Course Description

Presents a balanced approach and detailed description of the security environment while illuminating the multidimensional nature of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. Explores technical aspects of threats, terrorist capabilities, and risk assessments that form the basis for making strategic decisions.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Evaluate the evolution of terrorism from the Cold War era through today and analyze the 9/11 Commission Report recommendations.
2. Discuss terrorism in the modern day in relation to the notion of complex terrorism and social networks.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the threat posed by radiological, chemical, and biological devices and understand attack preparedness.
4. Assess the threat posed to our nation in relation to infrastructure.
5. Differentiate between non-proliferation and counter proliferation efforts.
6. Assess the political, philosophical, and religious perspectives of the various actors in the war on terror.
7. Evaluate the public health and medical response capabilities in the U.S. and assess existing strategies in relation to the use of CBRN weapons by a terrorist group.
8. Evaluate future technologies and ways the U.S. and its allies might stay ahead of the game of emerging issues.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes:** Each unit contains learning outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lesson:** Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses lesson material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Suggested Readings are provided in the Unit I study guide to aid students in their course of study.
4. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
5. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in all units. Specific information and instructions regarding these Assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with all Unit Assignments. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.
6. **Research Paper:** Students are required to submit for grading a Research Paper in Unit VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding this assignment are provided below. A grading rubric is included with the assignment in Unit VIII. Specific information about accessing this rubric is provided below.
7. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

8. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**CSU Online Library**

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on “CSU Online Library.” You can also access the CSU Online Library from the "My Library" button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library’s chat reference service, *Ask a Librarian*, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

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**Unit Assignments**

**Unit I Research Paper Outline**

Create an outline for your final research paper, which will be due in Unit VIII, showing how you would prepare an emergency response plan for a bioterrorism attack in a major city. You may choose the type of bioterror event for the purpose of the outline and your final paper.

Include the following items in your outline:

- The resources that you would use.
- Hospitals and locations for emergency responders to establish their staging areas.
- The types of impacts the event would have on the emergency response system.
- Be specific in your outline as to what areas of the chemical or biological agent you will be addressing regarding its introduction into the atmosphere or human consumption.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit II Assignment**

**Interview**

For this assignment, you are going to perform an interview of the emergency manager in the area in which you live that focuses on WMDs. What you will need to do is compile a list of at least 10 questions based on topics and concepts from the text and items that interest you as a possible emergency manager or disaster preparedness coordinator focusing on WMDs.

After you conduct the interview, you will create a report with the questions and subsequent answers. Include a reflective section with a focus on the WMDs; what you knew about bioterrorism, WMDs, and nuclear or radiological terrorism; what you wanted to know about WMDs; and what you learned through this entire process.

Finally, include some of your own thoughts about what it means to be an emergency manager or disaster preparedness coordinator, and state whether this exercise influenced your decision to remain in your current field or seek further knowledge regarding possible other employment opportunities in another field.

Your final research paper will be due in Unit VIII.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.
Unit III Problem Solving

Critical Infrastructure Report

For this assignment, you will complete the following:

- Choose a potential critical infrastructure that could be impacted in the U.S. by a terrorist event in your location or a high risk area within your state.
- Start with the following question; what might this attack look like? Then determine a single problem for which you can make a decision.

During an event of this magnitude, so much information is communicated to the press and the local and state officials, and sometimes, these reports can conflict. You need to learn to prioritize and decipher this information in order to make appropriate decisions.

Once you find an appropriate problem, you need to determine your course of action. This next step needs to be as specific as possible. If you are vague in your directions, your team will not know what to do, and this can potentially hinder the efficiency of the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). For example, what waterways may be contaminated, what areas of technology may have been impacted, and what type of attack has been initiated?

Finally, you need to determine what you need to perform the action. This is usually in the form of equipment, communications, personnel power, and the ability to gain further resources from outlying areas. For example, to search the immediate location you need X amount of people with X equipment (radios, protective gear, flashlights, etc.) to investigate where the possible attack may have taken place. You need to make sure the request is specific enough so that every team member knows his or her place, and there are no lingering questions.

Once you identify the problem (based on the readings from this week), create a two-page report on the chosen problem, your action plan (actionable item), and the resources you need to do it. Be as specific as possible when you explain the possible actions and procedures. This is a useful opportunity for to build your knowledge base and develop critical thinking skills.

Your final research paper will be due in Unit VIII.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Literature Review

Review/Reference List

For this assignment, you will conduct research on a total of 10 sources. At least five sources should be peer-reviewed articles that will lend to your final project. You can use the CSU Online Library, Google Scholar, or another website with peer-reviewed articles.

Each reference should be cited using APA style and contain a one- or two-sentence summary of the source.

These references should be relevant to your topic of bioterrorism or WMD.

Your final research paper will be due in Unit VIII.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit V Annotated Bibliography

Create an Annotated Bibliography for your final paper, which is due in Unit VIII, about how you would prepare an emergency response plan for a bioterrorism attack in a major city. Please continue to use the same topic as the foundation.

- Your Annotated Bibliography should include a minimum of five peer-reviewed references.
- From your Unit IV Literature Review, you will choose five references that you wish to expound upon.
- Each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, which is the annotation.
- The summary should include the main arguments, the intended audience, and its application to the areas of WMD or bioterrorism.
The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity, and appropriateness of expression and authority.

Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work against another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your topic.

Each annotation should be at least 150 words in length.

Cite each source using APA format.

You may use the CSU Online Library, Google Scholar, or another website with peer-reviewed articles.

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

Remember, you considered the below items in your Unit I Research Paper Outline:

- The resources that you would use.
- Hospitals and locations for emergency responders to establish their staging areas.
- The types of impacts the event would have on the emergency response system.
- Be specific in your outline as to what areas of the chemical or biological agent you will be addressing regarding its introduction into the atmosphere or human consumption.

The final paper will be due in Unit VIII.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VI Article Critique

For this assignment, choose a peer-reviewed article to critique related to bioterrorism, WMD, or a concept/topic covered in this course. You may use one of the references from your Unit I Research Paper Outline or Unit V Annotated Bibliography. Use the databases within the CSU Online Library, or use another source that contains peer-reviewed articles. The purpose of this assignment is for you to practice reviewing articles that contribute to the industry. The authors of these articles are researchers and professionals who have shared or experimented with ideas that demonstrate potential to improve the industry. As a professional in the industry, it is in your best interest to review the literature and trends. This provides you with the opportunity to read about what has proven successful and how it was accomplished. Plus, it allows you to analyze what was unsuccessful, how it can be improved, or ways to avoid repeating the mistakes of others. Use these skills to contribute to research papers and other scholarly writings. If you have not already, hopefully, you will contribute to the industry by publishing an article and sharing with your community of peers.

As you read your chosen article, consider the following questions: How could the topic covered apply to your personal or professional life? How could it apply to an organization you have observed?

The article you choose must meet the following requirements:

- Be peer-reviewed
- Relate to the concepts within this course
- Be at least ten pages in length

Your assignment must meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of two pages.
- Identify the main topic/question.
- Identify the author’s intended audience.
- Critique the article, and share your thoughts; what appears to be valid and/or invalid?
- Do you agree with the author's assertions? Why, or why not?

Format your Article Critique using APA style. Use your own words, and include citations and references as needed to avoid plagiarism.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.
Unit VII Outline

Training Program Outline

For this assignment, you will develop an outline of a program for a chosen WMD event or bioterrorism attack (e.g., anthrax attack, nuclear attack, explosive device, or smallpox).

Using the other course assignments as a building block, create a training program that addresses how to instruct others to respond to your chosen event or attack. Break down each section as much as possible so you do not leave any lingering questions.

Consider the below example:

- WMD – Nuclear Attack
  - Radiation
    - Preventative measures
    - Water treatment
    - Decontamination
    - Public health response

Your training plan should cover at least 10 areas of interest with appropriate break-downs. However, if you cannot break one down past level one, then you may be at the lowest common denominator. Take into account how the emergency responders, FBI, hospitals, public health departments, and other emergency agencies would require updated information, communication, and training. Your training program outline should be at least two-pages in length.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VIII Research Paper

Please finalize your topic into a paper. Your paper should be developed into a well-organized and scholarly 7-10- page research paper. The title page and reference page are not included in the required length.

Your Research Paper should include the following elements: title page, abstract, introduction, background, problem impacting the U.S. regarding WMD, your main focus, brief literature review supporting your topic, training/education, preparedness, problems with response, consequences of the bioterrorism attack, future implications of such an attack, and suggestions for improving the current preparedness issues facing the U.S. A comprehensive reference section must also be included after the paper.

CSU requires that students use the APA format in writing course papers. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. Your paper must contain at least five references, and may include Internet sources, books, and professional journals or resources related to the profession.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

APA Guidelines

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU’s Citation Guide by clicking here. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

Grading Rubrics

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.
Rubric categories include: (1) Assessment (Written Response) and (2) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting “Tools” and then “My Grades.”

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Assessments and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.
Grading

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Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

## Unit I  Conceptual Frameworks

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Unit I: Introduction, pp. 1-4
- Chapter 1.1: Definitions, Trends, and the Concept of “New Terrorism”, pp. 5-37
- Chapter 1.2: The Nature of the Post-09/11 WMD Terrorism Threat, pp. 38-84

**Submit:**
- Research Paper Outline

## Unit II  Chemical Weapons, Warfare Agents, and Toxins

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Unit 2: Introduction, pp. 85-89
- Chapter 2.1: Chemical Weapons
- Chapter 2.4: Nuclear Weapons, pp. 200-235

**Submit:**
- Assignment

## Unit III  Critical Infrastructure Dimensions

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Unit 3: Introduction, pp. 301-305
- Chapter 3.1: Public Spaces, Transportation Networks and Other Critical Infrastructure, pp. 305-336
- Chapter 3.2: Chemical and Biological Threats, pp. 337-378

**Submit:**
- Problem Solving

Notes/Goals:
### Unit IV: Responding to the Threat

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Unit 4: Introduction, pp. 411-416
- [ ] Chapter 4.1: Proliferation Control Regimes, pp. 417-451
- [ ] Chapter 4.2: Intelligence

**Submit:**
- [ ] Literature Review

**Notes/Goals:**

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### Unit V: Response and Resilience and Developing Immunity

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 4.3: Response and Resilience
- [ ] Chapter 4.4: Developing Immunity, pp. 536-561

**Submit:**
- [ ] Annotated Bibliography

**Notes/Goals:**

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### Unit VI: Environmental Decontamination Efforts

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 4.4: Unique Challenges of Responding to Bioterrorism Threats and Attacks

**Submit:**
- [ ] Article Critique

**Notes/Goals:**

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### Unit VII: The Terrorist Impact on Commercialism and Training

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 4.5: Case Studies

**Submit:**
- [ ] Outline

**Notes/Goals:**
**MHS 5201, Weapons of Mass Destruction**  
**Course Schedule**

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| Read:     | □ Chapter 5.1: Predicting Peril or the Peril of Prediction? Assessing the Risk of CBRN Terrorism, pp. 705-723  
□ Chapter 5.2: Threat Convergence: A Framework for Analyzing the Potential for WMD Terrorism, pp. 725 – 737  
□ Chapter 5.3: Emerging WMD Technologies, pp. 739 – 751  
□ Chapter 5.4: Conclusion: Appreciating the Past and Present, Anticipating the Future, pp. 753 – 766 |
| Submit:   | □ Research Paper                        |

Notes/Goals: