Course Description

Examines the various types of terrorism and known terrorist groups deemed to be a probable threat against the citizens of the United States, and explores various techniques and resources designed to counter terrorist threats in the United States.

Course Textbook


*Note:* You must be logged into the myCSU Student Portal in order for the above link to work properly.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand the mindset for WMD technology development in World War I and World War II.
2. Demonstrate a sound understanding of the development, scope, and principles of international law regulating WMD proliferation, and be able to evaluate the effectiveness of non-proliferation treaties in today’s environment.
3. Explain the technology, types, effects, fabrication, development, and use of nuclear, biological, chemical, and agricultural weapons.
4. Analyze terrorist threats, suspects, and counterterrorism operations concerning WMD and compare and contrast past events.
5. Assess how terrorism, genetic engineering, bio warfare, and cyber terrorism may affect future prospects.
6. Evaluate moral and ethical aspects of using WMD, the political and diplomatic aspects, and the effects on society and the environment.

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 unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Suggested Readings are provided in Unit I to aid students in their course of study. Suggested Further Readings are listed in Units III, IV, VI, and VII. The readings themselves are not provided in the course, but students are encouraged to read the resources listed if the opportunity arises as they have valuable information that expands upon the lesson material.
4. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided Units I, V, and VI to aid students in their course of study.
5. **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.
6. **Unit Assignments**: Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units I-VI. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below.

7. **Research Paper**: Students are required to submit for grading a Research Paper in Unit VII. Specific information and instructions regarding this assignment are provided below.

8. **Final Exam**: Students are to complete a Final Exam in Unit VIII. All Final Exams are proctored—see below for additional information. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams. The Final Exam is composed of multiple-choice, true-false, short answer, and essay questions.

9. **Ask the Professor**: This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

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

**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.

**Unit Assignments**

**Unit I Article Review**

During World War I, nearly 40% of all casualties were caused by machine gun fire. Some historians describe the effect of the machine gun as a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). *The Washington Post* quoted historian Paul Fussell on the subject: “A machine gun, properly fired, is a weapon of mass destruction. We are pretending that only awful and sinister people own weapons of mass destruction. We own them, too. We just call them something else.”

Via the CSU Online Library or an outside source, find a peer-reviewed journal article on the use of WMD during World War II. Using APA format, write a three page paper summarizing the use, implications, and repercussions (i.e., side effects, sociological effects, or political effects) of the WMD.

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

**Unit II Research Project, Part 1**

**Topic Selection**

Part 1 of the Research Project requires students to submit their topic for review and approval by their instructor. Students must:

- identify and select a WMD event;
- describe the type of event, the effects, fabrication, and development of the WMD event; and
- discuss the environmental, political, economic, and sociological effects of the WMD event.

In addition to identifying the WMD event that will serve as the basis for the research project, the student must provide a brief description that explains why they chose this event for their research. The description should be 300-400 words. Part 1 of the Research Project should be no more than one page in length.

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

Impact of Bioterrorism

One of the earliest known cases of bioterrorism occurred in 1346 when the Tartars (Mongols) were besieging Caffa, a grain port on the Black Sea (present day Feodosiya in Ukraine). On October 4, 2001, a photo editor at the National Enquirer’s parent company was recognized as the first victim of a bioterrorism attack on American soil. Twenty-four hours later, he died from inhalational anthrax. The purpose of this case study is to research a potential biological agent or toxin that could be weaponized.

Using APA format, write a 3-5 page paper summarizing the effects of biological weapons if released in the Mall of America.

Your paper should discuss:

- signs and symptoms,
- incubation time,
- mode of exposure (injection, inhalation, cutaneous, etc.),
- prevention,
- treatment,
- locality impacts (weather, location, population, etc.), and
- sociological impacts.

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

Unit IV Case Study

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Using APA format, write a 3 page paper that answers the following questions:

1. What do you think is the possibility of a rogue state, terrorist, or individual acquiring chemical or biological agents?
2. How significant a threat do you view chemical terrorism, biological terrorism, or even agroterrorism to be?
3. Describe what you feel is the most likely use of WMD: chemical or biological?

Your textbook and online sources should be used as a guide.

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

Unit V Research Project, Part 2

Annotated Bibliography

Part 2 of the research project requires students to submit an annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography must include a minimum of eight scholarly resources that the student plans to utilize in the research paper. Each resource must be formatted per APA (6th ed.) guidelines and include a brief description of the information included in the resource, as well as why it is relevant to the research project. Students will be allowed to utilize more scholarly resources in the final version of the research paper as appropriate. The intent of the annotated bibliography is to demonstrate that the student is headed in the right direction with their research for the paper.

Resource for completing an annotated bibliography: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.
Unit VI Case Study

Radiological Weapons

The purpose of this assignment is to write a 1-3 page paper, using APA format, answering the following questions:

1. What do you think is the possibility of a rogue state, terrorist, or individual acquiring radiological material to produce a nuclear weapon?
2. How significant a threat do you consider terrorist organizations building nuclear weapons to be? Why do you feel this way?
3. What organizations would have the capability to build a nuclear weapon? Why do they have the capability?
4. Describe what you feel is the most likely use of WMD: nuclear or RDD. In addition, why have you decided that a terrorist organization would be more likely to use this type of device over the other device?

Your textbook and online sources should be used as a guide.

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

Unit VII Research Paper

Students are required to submit for grading a Final Research Paper in Unit VII. The Research Paper must follow APA guidelines and contain the following:

- Cover page
- Abstract
- Introduction (identify and select a WMD event)
- Describe the type of event, effects, fabrication, and development of the WMD event.
- Describe the environmental, political, economic, and sociological effects of the WMD event.
- Summary and conclusions
- Reference page

While the level of detail in each section of the research paper will vary, it is anticipated that the final paper will be a minimum of 8 pages in length (not including the cover page and reference pages). Please review the APA guidelines to obtain a description of other formatting requirements.

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 in the myCSU Student Portal by clicking on the “Citation Resources” link in the “Learning Resources” area. 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.

Final Examination Guidelines

Final Exams are to be administered to students by an approved Proctor. CSU approves two, flexible proctoring options: a standard Proctor, who is chosen by the student and approved by the university, or Remote Proctor Now (RP Now), an on-demand, third-party testing service that proctors examinations for a small fee.

Students choosing RP Now must have an operational webcam/video with audio, a high-speed internet connection, and the appropriate system rights required to download and install software.

To review the complete Examination Proctor Policy, including a list of acceptable Proctors, Proctor responsibilities, Proctor approval procedures, and the Proctor Agreement Form, go to the myCSU Student Portal from the link below.

http://mycsu.columbiasouthern.edu

You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam in the presence of your approved Proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks, writing utensils, and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams. Other materials are not permitted unless specified in the examination instructions and only the sources identified in the instructions may be used as source material.

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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<tr>
<td>Case Studies (3 @ 10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Projects (2 @ 10%)</td>
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<td>Unit I Article Review</td>
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<td>Unit VII Research Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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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.
HLS 3301, Weapons of Mass Destruction

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: Introduction to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 1: Terrorism and WMDs
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Article Review

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit II: Explosives

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 6: Explosive Hazards

**Submit:**
- Research Project, Part 1

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit III: Bioterrorism and Agricultural Terrorism

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 4: Biological Agents
- **Suggested Further Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Case Study

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit IV: Chemical Terrorism and Toxic Industrial Chemicals

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 2: Chemical Agents
- Chapter 3: Toxic Industrial Chemicals
- **Suggested Further Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Case Study

**Notes/Goals:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit V</th>
<th>Radiological Weapons</th>
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| **Review:** | Unit Study Guide  
| | Learning Activities (Non-Graded): See Study Guide |
| **Read:** | Chapter 5: Nuclear and Radiological Hazards  
| | Additional Required Reading: See Study Guide |
| **Submit:** | Research Project, Part 2 |

**Notes/Goals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VI</th>
<th>Nuclear Weapons</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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</table>
| **Read:** | Chapter 5: Nuclear and Radiological Hazard  
| | Suggested Further Reading: See Study Guide |
| **Submit:** | Case Study |

**Notes/Goals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VII</th>
<th>Personal Protective Equipment &amp; Decontamination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Read:** | Chapter 9: Personal Protective Equipment for Emergency Response, Decontamination, and Remediation  
| | Suggested Further Reading: See Study Guide |
| **Submit:** | Research Paper  
| | Request to take Final Exam |

**Notes/Goals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Introduction to Legal, Ethical, and Moral Concerns with the use of WMD</th>
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</table>
| **Review:** | Unit Study Guide  
| | Additional Required Reading: See Study Guide |
| **Read:** | Chapter 2: The International Law Concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction  
| **Submit:** | Final Exam |

**Notes/Goals:**