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Syllabus  
Terrorism and Homeland Security  
1181-FIU01-DSC-4012-SECRVC-24387

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### PROFESSOR INFORMATION



**Instructor:** Dr. Stephen Pires  
**Phone:** (305) 348-4872  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only  
**E-mail:** [sfpires@fiu.edu](mailto:sfpires@fiu.edu)  
**Website:** [FIU Faculty Biography](#)

**NOTE:** Please **do not** use Blackboard email for this course, as your messages will **not** be read. Use the email address above **ONLY**.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course will examine issues of terrorism and homeland security. It will be broken into four major areas. The first portion of the course will consist of an introduction to terrorism, including how to define and conceptualize terrorism, terrorist groups and their tactics, and terrorism media coverage. The second part of the course will examine the historical development of terrorism, focusing primarily on Irish, Latin American, and Middle Eastern influences on terrorism. Third, modern terrorism and terrorist networks across the world will be examined. Finally, issues of homeland security and law enforcement responses to global terrorism will be addressed in this course.

There will be three major components to the course. The first component includes weekly readings-based lectures. The second component of the course includes weekly essays in response to discussion questions relevant to each week's topics (via Turnitin.com). The third component involves an online post in response to a counterterrorism strategies discussion question and a response to at least one of their colleagues' short essays. *This is a global learning course that counts towards your global learning graduation requirement.*

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships between regional, national, and global socio-political and cultural conditions and collective violent behavior (GL – Global Awareness).
- Analyze multiple perspectives--e.g. religious, psychological, and sociological--on domestic, transnational, and international terrorism (GL – Global Perspective).
- Formulate potential counterterrorism strategies related to domestic, transnational, and international terrorism (GL – Global Engagement).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the many issues of defining and conceptualizing terrorism.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dilemmas of domestic security and civil rights.
- Produce writing that is grammatically correct, well-organized, and properly formatted based on APA standards; and

GL=Global Learning Outcome

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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### POLICIES

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Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

#### **Incomplete Grades:**

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. To be eligible, written documentation must be provided. The student also must have successfully completed half of the coursework with a passing grade. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course. There is no extension of the two semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. Students who have incomplete grades on their records must remove the incomplete by the end of the fourth week of the term in which they plan to graduate. Failure to do so will result in a cancellation of graduation.

#### **Student Misconduct:**

FIU is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS

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One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

This course utilizes the following tools:

- **YouTube** [\[Privacy Policy\]](#)
- **Turnitin (integrated within the Blackboard environment)** [\[Privacy Policy\]](#)
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser** [\[Privacy Policy\]](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

### ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

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Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

### PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

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**This online section does not require an on-campus visit or exam.**

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## COURSE PREREQUISITES

**There are no prerequisites for this course.**

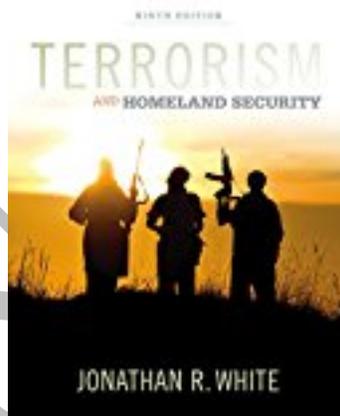
## EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

**Students are expected to:**

- **Review the Getting Started information** located in the course content;
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum;
- **Take the Practice Quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard;
- **Interact** online with instructor(s) and peers; and
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.

## TEXTBOOK



### **Terrorism and Homeland Security**

Jonathan R. White

Wadsworth Publishing, 9th Edition, 2016

ISBN-10: 1305633776

ISBN-13: 9781305633773

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

## COURSE DETAIL

### COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **e-mail**.

Please **do not** use Blackboard email for this course, as your messages will **not** be read. Use the email address [sfpieres@fiu.edu](mailto:sfpieres@fiu.edu) ONLY.

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

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## ASSESSMENTS

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

There will be (2) examinations. They will be administered according to the attached schedule. The tests will be a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions. The questions for the examination will be taken from the textbook, the lectures, and other types of media. Both exams will be administered through Blackboard during a 24-hour window. For example, on March 5 (Midterm Exam), Blackboard will **only** allow students to take the exam from 12:00am to 11:59pm. Students are given 75 minutes to complete the exam. If a test is given and the student does not take it, her/his grade will be a zero (0) and will be counted toward the final grade. No make-up examinations will be given unless the student brings "medical evidence in writing" of his/her inability to take the exam on the test date. In both instances, notification must be made on or before the examination date to explain the reason for missing it.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There will be weekly essay questions posted to Blackboard on Mondays at 9:00am, related to the required material for that week (questions will be available on all weeks except the midterm and final examination weeks). Students can select one of these weekly essay questions to write a response. **Throughout the semester, you must submit a total of four essays** selected from the weekly question options. Should you elect to answer one of the essay questions available each week, you must submit no later than Sunday at 11:59pm through the Turnitin link in the Assignment Dropbox section of Blackboard. After this time, no further submissions will be accepted for that week.

### *Writing Guidelines:*

- 1.5 page minimum or 400 words.
- 12 font, Times New Roman
- 1-inch margins
- double-spaced
- Title of essay at the top of the page only. DO NOT INSERT name, date, or class at the top.
- Make sure to cite all your work in [APA style](#) and have a reference list at the end of the paper (this does not count towards length or word count).
- Points will be deducted for not following directions.
- All submitted essays must answer **ONLY** one question and must be written in an argumentative style where there is a clear thesis statement in the first paragraph, a body of supporting evidence, and a conclusions paragraph summarizing your points (see writing tutorial guide on Blackboard).
- Answers must primarily be based on the textbook or other required reading material that I have provided. Please use outside resources sparingly, if at all. Using outside resources is not required.

Review the detailed [Turnitin Instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark

## ONLINE DISCUSSION POSTS

Students are expected to participate in an online discussion for the last week of the semester as we discuss potential counterterrorism strategies (GL #3). One or more policy questions will be posted by the professor for Week 15. Students will be required to post one (1) original response and one (1) supplemental response based on another student's post. Students are expected to post high quality messages (e.g., well-written, addressing multiple perspectives, citing sources, etc.) that are related to the discussion topic. Posting additional questions or responding to multiple discussion questions is encouraged, but will not be graded.

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## GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		WEIGHT			
Midterm Exam		35%			
Final Exam		35%			
Written Assignments (4 at 7% each)		28%			
Online Post and Response		2%			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>			
LETTER	RANGE (%)	LETTER	RANGE (%)	LETTER	RANGE (%)
A	90 - 100	C+	77 - 79	F	Below 60
B+	87 - 89	C	70 - 77		
B	80 - 87	D	60 - 69		

## COURSE CALENDAR

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPICS/TASKS	READINGS
<b>Week 1</b> Jan. 8 - Jan. 14	<b>Introductions &amp; Getting Started</b>	NONE
<b>Week 2</b> Jan. 15 - Jan. 21	<b>Terrorism in Historical and Social Contexts</b>	Chapter 1
	<b>The Social Underpinnings of Terrorism</b>	
<b>Week 3</b> Jan. 22 - Jan. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Watch: HBO's Vice - Terrorist University (Season 2; Episode 5)</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 2
<b>Week 4</b> Jan. 29 - Feb. 4	<b>Organization and Financing of Terrorism</b>	Chapter 3
	<b>Terrorism and the Media</b>	
<b>Week 5</b> Feb. 5 - Feb. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Watch Film: Control Room</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 4
	<b>Gender Roles: Tactics and Role Multipliers</b>	
<b>Week 6</b> Feb. 12 - Feb. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Watch: VICE on HBO Season One: Killer Kids (Episode 1)</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 5
<b>Week 7</b> Feb. 19 - Feb. 25	<b>Long-term Separatist Terrorism</b> <b>Nationalistic and Endemic Terrorism</b>	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
<b>Week 8</b> Feb. 26 - Mar. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Watch Film: Bloody Sunday</b></li> <li>• <b>Midterm Review will be posted</b></li> </ul>	NONE
<b>Week 9</b> Mar. 5 - Mar. 11	<b>Midterm Exam</b> <b>Available Monday Mar. 5 ONLY from 12:00am - 11:59pm</b>	NONE
<b>Week 10</b> Mar. 12 - Mar. 18	<b>SPRING BREAK - NO NEW CONTENT THIS WEEK</b>	NONE

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<b>Background to the Middle East</b>		
<b>Week 11</b> Mar. 19 - Mar. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Watch Film: <i>One Day in September</i></b></li></ul>	Chapter 8
<b>Week 12</b> Mar. 26 - Apr. 1	<b>Revolutionary and Counter Revolutionary Terrorism</b> <b>Al-Qaeda Network</b>	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
	<b>Domestic Terrorism</b>	
<b>Week 13</b> Apr. 2 - Apr. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Read <i>Rogue Element</i> article in Blackboard</b></li><li>• <b>Watch: <i>Vice: We The People (Episode 3; Season 3)</i></b></li></ul>	Chapter 12
<b>Week 14</b> Apr. 9 - Apr. 15	<b>Homeland Security</b>	Chapter 15
<b>Week 15</b> Apr. 16 - Apr. 22	<b>Final exam review will be posted</b>	NONE
<b>Week 16</b> Apr. 23 - Apr. 28	<b>Final Exam</b> <b><i>Available Monday Apr. 23 ONLY from 12:00am - 11:59pm</i></b>	Data

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