

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Terrorism  
**Course Number:** EMHS:360  
**Course Credits:** 3 credit hours  
**Prerequisites:** 2235:305 Principles of Emergency Mgmt

**Course Description:** Examines terrorism from historical, international, transnational, and domestic perspectives. Includes political terrorism and terrorism in the name of religion, along with emergency management considerations.

**Program Outcomes:**

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

- 1) Define *terrorism* and demonstrate an understanding of how the definition can change from different perspectives;
- 2) Briefly discuss the history of terrorism and identify key events in its evolution;
- 3) Identify the major perpetrators of terrorism and their activities, and demonstrate an understanding of their motives;
- 4) Identify the meaning of “state terrorism” and explain how states have used terrorism to advance their interests;
- 5) Explain how and why non-state actors commit terrorist acts against governments and social systems;
- 6) Provide examples of how terrorists have used weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to further their goals and the possibilities for their use in the future;
- 7) Identify key U.S. counterterrorism policies and practices, and demonstrate an understanding of the possible legal and moral dilemmas associated with them; and
- 8) Identify and discuss the future implications of terrorism for the United States and for emergency managers.

**Course Outline:**

**Part I:** Critical Foundations for the Study of Terrorism: Background, History, and Definitions

**Week 1:** What is Terrorism?

**Week 2:** How do you define terrorism?

**Week 3:** What is the history of terrorism?

**Week 4:** Are we seeing the advent of a “new” terrorism?

**Part II:** Identifying the Terrorists, their Activities, and their Motivations

**Week 5:** What is state-sponsored terrorism?

**Week 6:** What is dissident terrorism?

**Week 7:** What is religion-inspired terrorism and how is it rationalized?

**Week 8:** What is the criminal and political terrorism nexus?

**Part III:** The Terrorist Trade: Financing of Terror, Cyber-terrorism, and WMD

**Week 9:** How do terrorists finance their activities?

**Week 10:** How plausible is it that terrorists might use WMD?

**Week 11:** Why is cyber-terrorism such a desirable tactic for terrorists?

**Week 12:** Let’s play the “Terrorism Game”!

**Part IV:** Counterterrorism Approaches, Operations, and Implications for Emergency Managers

**Week 13:** What approaches and actions have the United States and the international community taken to address terrorism?

**Week 14:** What are the legal and moral dilemmas surrounding how democracies respond to perceived national security threats?

**Week 15:** What are the future implications of terrorism for the United States and for emergency managers?

**GRADING SCALE:**

| Grade | Percent Required |
|-------|------------------|
| A     | 93-100           |
| A-    | 90-92            |
| B+    | 87-89            |
| B     | 83-86            |
| B-    | 80-82            |
| C+    | 77-79            |
| C     | 73-76            |
| C-    | 70-72            |
| D+    | 67-69            |
| D     | 63-66            |
| D-    | 60-62            |
| F     | 0-59             |

**Assessment:**

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

**Special Accommodations:**

If there are special circumstances which affect your learning in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. Accommodations can be arranged through the Office of Accessibility, located in Simmons Hall, 105 (972-7928).