

**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**  
**HLSS300**  
**Research Methods in Homeland Security**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Length of Course: 8 Weeks**  
**Prerequisite: NONE**

### Course Description (Catalog)

This course should be taken as the first course in the program. This course prepares students to employ basic research methods and writing skills to produce sound research papers and analytical products. Students will learn how to develop the elements of a research strategy, critically read and evaluate data, and communicate their findings in coherent, well-organized written work.

### Course Scope

As a 300-level course, this course provides a foundation of knowledge that the student will use in the Homeland Security Studies program to be successful in higher level courses. The purpose and scope of this course is to provide the student with the educational concepts on which to build a deeper understanding of Homeland Security.

### Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.
- CO-2: Describe the components of a research paper.
- CO-3: Apply scholarly research material.
- CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

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CO-5: Produce an empirically based qualitative research paper.

### **Course Delivery Method**

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 written assignments, examinations, and research papers 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: HLSS300) 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 – 40 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 original ideas.

#### **Weekly assignments – 60 percent**

There are 6 assignments for this course and starting in week 2 and ending in week 8. It is imperative that you look at the assignment to get the instructions for the assignments.

<b>Grade Instruments</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Forum Discussions (8)	<b>40</b>
Weekly Assignments	<b>60</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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## 8 – Week Course Outline

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Topic(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Course Objective(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Reading(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment(s)</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Defining Research</b>	CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.	See Week 1 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Introduction Forum Week 1 Forum
<b>2</b>	<b>Developing a Research Question</b>	CO-3: Apply scholarly research material. CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.	See Week 2 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Research Question and Library Exercise Assignment Week 2 Forum
<b>3</b>	<b>Scientific Method, Reasoning, and Hypothesis</b>	CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle. CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.	See Week 3 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Research question and hypothesis exercise Week 3 Forum
<b>4</b>	<b>Choosing Resources and Writing with Intelligence</b>	CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.	See Week 4 Readings and Resources in your Lessons	Article Review Assignment Week 4 Forum

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		CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.	Tab	
<b>5</b>	<b>Research Approaches</b>	CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards	See Week 5 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Research Approaches Exercise Forum Week 5 Forum
<b>6</b>	<b>Writing a Short Article or Essay</b>	CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.  CO-3: Apply scholarly research material.  CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.  CO-5: Produce an empirically based qualitative research paper.	See Week 6 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Short Article Assignment Week 6 Forum
<b>7</b>	<b>Preparing to Write a Research</b>	CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.	See Week 7 Readings and Resources in	No assignment for this week

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	<b>paper</b>		your Lessons Tab	Week 7 Forum
<b>8</b>	<b>Writing a Research Paper</b>	CO-5: Produce an empirically based qualitative research paper.	See Week 8 Readings and Resources in your Lessons Tab	Assignment week 8 - Short Research Paper Week 8 Forum

## **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](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.

## **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

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“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. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

## 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](mailto: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.
- **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

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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.

**Request a Library Guide for your course**  
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

### **Selected Bibliography**

Office of the Director for National Intelligence, *US National Intelligence: An Overview 2011*. Washington, DC, 2011.

The Elements of Style - <http://www.bartleby.com/141/strunk101.html>

The University of Chicago Writing Program, *Writing in College* (Chicago, accessed 2013)