Montgomery County Community College
CJS/EMP/POL/SOC 250
Terrorism & Counter-terrorism
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Terrorism in the 21st century is a global phenomenon. This course is designed to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary survey of the history, theory, and modern-day political manifestations of terrorism and counter-terrorism. Terrorism will be evaluated in terms of its underlying cultural, economic, political, and psychological root causes. Effective counteraction and profiling requires empathetic explorations and analyses by students into causes and mind-sets. Counter-terrorism strategies and tactics will also be examined specifically in light of the legal and procedural safeguards that are fundamental to the maintenance of liberal democratic social and political values.

REQUISITES:
Previous Course Requirements
A passing grade in at least one introductory level course in any of the following: Anthropology, Criminal Justice Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology or Sociology

Concurrent Course Requirements
None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Describe the principal causes of crime, employing major criminological theories.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
2. Explain why terrorists are, for the most part, perfectly normal individuals, who are suffused with a deep and abiding hatred of their perceived enemies.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
3. Explain the position that terrorism occupies on the spectrum of political violence as a form of low-level, asymmetrical conflict.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
4. Explain terrorism as a war-fighting strategy, and describe its common systemic strategic aims.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
5. Describe the historical relationships of terrorist organizations and movements to one another over time, and how these relationships have allowed terrorist tactics to evolve over time.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
6. Describe and critique U.S. and Allied counter-terror strategies and tactics.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
7. Construct an in-depth case study analysis of an individual contemporary terrorist group or movement using open source intelligence – including: History, Geography, Culture, Ideology, Leadership, Organizational structure, Political Objectives, Recruiting, Finances, Major actions, Alliances, alignments & proxies, Suppression efforts.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
8. Construct an in-depth review and critique of a particular public policy question or issue relating to terrorism and counterterrorism – including: Definition of the threat or problem; Description of which agencies or levels of government are involved; Present legal environment; Historical precedents in the U.S. & abroad; Public acceptance and awareness; Likely financial commitment needed; Domestic & foreign political considerations; and Current state of preparedness.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
9. Demonstrate knowledge and use of internet-based open-source intelligence sites and ability to discern and filter bias from objective analysis.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:
1. Terrorism Defined -- Definitions, Tactics, & Behavior and the Origins of Modern Terrorism
2. Conceptualizing Terrorism – Criminological, Political & Religious Underpinnings
3. The Organization and Financing of Terrorism
4. Terrorism & the Media
5. Strategy & Tactics; Tactics and 'Force Multipliers' – Terrorism as a 'Weapon of the Weak'; Asymmetrical Warfare; Suicide Attacks
6. The Beginnings of Modern Terrorism – Terrorism as a Precursor to the American Revolution; Terrorism in the French Revolution & the Advent of 'State Terrorism'; 19th Century Anarchism; Pre-Revolutionary Russia and Narodnya Volya ("Peoples' Will")
7. Ireland, Pre-Partition Palestine, Algeria, and Vietnam
8. Latin American Influences on Terrorism
9. Background to the Middle East – The Advent of Islamist Fundamentalism; Islamist Fundamentalism as a Political Ideology; the Iranian Revolution & the Political Rise of the Shi'a
10. The Question of Israel and Palestine
11. International Umbrella Groups and Terror Networks – Hamas; Hizbollah; Al Qaeda as a 'Network of Networks'
12. Africa, Asia, & the Pacific Rim; Europe, Turkey & Russia, the Central Asian States
13. The Structure and Study of Domestic Terrorism in the U.S.
14. Homeland Security & the Prevention of Terrorism -- Law Enforcement Bureaucracy & Homeland Security
15. Homeland Security & Civil Liberties

LEARNING MATERIALS:
Required text:
White, Jonathan R. (2016). *Terrorism and Homeland Security* (9th ed.). Cengage/ Wadsworth. Also available in digital format from Barnes & Noble.

Supplemental readings include excerpts from:
Hoffman, Bruce. (2006). *Inside Terrorism*, Columbia University Press.
Pape, Robert A. (2005). *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. Random House.
Post, Jerrold M. (2007). *The Mind of the Terrorist: The Psychology of Terrorism from the IRA to Al-Qaeda*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
Qutb, Sayyid. *Milestone*s.
Sageman, Marc. (2008). *Leaderless Jihad: Terror Networks in the Twenty-first Century*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
Sageman, Marc. (2004). *Understanding Terror Networks*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Films:
BBC/HBO Productions, *Dirty War*, 2005.
Constantin Costa-Gavras, *State of Siege*, 1973.
Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers*, 1966.
Green & Siegel, *The Weather Underground*, 2002.

COURSE APPROVAL:
Prepared by: Benn Prybutok and Lee Wood   Date:
Revised by: Benn Prybutok   Date: 1/30/2009
Revised by: Benn Prybutok   Date: 2/22/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
              Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.   Date: 2/25/2013

Revised by: Jayden Sampson   Date: 12/16/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 12/18/2017

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.