

COURSE OUTLINE **Concepts of Terrorism**

Course Description

AJ 122. Concepts of Terrorism. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to articulate the history, nature, characteristics and responses to terrorism. The student will study concepts of terror and terrorism, historical aspects, the role of the media, terrorist groups and their ideologies, methods of terror, and counter responses to terrorism.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in the course will provide the student with a broad-based understanding of terrorism and its effects on our nation and the world. These concepts will further enhance the student's ability to investigate the basic principles employed in explaining terrorism. The concepts will also give the student an understanding of the challenges the criminal justice system faces in responding to terrorism in our contemporary society.

Required Materials

Poland, J.M., (2005) *Understanding terrorism: Groups, strategies, and responses*, (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice-Hall Inc.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Evaluate the complexity of terroristic behavior
2. Demonstrate an understanding of different types of terrorist groups
3. Articulate the roles and responsibilities of various officials involved in the criminal justice systems' response to terrorism

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, she/he will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Valuing Diversity
 - The student will expand his/her awareness of diversity throughout the class and provide feedback on what he/she has learned through a self-assessment inventory.
2. Critical Thinking
 - The student will develop critical thinking and analytical skills through written assignments and other activities conducted in class.

Secondary Skills (developed but not documented):

Team Work
Ethical Conduct

Historical Interpretation
Writing
Speaking
Computer Literacy
Effective Citizenship
Problem Solving
Reading
Listening

Major Summative Assessments Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary learning PACT skill will be demonstrated by

1. Completion of a written assignment on a terrorist group and the application of law enforcement procedures used to deal with the group including roles and responsibilities of various officials in the criminal justice system

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Phenomenon of terrorism
 - B. Different typologies of terrorism
- II. Issues- Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. A critical review of response to terrorism
 - B. Individual rights vs. public order
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. The mindset of the terrorist
 - B. Differences between individual rights and public order perspectives
 - C. The major ideas underlying policy in the fight against terrorism
- IV. Skills/Competencies –Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Describe the actions of terrorist and their effect on society
 - B. Explain the laws, procedures, and policies involved in dealing with terrorism
 - C. Describe the law enforcement role in dealing with terrorism

Learning Units

- I. Concepts of terror and terrorism
 - A. Definition of terrorism
 - B. Morality of terrorism
 - C. Terrorist typologies
 - D. Purpose of terrorism
- II. Historical antecedents of terrorism and violence
 - A. History of terrorism
 - B. Different historical traditions
 - C. Terrorism in the United States
 - D. The ideological terrorist

- III. Violence and terrorism: The role of the mass media
 - A. Terrorism use of the media
 - B. Law enforcement and the media
 - C. Censorship and the media

- IV. The Palestine question and Al Qaeda
 - A. Different Palestinian terrorist groups
 - B. Historical wars involving Palestinian groups
 - C. Al Qaeda terrorist organization

- V. Designated foreign terrorist organizations: The “A List”
 - A. Defining different organizations around the world
 - B. The organizations typologies and methods
 - C. Sponsoring countries of the groups

- VI. The dynamics of hostage taking and negotiations
 - A. History of hostage taking
 - B. Typologies of hostage takers
 - C. Stockholm syndrome
 - D. London syndrome
 - E. Hostage rescues
 - F. Surviving a hostage situation

- VII. Contemporary terrorism and bombing
 - A. Historical perspective
 - B. Effects of explosives and explosions
 - C. Different types of bombs and their use

- VIII. Suicide bombers: A global problem
 - A. Define the problem
 - B. Different types of suicide bombers
 - C. Methodology behind suicide bombings
 - D. Suicide bombing events

- IX. Counterterrorist measures: The response
 - A. Security measures
 - B. Intelligence functions
 - C. Counterterrorism measures: retaliation and preemption
 - D. Proactive and reactive measures
 - E. Military operations
 - F. Chemical and biological operations
 - G. Legal framework: Apprehension, prosecution, and punishment

- X. Future of terrorism

- A. Israel versus Palestinian Resistance Movement
- B. Islamic extremism
- C. Super-terrorism
- D. Describe the influence of terrorism on democracy

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be geared toward assisting the student to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Activities may include lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, student presentations, and others at the discretion of the instructor. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on assessment tasks, research papers, exams, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.