



CJ 384-01W

Terrorism

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

Meets 1/13/2025 – 05/09/2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Serdar San, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson 204

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:30am

University Email Address: serdar.san@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail

Communication Response Time: E-mail is the best way to contact me. I will respond to email and phone calls within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Text:

Hoffman, B. (2017). *Inside terrorism* (3rd edition). Columbia University Press.

Required Readings:

Links to the readings and other supplementary course materials will be posted on D2L.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the origins, definitions and evolution of terrorism.
2. Understand the underlying theories that explain radicalization and why people engage in acts of terrorism.
3. Compare and contrast different policy responses to terrorism and contextualize the role of police and criminal justice system in responding to terrorism and violent extremism.
4. Understand the fundamental “security vs. civil liberties” challenge of counterterrorism strategies.
5. Demonstrate understanding of innovative counterterrorism policy responses aimed at preventing or reversing radicalization to reduce the risk of terrorism.
6. Engage in research on a particular topic in terrorism, relating concepts to theories and cases to engage in in-depth critical analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Because this course is held online, you will need to have regular access to a computer and reliable high-speed internet. If you do not have access at home, you may be able to use a public library or come to campus to use computers in the library or one of the student computer labs. Make sure that you will have access several hours per week (accessing the course online is the equivalent of attending the class). You must be able to use internet search tools, access D2L, use email, and know how to download and upload documents. You must also be able to play videos and have headphones or speakers.

For your privacy and security, only your official ETAMU email account will be used for email communication. No information will be sent to personal email accounts. Please check your ETAMU email regularly.

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Instructional Methods

This course is held asynchronously through D2L, which means that not everyone is participating at the same time. You can access the course any time, day or night, from anywhere that you have an internet connection. You should login to the course on D2L on a regular basis to keep up with class assignments. Each module will end Sunday at 11:59 PM. The next module begins Monday morning.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

There will be several assignments due throughout the semester. You will be expected to write clearly and effectively, using APA style, proper grammar and correct spelling, and scholarly references (cited in-text and as full references). You will be expected to think critically and analytically about the topics covered in class and to participate in virtual class discussions. You are expected to read all assigned materials and should be prepared to actively learn and participate. Logging in daily, pacing yourself with course work, and reaching out to the instructor if you are struggling are ways of ensuring your success in the course.

For online classes, the roles of the teacher and the student are reversed. I am a facilitator, guide, coach, or resource, and am responsible for creating an effective learning environment. Your job is to use that environment to learn – interact with the materials, construct and share information, manage your time effectively, and use that time for critical thinking, reflection, and application. You are in control and responsible for your own learning. I am here to support and help you, but it is up to you to ask for help when you need it. Unlike face-to-face classes, I cannot see the confused look on your face when something doesn't make sense. Please communicate with me.

Students experiencing any difficulty writing assignments are very much encouraged to visit the [ETAMU Writing Center](#). In addition, awareness of the course information and university policies provided in this outline will reduce frustration and maximize enjoyment of the course.

Class announcements will generally be posted on D2L and/or e-mailed to all students at their university email accounts. Messages for individual students will be e-mailed to university email accounts only, and only student messages from university email accounts will be read by the professor. It is important that you check D2L and your university email account regularly. Failure to do so cannot be used as a reason for dispensation of term work policies and course work requirements.

I am happy to answer questions about the course and about the field of criminology. If you have a question, please follow these guidelines:

1. **Check the course outline.** It is likely that a question about the course will already be answered in the course outline.

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2. Visit the professor's office hours. I can be reached by e-mail for brief, factual questions only. If you have a question or concern that requires substantive or back-and-forth discussion, please come to my office hours. You are very welcome to come to my office hours with other students in the class if you are more comfortable raising questions or chatting that way. It is unlikely that I will be available outside my office hours, so it is advisable that you make yourself available during those times.

3. Ask well in advance. I aim to respond to student e-mail within 24 hours. I will get back to you as soon as possible, but it is unlikely that I will be able to respond straight away. If you do not hear back from me after 24 hours, please re-send your e-mail. At busy times (e.g., prior to class tests or deadlines), there may not be time to meet with everyone who comes to my office hours. It is advisable that you come to ask questions well in advance.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	90%-100%	450-500
B	80%-89%	400-449
C	70%-79%	350-399
D	60%-69%	300-349
F	59% or Below	< 300

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Assessment	Point Value
Ice Breaker Post	20
Discussion Posts & Peer Responses (4 @ 45 points)	180
Article Reflections (4 @ 50 points)	200
Critical Film Analysis Paper	100
Total	500

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Assessments

Ice Breaker Post (20 points)

Due 01/15/2025 at 11:59 PM (D2L)

Due to the nature of remote learning, maintaining traditional class comradery is essential. You will be assigned one introductory post the first week of class. This post is due on **Wednesday, January 15th by 11:59 pm**. This introductory post is meant for students to become acquainted, and hopefully acknowledge similar goals and interests. The information that can be posted may include:

- Name
- Major/minor area of study
- Career aspirations
- How you expect this course to help your career, your expectations from this course.

Discussion Posts & Peer Responses (180 points)

Weeks 2, 6, 10, and 14 due Sunday at 11:59 PM (D2L)

The purpose of the discussion posts and peer responses is to facilitate discussion regarding the assigned course materials. Discussion board postings are opportunities for you to express your knowledge and thoughts after reviewing information presented in the module. Discussions are directly related to the themes of that week. Four discussion questions will be posted on D2L throughout the semester. In these discussion posts, you will be expected to answer the assigned questions and also engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates on various topics related to terrorism.

Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality and a detailed analysis linking the material to a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and practice. Reading the assigned class material is the key to a productive engagement in discussion forums.

Discussion board entries (both your original post and peer response) must be a minimum of **250** words and must follow APA style for in-text citations and references. **At least one weekly reading** must be used, cited and referenced in each post. The introduction of outside materials is not mandatory (unless otherwise noted in the discussion topic assignment), but is recommended. In all cases, students must cite in-text and provide a full bibliography/works cited at the end of their post for all citations mentioned in the post. Your discussion board entries should include paragraphs and full sentences addressing a specific question I have posed.

You will also need to respond to one classmate's discussion board entry to receive full credit for the assignment. Your peer responses should be thoughtful and analytical,

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providing useful feedback to the initial poster. It is not enough to simply agree, disagree, or compliment the initial poster. When responding to other students, you must be respectful but please feel free to express disagreement, support or an alternative perspective. Appropriate netiquette should be used (see more information in **University Specific Procedures: Student Conduct**).

You must complete your discussion board entry before responding to your peers. I suggest you complete your original post by Thursday so you also have time for your peer response, but the formal due date for both of your entries is by **Sunday at 11:59 PM of the assigned week**.

Article Reflections (200 points)

Weeks 4, 8, 12, and 15 due Sunday at 11:59 PM (D2L)

The purpose of the article reflections is to demonstrate that you have read and understood an academic article and can summarize and critique it for an audience. You will create **an audio or video recording** of your summary and critique of **one** of the assigned articles or textbook chapters for that week. This recording must be **5 minutes or less** in length. Recordings should be made in such a way that the viewer can understand the study clearly without referring to the printed article.

In this assignment, you first need to provide a brief and accurate summary of the article/textbook chapter. However, your reflection should not be a simple summary of the article or textbook chapter. You should also provide a critique of your selected reading. For this critique, you should try to ask yourself questions like: What did you learn from this reading? What are your brief personal opinions/reflections about its arguments? How/in what ways did it help you understand this specific issue/problem regarding terrorism? You do not need to ask all of these questions but try to ask and answer at least a few of them in your critique. In summary, you need to try to go a little beyond summarizing the article/textbook chapter and focus on a more critical analysis of these pieces.

You will complete four article reflections in the semester. The due date for your article reflection is by **Sunday at 11:59 PM of the assigned week**. Article reflections will be graded based on the accuracy of the summary, quality of the critique, professionalism of the delivery, and adherence to the assignment criteria. A grading rubric will be provided on D2L.

Critical Film Analysis Paper (100 points)

Due 05/02/2025 at 11:59 PM (D2L)

This assignment involves writing a critical analysis (maximum 5 double-spaced pages in length and 12 point, excluding title and references page) of how terrorism is represented

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in a popular movie, drawing on/referring to relevant course themes and course readings/materials.

You will begin the assignment by selecting one of the following movies about terrorism/counterterrorism:

The Battle of Algiers (1966) by Gillo Pontecorvo

The Siege (1998) by Edward Zwick

Munich (2005) by Steven Spielberg

The Baader-Meinhof Complex (2009) by Uli Edel

Carlos (2010) by Olivier Assayas

Zero Dark Thirty (2012) by Kathryn Bigelow

Once you have selected your film, you will analyze the movie and write a short paper presenting your critical analysis of the way the terrorism is represented in the film. Your paper should include a brief summary of the movie (what is the story of the movie, when does it take place, fiction or non-fiction, etc.) and your critical analysis of the way terrorism is represented in the film. In your critical analysis of how terrorism is represented in the movie, you will want to analyze different aspects of the movie (main characters, the story/plot, the environment the story takes place, etc.) and relate them to relevant course themes (definitions of terrorism, history of terrorism, extremism and radicalization, tactics of terrorism, counterterrorism policies and practices, etc.) and course readings/materials. It is important that your paper be analytical rather than just descriptive. Your analysis should be supported by references to course material (at least **4** articles/book chapters should be cited).

Format the paper as a short essay with an introduction (outlining the main points you will make and how your essay will proceed); brief summary and critical analysis of the film; a conclusion (summarizing your main points and what your paper discussed), and a works cited (including complete bibliographic information for the movie you selected and any secondary sources). Please use the APA citation style in your assignment. I encourage you to start working on this assignment early to avoid rushing during the end of the semester. A grading rubric will be provided on D2L.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day and will not be accepted more than 5 days after the deadline. All assignments should be submitted to D2L by 11:59pm on the day they are due.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

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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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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 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

If you have any questions about the class and/or the topics we are covering throughout the semester or have an issue that you think the professor needs to be made aware of, please send an email to my ETAMU email address. I will respond to emails within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again.

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Emails are expected to be concise, clear, and respectful. Please make sure you include the title of the course (preferably in the subject line), and your full name in your email.

I will disseminate any important course-related information through your ETAMU email accounts and/or D2L announcements. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check course syllabus and announcements in D2L for an answer before you contact me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

You are required to use the citation style and format of the American Psychological Association (APA) in your assignments in this course. Review the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) or similar APA Citation Style online resource. For assistance with writing or formatting in APA, seek guidance from me, the [ETAMU Writing Center](#), [the Waters Library](#), and [OWL of Purdue](#).

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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 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>

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Readings	Assignments Due (by 11:59PM on Sunday unless otherwise noted)
Week 1 01/13/2025-01/19/2025	Introduction and Syllabus Review	Ice Breaker Post (due by Wednesday, January 15 11:59PM)
Week 2 01/20/2025-01/26/2025 Defining terrorism	Ganor (2002) Klinger & Heal (2011) Hoffman, Chapter 1	Discussion Post & Peer Response 1
Week 3 01/27/2025-02/02/2025 History of terrorism	Hoffman, Chapter 2, 3, and 4 Rapoport (2004)	
Week 4 02/03/2025-02/09/2025 Extremism & radicalization I	Borum (2011) McCauley & Moskalenko (2008)	Article Reflection 1
Week 5 02/10/2025-02/16/2025 Extremism & radicalization II	Beckett & Burke (2017) Bennhold (2015) Knefel (2013)	

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Week 6		
02/17/2025-02/23/2025	Hoffman, Chapter 7 Klausen (2015)	Discussion Post & Peer Response 2
Terrorism and media		
Week 7		
02/24/2025-03/02/2025	Horowitz et al. (2018) Macdonald et al. (2022) Pape (2003)	
Tactics of terrorism		
Week 8		
03/03/2025-03/09/2025	Auger (2020) Jackson (2019) Perliger (2020) Pitcavage (2019)	Article Reflection 2
Right-wing extremism		
Week 9		
03/10/2025-03/16/2025	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10		
03/17/2025-03/23/2025	Holmes (2015) Price (2012) Wright (2017)	Discussion Post & Peer Response 3
Countering terrorism I		
Week 11		
03/24/2025-03/30/2025	Crelinsten (2014) Kirchofer (2016)	
Countering terrorism II		
Week 12		
03/31/2025-04/06/2025	Dalgaard-Nielsen (2013) Horgan et al. (2017) San (2018)	Article Reflection 3
Disengagement from terrorism		
Week 13		
04/07/2025-04/13/2025	Dershowitz (2004)	

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Counterterrorism and civil liberties	Newell (2019) Zech (2017)	
Week 14 04/14/2025-04/20/2025 Future of terrorism	Byman (2021) Hoffman, Chapter 10 Rekawek (2008)	Discussion Post & Peer Response 4
Week 15 04/21/2025-04/27/2025 Terrorism-crime relationship	Makarenko (2004) Omelicheva & Markowitz (2021) Williams (2012)	Article Reflection 4
Week 16 04/28/2025-05/02/2025	Class review	Critical Film Analysis Paper due by Friday, May 2 11:59PM

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