



## COURSE SYLLABUS

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce COVID19 Information,  
<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

**CJ 515-01W: Homeland Security**

**Summer I (2022)/ 3 Credit Course**

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Texas A&M-Commerce

**Instructor:** Dr. Erik Cruz

**E-mail:** [Erik.Cruz@tamuc.edu](mailto:Erik.Cruz@tamuc.edu)

\* (The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor, revised as of 05/13/2022)

**Office Hours:** By appointment (schedule via email)

### **Why should you care about Homeland Security?**

*"Any creative encounter with evil requires that we not distance ourselves from it by simply demonizing those who commit evil.... [W]hen it comes to coping with evil, ignorance is our worst enemy.."*

— Kathleen Norris,

### **Why you are here?**

What is terrorism? How can it be defined, studied, and understood? Why do men and women become terrorists? What motivates people to embrace violence and risk their own lives as well as the lives of others? How do major governments balance safety and civil liberties? These are representations of some of the issues perplexing the nation that require cross-disciplinary

approaches and nuanced discussions. In this course, you will utilize your prior knowledge of the criminal justice system and criminology to begin exploring how to answer questions such as these.

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on homeland security and how domestic and international threats of terrorism have influenced security issues today.

We will examine aspects of terrorism and homeland security. Students will be exposed to several dimensions of terrorism:

- Introduction to Terrorism
- Defining terrorism
  - Domestically
  - Globally
  - International Opinion
- Various notorious terrorist groups
  - Potential common motivating factors
  - Common tactics used
  - Evolution of terrorist networks
- How terrorism affects domestic policy
  - Policy and law enforcement responses
  - The creation of the Department of Homeland Security
  - USA Patriot Act
  - UA Freedom Act

### **Course Goals**

- Discuss the nuances and complexities of homeland security
- Recognize terrorism as a social phenomenon and a war tactic
- Grasp the complexities of developing a universal definition of terrorism
- Be emphatic to the plight of all parties involved in incidents of terrorism
- Avoid generalized and simplistic explanations when developing profiles for potential terrorists
- Understand the balancing act between domestic security and civil rights

## **Course Objectives**

After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify how 9/11 has impacted domestic security
- Describe how various interwoven elements impact terrorism: geopolitics, cultural values, government structure, government stability, and religious beliefs
- Generate a working definition for terrorism
- Be able to differentiate terrorist groups by archetypes
- Articulate the role of the average citizen in the struggle against terrorism
- Draw parallels and distinctions between the USA Patriot Act and USA Freedom Act
- Understand how provisions of the USA Patriot Act and USA Freedom Act conflict with the First and Fourth Amendments
- Identify how gender and age influence terrorist activity
- Analyze how gender, sociological, psychological, and religious differences factor into our understanding of terrorism.

## **Content Warning**

This class discusses topics that include martyrdom, mass killings of innocent civilians, and controversial representations of various religious beliefs. These and other items may be conveyed through graphic pictures, videos, audio, or articles. If this content obstructs your ability to critically analyze information or is excessively unsettling to you, you may wish to enroll in another course.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Textbook:**

Understanding homeland security– 7th edition. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. ISBN-13: 9781544355801.

Martin, G. (2019)

### **Software Required/ Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students should be familiar with the D2L software and knowledgeable with the basics of Microsoft Office.

### **Instructional Methods**

Course delivery is completely online. Therefore, students should check their email and the course announcements regularly. All materials will be posted to the course website. It is the responsibility of the students to learn how to access these, and to reach out for help if they experience difficulties.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### University Specific Procedures

#### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

#### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### Expectations of this Course

**My expectations of you:**

- Read the assigned material.
- Turn-in assignments on time.
- Respect your instructor and fellow learning partners.

**What you can expect from me:**

- Respond to your emails within 12-24 hours (business hours Monday-Saturday).
- Grade your work as soon as possible.
- Provide useful and practical feedback on your assignments to enhance your future work.

**This course makes use of the following online tools:**

- Brightspace

- Playposit.com
- Youtube.com

### **Course Assignments:**

#### **Introductory Post (on Brightspace — 1 discussion post — 3% of grade)**

Due to the nature of online learning, maintaining traditional class comradery is essential. You will be assigned one discussion post the first week of class. This discussion board is meant for students to become acquainted, and hopefully acknowledge similar goals and interests. To receive full credit, you must post your initial introductory post and comment on at least two classmate's post. The comment should be at least three sentences. Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

- Due 6/12/22 at 11:59 PM CST

#### **Web Lectures (on Brightspace — 10 lectures — 12% of grade)**

To bolster the course's interactive element and provide supplemental course material, the course contains an interactive component to supplement the student's learning experience. Embedded within each web lecture, there will be short answers, multiple-choice questions, and opportunities to reflect on the course material. When assigned, students must watch the entire video lecture and complete the embedded activities. This portion of the student's grade counts as online attendance/participation. No lecture will surpass 35 minutes in length.

To complete the web lectures, students must make a free account with <https://go.playposit.com>, registering with their complete name and student email. At the commencement of their assigned week, a link will be provided for each web lecture on Brightspace. Students must be logged in to complete each lecture. Please do not attempt to view a web lecture more than once. After a web lecture due date has passed, the lecture's corresponding YouTube link will be provided on Brightspace, removing the need to re-watch it in playposit. If you have a pre-existing account on playposit, you may use it for this course if the name registered with the account matches your name in the course.

#### **Writing Assignments (on Brightspace — 2 submissions — 35% of grade)**

You will have a total of 2 writing assignments to be completed individually. These assignments consist of various questions designed for you to apply the conceptual knowledge you gain throughout the course.



### General Instructions:

- Go to the corresponding assignment of Brightspace.
- Open the document which contains the corresponding assignment.
- Type your answers on a separate document. Please make sure to use Microsoft Word only.
- Rubric will be attached.

### Writing Assignment Schedule

#### Writing Assignment 1 (15 points) Carlos the Jackal

- Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, also known as Carlos the Jackal (Spanish: Carlos el Chacal), is a native Venezuelan convicted of terrorist crimes, and currently serving a life sentence in France for the 1975 murder of an informant for the French government and two French counterintelligence agents.
- Listen Watch the documentary on Ilyich Ramírez Sánchez (uploaded on Brightspace). Then respond to the provided questions on Brightspace.
- Due 6/19 11:59PM CST

#### Grading Breakdown

- Accuracy of Answers 12.5 pts
- Grammar 2.5 pts

Each response should be at least one paragraph in length. Some questions will require multiple paragraphs to adequately answer. Tables are not required but can aid in answering questions. The assignment should be double spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 pt font.

#### Writing Assignment 2 (20 points) Sam Harris/Noam Chomsky

- Samuel Benjamin Harris is an American author, philosopher, neuroscientist, and podcast host. His work touches on a wide range of topics, including rationality, religion, ethics, free will neuroscience, medication, psychedelics, philosophy of mind politics, terrorism, and artificial intelligence.
- Avram Noam Chomsky is an American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historical essayist, social critic, and political activist. Sometimes called "the father of modern linguistics", Chomsky is also a major figure in analytic philosophy and one of the founders of the field of cognitive science.

- Listen to Sam Harris's Podcast episode and watch the Noam Chomsky's interview (both uploaded on Brightspace). Then respond to the provided questions on Brightspace.
- Due 7/3 11:59PM CST

#### Grading Breakdown

- Accuracy of Answers 15.5 pts
- Grammar 4.5 pts

Each response should be at least one paragraph in length. Several questions require multiple paragraphs to fully answer. The assignment should be double spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 pt font.

#### Tests (on Brightspace – 4 tests — 50% of grade)

You will be assigned four tests throughout the semester that correspond to that week's assigned content. Each test will be brief and low stakes. Tests will consist of 25 questions (combination of multiple choice and T/F questions).

Instructions:

- You will be shown one question at a time
- You will not be able to go back (backtrack)

#### Policies

##### Late Work:

Students may submit assignments (except exams and viewing web lectures) up to two days late. For each day that an assignment is late, a 10% lateness penalty will be assessed.

##### Incomplete Grade:

An incomplete grade (IN) is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed due to serious interruption, not caused by the student's own negligence.

Students receiving an incomplete grade must complete the appropriate coursework within two semesters (including summer). If coursework is not completed in this time frame, the incomplete grade (IN) will automatically default to a failing grade (F). Students should not re-enroll in the same course to make up the incomplete grade. To change an incomplete grade, the student should speak directly to the course instructor to have the appropriate documentation submitted.

- Written documentation must be provided.
- The student must have successfully completed half of the coursework with a passing grade.

### How will you and I evaluate your progress?

| Course Requirements | Frequencies | Total Weight |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Introduction Post   | 1           | 3%           |
| Web Lectures        | 10          | 12%          |
| Writing Assignments | 2           | 35%          |
| Tests               | 4           | 50%          |
| Total               |             | 100%         |

| Grade | Range  |
|-------|--------|
| A     | 100-90 |
| B     | 89-80  |
| C     | 79-70  |
| D     | 69-60  |
| F     | <60    |

### Course Calendar

#### \*Weekly Tentative Schedule (6/6-7/7)

| Date                    | Topics Covered in Class  | Readings & Assignments  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>6/6-12 | History and Policy of Homeland Security, The Legal Foundations of Homeland Security, and Civil Liberties.<br><br>Topics covered in readings and assigned videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historical and contemporary perspectives on homeland security in the United States.</li> <li>Legal issues surrounding homeland security.</li> <li>The importance of balancing civil liberties protection and domestic security necessities.</li> </ul> | Online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarize yourself with the Brightspace platform and the syllabus</li> <li>Discussion Board: Introduce yourself (<b>due 6/12/22 at 11:59 PM CST</b>)</li> <li>Watch web Lectures 1,2,3 (<b>due 6/12/22 at 11:59 PM CST</b>)</li> <li>Read <b>Chapter 1</b> "History and Policy: Defining Homeland Security", <b>Chapter 3</b> "The Legal Foundations of Homeland Security", and <b>Chapter 4</b> "Civil</li> </ul> |

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
|                                  |  | <p>Liberties and Securing the Homeland”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Test 1 (due 6/12/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Week 2</b><br/>6/13-19</p> | <p>Homeland Security at the Federal Level and the Role of Intelligence.</p> <p>Topics covered in readings and assigned videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The post-9/11 bureaucratic transformation and the dawn of modern homeland security.</li> <li>○ Role of the Department of Homeland Security.</li> <li>○ Organizational alignments of the Intelligence Community.</li> </ul> | <p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch web Lectures 4,5 (due 6/19/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> <li>• Read <b>Chapter 5</b> “Agencies and Missions: Homeland Security at the Federal Level”, and <b>Chapter 6</b> “Prediction and Prevention: The Role of Intelligence”</li> <li>• Complete Test 2 (due 6/19/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> <li>• Complete writing assignment 1 (due 6/19/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Week 3</b><br/>6/20-26</p> | <p>Homeland Security at the State and Local Levels and Terrorism in the United States.</p> <p>Topics covered in readings and assigned videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local homeland security networking initiatives.</li> <li>• The role of law enforcement agencies in homeland security environments.</li> <li>• Domestic terrorism in the United States.</li> </ul>           | <p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch web Lectures 6,7 (due 6/26/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> <li>• Read <b>Chapter 7</b> “Agencies and Missions: Homeland Security at the State and Local Levels”, and <b>Chapter 9</b> “The Threat at Home: Terrorism in the United States”</li> <li>• Complete Test 3 (due 6/26/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</li> </ul>  |

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
|                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International terrorism in the United States.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p><b>Week 4</b><br/>6/27-7/3</p> | <p>Resilience, Planning, Response, and Recovery.</p> <p>Topics covered in readings and assigned videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and mitigation planning issues.</li> <li>• The role of proper preparedness and planning activities.</li> <li>• National homeland security response and recovery protocols.</li> </ul>   | <p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch web Lectures 8,9<br/><b>(due 7/3/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</b></li> <li>• Read <b>Chapter 12</b> “Critical Resources: Resilience and Planning”, and <b>Chapter 13</b> “Critical Outcomes: Response and Recovery”</li> <li>• Complete Test 4 <b>(due 7/3/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</b></li> <li>• Complete writing assignment 2 <b>(due 7/3/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Week 5</b><br/>7/4-7</p>    | <p>The Future of Homeland Security</p> <p>Topics covered in readings and assigned videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near-term projections for the future of homeland security</li> <li>• The feasibility of adapting theoretical and practical counterterrorist options to dynamic security environments</li> <li>• Continuing risks to domestic security from violent extremists</li> <li>• The need for ongoing international collaboration</li> </ul> | <p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch web Lecture 10 <b>(due 7/7/22 at 11:59 PM CST)</b></li> <li>• Read Chapter 14 “The Future of Homeland Security”</li> </ul>  |