):

TERRORISM

On-Line Course

Summer I, 2016 (June 6 to July 7)

R. N. Singh, Ph. D.

Professor

My University E-mail Address: raghu.singh@tamuc.edu

Office Phone: Please e-mail me and send me your phone # if you needed to talk to me on phone, and I will call you, if needed.

Office Hours By Appointment through e-mail to me.

COURSE INFORMATION

I. Study Materials:

Required Textbook: R. N. Singh, *Terrorism: Its Global Overview, Explanation, and Prevention*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publications, 2012. ISBN#: 978-81-269-1693-1.

You can contact the Texas Book Store located in 115 Sam Rayburn Student Center on our campus in Commerce. Visit the book store online, or call at 903-886-5215, to buy it.

II. Course Description:

Welcome to an elective course for Criminal Justice or Sociology, the CJ 384: Terrorism class! I am confident that we will have a productive summer term in learning issues related to a serious form of violence, termed as 'terrorism.' This is a general survey course

on terrorism with particular emphasis on the criminal justice perspective (criminology is a research field in sociology). Issues related to terrorism at the global level will be examined without focusing on any specific nation, political group, or religion per se. However, I will have an assignment for you to address some specific terrorist issues to demonstrate application of ideas and concepts involved.

III. Topical Outline as a Study Guide for Reading Your Textbook for Each Chapter & Relevant Topics Involved for Various Exams in the Course:

- 1. Introduction: Overview of Contents and Approach (Read Chapter 1 in the textbook)**
 - **Theoretical Perspectives Used for Studying Terrorism**
 - **Developing Typologies and Characteristics of Terrorism**
- 2. Reality and Types of Violence (Read Chapter 2):**
 - **Violent Tendencies.**
 - **Legitimacy of Violence.**
 - **Categories of Violence**
 - **Degrees of Violence**
 - **Factors Related to Violence**
- 3. Terrorism: The Dirty Violence (Read Chapter 3)**
 - } **Define Terrorism**
 - } **Characteristics and Types of Terrorism**
 - } **Terrorism: A Serious and distinct Form of Violence**
 - } **Types of Terrorism**

**4. PATHOLOGY OF SUICIDE TERRORISM or TERRORCIDE
(Read Chapter 4)**

- **Typology of Terrorcide**
- **Effectiveness of Terrorcide**

5. TOWARD EXPLAINING TERRORISM (read Chapter 5)

- ⊖ **Selected Explanations**
- ⊖ **Sociological Interpretations**
- ⊖ **Profiles of Terrorists**
- ⊖ **Consequences of Terrorism**

6. RELIGIOUS JUSTIFICATION OF TERRORISM (Read Chapter 6)

- ⊖ **Meaning and Origin of Religion**
- ⊖ **Functions of Religion**
- ⊖ **Degree of Religiosity**

7. PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TERRORISM (Read Chapter 7)

- } **Meaning of Prevention**
- } **Prioritizing Prevention of Terrorism**
- } **Strategies for Preventing Terrorism**
- } **Secularism**

8. NONVIOLENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND (Read chapter 8)

- ♣ **Ideology of Nonviolence**

♣ **Assumptions for Advocating Nonviolence**

♣ **Three principles of Nonviolence**

IV. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

The course provides various meanings and interpretations of terrorism as a unique form of violence in human society. It identifies various forms of types of terrorism such as one based on suicide. The course also explores a variety of theoretical as well as empirically based explanations, and preventive strategies for terrorism around the globe along with their relevance to the American criminal justice system.

Through textbook readings and other materials, we will pursue the following course objectives.

We will study concepts and ideas involving a global look at concepts, typologies, and analyses of contemporary issues involving terrorism, both domestic and international. Terroristic tactics, approaches and concepts will be examined. State sponsors and other supporters of terrorism will need to be thought about. Terrorism and its supporting ideologies will also be considered, as are motivations for terrorism and suicide bombings.

Specific goals of the course will include:

- 1. Understand meanings, forms or types, elements and styles of violence and terrorism;**
- 2. Provide familiarity with the tactics and targets of terrorism;**
- 3. Learn the ideologies of dealing with terrorism;**
- 4. Examine economic, political, legal, and law enforcement implications, explanations, and consequences of terrorism; and**
- 5. Explore preventive measures for terrorism.**

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENTS:

- 1. Be able to think clearly about meanings and types of terrorism;**
- 2. Think critically about terrorism is (and is not), how it is a unique form of violence against the humanity, why it happens, why it is increasing at the global level, how we can prevent it, and so forth. Think about examples but do not necessarily focus on each and every terrorist incident. Develop a general understanding of this pathological issue we need to deal with during the 21st century.**
- 3. Articulate various forms, styles, and sources of terrorism; and**
- 4. Realize ways terrorism can be addressed and its impact minimized and prevented.**

V. Student Responsibilities

You must regularly read the syllabus and all announcements posted at the home page of this course, or e-mailed to you on my leo address, very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, and other guidelines given therein.

- 1. Read instructions given on-line in the eCollege website under each topic carefully.**
- 2. It is important that you log into the course on line regularly. It is necessary that you plan your work on the course on a regular weekly basis to succeed in making the highest grade. I will monitor how often and for how long you do log into the course.**
- 3. You can post your questions and concerns about the course and its requirements at VIRTUAL OFFICE in the Home Page of this course. The virtual office will serve our learning needs of being in touch with not only me but with also with all persons in the class whenever you have questions or comments about the course. I will post my response to your questions. That way all other students**

become aware of what course and its issues are being discussed in the Virtual Office.

- 4. You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates. Only use my e-mail address given on the first page of this syllabus. Be sure to give me your full name and course you are taking.**
- 5. Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account. If you have problem with your e-mail system, please contact the Help Desk. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading will be based upon total 180 points accumulated from 2 exams scores (50 points for each exam), 50 points for the major assignment and 30 points for three discussions online.

At the end of the course, an "A" will be equal to 90+%, a "B" will be equal to 80-89%, a "C" for 70-79% and a "D" for 60-69% of the total. points accumulated on 2 exams, 3 discussions and an assignment stated below.

- 1. Closed-book Exams (worth 50 points each; 100 total points): There will be two closed book exams. The final comprehensive exam is optional, given for make-up purpose. If you take and do well in the Exam 1 & 2, you will not need to take the final. However, if you miss one of the two exams or do not do well in either of them, you will be asked to take the final. If you miss taking both Exam 1 & 2, you must drop the course to avoid making a failing grade in the course. All exams will consist of short answer essay questions only.**

- **You will be required to take both exams given.**
- **The major goal of each essay exam will be to test your critical thinking and clear understanding rather than a mere memorization of specific info. Specific instructions for each exam will be provided under announcements and e-mails later.**
- **Dates for each exam are advised (each exam will be available only on the specified date on the course calendar all day on-line):**

First exam based on Chapters 1 to 4 from the textbook available on line on June 20.

Second exam based on Chapters 5 to 8 available on line on July 4.

Final Exam (Optional-Makeup only if you missed any of the first two exams or did poorly on the scheduled date) will be given on July 7. Grade in the course after taking the final exam can only go up; grade cannot come down as it is optional-make-up only.

Special Instructions for Taking Exams:

- **Each exam will be timed by the computer for one hour on the scheduled dates . You must write dates for exams in the calendar as given in this syllabus. I am teaching large classes and will not be able to change dates for students.**
- **You will be logged out of each exam after 1 hour. Do not take any break. Once you start the exam, you must complete it in one sitting. We cannot control circumstances if your computer freezes at home or if you have other technical problems. So time yourself**

carefully and make sure that no one will distract you while taking the exam.

- **I will e-mail you other instructions and study guide for each exam.**
- **If you log out of the exam (due to technical or whatever reasons), you will need to call Help Desk immediately.**

HOW TO DO WELL IN ESSAY EXAMS:

- **I want you to do well in answering essay questions. If you lose some points in essays, reasons for that could include: 1) you may not have answered a question correctly (2) you may not have answered all parts of each question; (3) you may have been too brief in your answer and might not have elaborated on your answer demonstrating your understanding; (3) you may have included irrelevant materials in your answers; (4) you may have lacked clarity or (5) you may not have provided examples illustrating your points, where needed.**

2. MAJOR ASSIGNMENT: (worth 50 points).

Analysis of a Current Issue involving a terrorist situation in the U. S. or anywhere in the world: Select any one issue relevant to terrorism. If you have any question about the assignment, please post it on the Virtual Office as others may benefit from your question or my response. E-mail me only if you have a personal issue that you would not want to share with others in the class.

Examples of issues include the following (of course, you may think of other examples relevant to terrorism too):

- **Increasing role of women in suicide terror,**
- **Increasing role of particular religious fanaticism in the history of terrorism,**
- **Role of social class and other factors such as age of terrorists, their occupation/unemployment, income, and education correlated to terrorism,**
- **Role particular media around the world might have played in sensationalizing and publicizing terrorism,**
- **Particular states or countries or groups supporting terrorism, or**
- **Specific needs for adopting secularism or non-violence strategies in the world today for preventing terrorism.**

Consult newspapers (Star-Ledger, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post or local newspapers), as well as popular news magazines (Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report), articles and books in criminology, and terrorism materials available on line through Google.

In a typed, 12 font in MS Word, double-spaced paper of approximately three to four pages, analyze the one issue you selected. Discuss the issue. Do express your own opinions or assessments showing critical thinking.

Do not attach articles to your paper. Instead, be sure to include the sources consulted in your bibliography at the end of your paper. Paper will be graded on content, clarity, organization, and grammar.

Your paper should consist of the following outline:

- **Brief summary of the issue selected (no more than about one page);**

- **Interpretation of the issue and event based on ideas discussed in the textbook and related studies; and**
- **Your personal comments and appraisals of the issue based on the criminal justice or law enforcement perspective.**

Submit your Assignment on Terrorism Issue by Friday, June 24 midnight (submission only on-line in the drop box).

3. DISCUSSIONS

I will post three discussion questions on a number of issues. EACH DISCUSSION WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU TO WORK ON DURING ONE WEEK AS ASSIGNED. You must:

- **Study the material relevant to each discussion from the textbook and other sources (such as google or library);**
- **Think through own ideas on the question through your own critical thinking;**
- **First submit your own posting in details on the topic;**
- **Then Post **AT LEAST TWO RESPONSES** (not a simple agree/disagree) to others' postings to earn maximum points.**

Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during specified dates. You will be able to earn points for your participation in EACH discussion (up to 10 points for your involvement in each discussion, depending **on the following criteria:**

- **How meaningful you are through your reading of materials assigned that week in your comments,**
- **How much critical thinking you demonstrate in your discussion comments based on logical arguments, and**

- **How much and how meaningfully you respond to other students' posted comments (your comments on each other's comments should be more than just agreeing or disagreeing; you must elaborate on your points of agreements/disagreements),**
- **Your score achieved in discussions out of a total of 30 points in 3 discussions will be calculated and added to your total score.**

REMEMBER THAT EACH DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES (AS STATED IN SYLLABUS AS WELL AS UNDER EACH DISCUSSION) IN ORDER TO EARN POINTS.

I will be able to find out through eCollege which one of you spent how much time on discussions and were meaningful and relevant in your comments. Elaborate in your discussion so that every one of you in class can understand what you are talking about. If someone in your class gives some arguments in discussions that you agree or disagree, be sure to be courteous and state your views accordingly. This is meant to be a debate to promote critical thinking. I will give you credit for your discussions accordingly. Please take weekly discussions seriously as this will help you relate to our important issues and express views on them.

I WILL NEED YOUR SCORES IN TWO EXAMS TAKEN (FINAL EXAM BEING ONLY OPTIONAL-MAKEUP), 3 DISCUSSIONS & THE MAJOR ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED TO CALCULATE YOUR FINAL GRADE.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

You can e-mail me whenever you have questions. Only use this address: raghu.singh@tamuc.edu

My goal is to guide each of you in every possible way to succeed in the learning process in this course. Please remember that your success in the course will also determine my success in teaching it. Develop a positive attitude toward learning basics in human violence, particularly terrorism.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

- ⊖ **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Please make sure you use professional language in discussions, even when disagreeing with each other.**

- ⊖ **A Note on Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor’s actions. I will use the technology to scan your answers and discussions to determine if anyone has copied contents from other students, on-line sources, and from published works. No credit will be given to anyone for giving or taking help toward any form of plagiarism beside punitive action in serious cases. While I trust my students, precautions are needed to protect those who genuinely work on the course.**

As an example of academic honesty and professionalism, I will trust you but a few students who are unethical spoil reputation of all of us. It is my experience that students who cheat do not succeed in doing well in school and in developing meaningful careers.

⌚ Special Needs: ADA Statement: Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS, EXAMS & ASSIGNMENT, SUMMER I, 2016

- 1. Monday, 6/6 read syllabus very carefully and start reading chapters 1 to 4 assigned for Exam 1. Take Exam 1 on all day Monday, June 20 till midnight based on those 4 chapters in the textbook.**

2. Also work diligently on the discussions as per the following schedule:

- Discussion 1 from June 13 to June 20;
- Discussion 2 from June 21 to June 27; and
- Discussion 3 from June 28 to July 3.

3. Read rest of the book from Chapter 5 through Chapter 8 and work seriously and take Exam 2, based on those chapters 9 to 17 on Monday, July 4 till midnight.

4. **Submit your Assignment on Terrorism Issue & Event by Friday, June 24 midnight deadline.**

5. Take the make-up final exam based on a study guide covering ALL 8 CHAPTERS on Thursday, July 7. (Read syllabus about why you may want to take this comprehensive exam if needed to improve your grade.)

PLEASE POST ALL DATES STATED IN CALENDAR ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR SO YOU DON'T MISS ANY OF THESE DATES.

6. Your final grade will be available in the Gradebook on July 8.