

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

HLSS154 - Mind of a Terrorist

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite: NONE

Course Description (Catalog)

This course explores models, circumstances, processes, and behaviors underlying why people radicalize and join terrorist groups, engage in terrorist activities, communicate, assume various terrorist roles, and, in some instances, de-radicalize and disengage from terrorist activities.

Course Scope

The course will help students develop both their analytical skills and their factual knowledge of modern terrorism, and U.S. national security. It does so through weekly readings, discussion forums, and the preparation of case-studies on various issues associated with terrorism. Finally, this course will also provide students with a foundation for the further study of terrorism.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

CO-1: Describe the psychological and behavioral factors of terrorism.

CO-2: Categorize means of communication and influence they have upon advancing terrorist narratives.

CO-3: Summarize psychological and behavioral factors within al Qaeda leadership and affiliate groups.

CO-4: Compare and contrast radicalization models that explain terrorist motivations.

CO-5: Summarize behavioral and psychological factors associated with disengaging from terrorism.

Course Delivery Method

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This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all assignments submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

There is not an assigned text for this course. The readings consist of selected e-book chapters and journal articles.

Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> and search by the course number (ex: HLSS154) to access your required resources.

Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the "Lessons" area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 20 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of scholarly work. There are also requirements to respond to the instructor's follow up questions and acknowledge the instructor's wrap up forum post.

Midterm assignment - 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 3 pages total, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Progress assignment - 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 3 pages total, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

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Final assignment – 30 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 5 pages total, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	20
Midterm Assignment	25
Progress Assignment	25
Final Assignment	30
Total	100

8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Selected Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	Mind of a Terrorist	CO-1	Readings are posted in the Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 1 Notes	Introduction Forum Week 1 Forum
2	Religious Extremism and Secular Government	CO-1	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 2 Notes	Week 2 Forum

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3	Leaderless Resistance and the Lone Wolf	CO-1	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 3 Notes	Week 3 Forum
4	Osama bin Laden-Terrorist CEO	CO-2 CO-3	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 4 Notes	Week 4 Forum Midterm Assignment
5	The Media and Mind Games	CO-2	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 5 Notes	Week 5 Forum
6	Evolution of bin Laden and al Qaeda	CO-2 CO-3	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 6 Notes	Week 6 Forum Progress Assignment
7	Radicalization of Homegrown Jihadists	CO-1 CO-4	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide	Week 7 Forum

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			Read: Lesson 7 Notes	
8	Disengagement and De-radicalization	CO-5	Readings are posted in the Weekly Announcements and the Course Guide Read: Lesson 8 Notes	Week 8 Forum Final Assignment

Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework for this course. See http://www.apus.edu/content/dam/online-library/resources-services/Fuson_2012_APA.pdf

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

- Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day**
- Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day**
- After 14 days, no credit will be awarded**

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Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously, so please be aware of how you are wording your forum responses and that your well intentioned comment could upset readers. Also, let’s keep “emoticons” out of our academic writing.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

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- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Turnitin.com

Written assignments will be automatically submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade.

Selected Readings

Borum, Randy. **Psychology of Terrorism.** (University of South Florida, 2004).

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf?q=psychology-of-terrorism>

Hoffman, Bruce. **Inside Terrorism.** (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/apus/Doc?id=10183571>

Canter, David. **The Faces of Terrorism-Multidisciplinary Perspectives.** (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009),

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/apus/docDetail.action?docID=10358706&p00=faces+terrorism%3A+multidisciplinary+perspectives>

King, Michael and Taylor, Donald M. **The Radicalization of Homegrown Jihadists:** A Review of Theoretical Models and Social Psychological Evidence. (London: Mortimer House, 2012),

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2011.587064>

Navarro, Joe. **ISIL Reminds Us Who Joins Terrorist Organizations and Why.** (02/11/2015) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joe-navarro/isil-reminds-us-who-joins-terrorism_b_6641738.html

Stewart, Scott. **Keeping Terrorism in Perspective.** (STRATFOR Global Intelligence, 2012). <http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/keeping-terrorism-perspective>

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Victoroff, Jeff. **The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches.** (The Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 49, No. 1 pp. 3-42, Feb., 2005). Published by: Sage Publications, Inc. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30045097>. Accessed from <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/politics/research/researchareasofstaff/isppsummeacademy/instructors%20/The%20Terrost%20mind.pdf>