CRJS 5841 - Terrorism and Countersurveillance

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 41986,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

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Course Description

5841. Terrorism and Countersurveillance. The course provides an introduction to terrorism and counter-terrorism techniques. Generally, the course material is divided into two parts. First, the course offers a description of terrorist and anti-government groups. Topics covered include the background and history of terrorist and anti-government groups as well as the tactics of these groups. Second, the course takes the perspective of homeland security and law enforcement agencies proactively counteracting the threats to public safety that they groups may pose. Prereq.: CRJS 1500, PHLT 1531, OR graduate student status. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Terrorism: Perspectives from the Social Sciences	Haner and Sloan	8220145771845
Required	Leaderless Resistance Today.	Garfinkel	First Monday, 8(3). https://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/1040/961
Required	Lone-Wolf Terrorism	National Security Critical Issue Task Force	https://georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NCITF-Final-Paper.pdf
Required	Graduate students only: A Brief Introduction to Theories of Collective Behavior and Social Movements.	Rogers	Available in Blackboard

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapters 1 and 2	Introduction to Terrorism	Introduce Yourself (8/26, 8/30) Chapter 1 quiz (8/26) Chapter 2 quiz (8.30)
8/31	Chapters 3 and 4	Pathways to Terrorism	Chapter 3 quiz (9/1) Chapter 4 quiz (9/6)

9/7	Chapters 6, 7, and 8	Types of Terrorism	Chapter 6 quiz (9/9) Chapter 7 quiz (9/13) Chapter 8 quiz (9/13)
9/14	Chapters 9, 10, and 11 "Leaderless Resistance Today" Lone-Wolf Terrorism	Terrorist Organization and Structure	Group Activity (9/23, 9/27) Readings quiz (9/27)
9/21	Chapters 12 and 13	Counterterrorism	Chapter 12 quiz (9/30) Chapter 13 quiz (10/4)
9/28	A Brief Introduction (grad students only)	Research Paper Prep	Group Discussion (9/15. 9/20)
10/5		Research Paper Final	Paper Submission (10/7) Video (10/7) Feedback Discussion (10/11) Reflectioin (10/11)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.