

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 123–02: Terrorism & Security**  
**Spring 2021**

**COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Jackson Sargent, MPA  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Virtual  
Email: jackson.sargent@sjsu.edu  
Class Day & Time: N/A  
Classroom: Online

**COURSE FORMAT**

Online: The Canvas Learning Management System will be used as the means for distributing course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, and communications about changes to the course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of updates.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Examination of terrorist organizations and activities, definitions of terrorism, and social and political consequences of terrorism. Includes policy responses to terrorism, including roles of intelligence and security agencies, and impacts on law, rights, and liberties.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Terrorism is one of the major problems that endanger human security throughout the world. Since 9/11 the successive US governments have been spearheading a global war on terror that requires a substantial commitment of resources. Organizations like Hamas in the Palestinian territories and ISIS in Syria and Iraq have brought terrorism again to the center-stage of public discourse in the United States and the world. Due to the complexity of terrorism, which is a tactic used by individuals, groups, and states for a variety of goals, no single course can give you a full understanding of the topic. The purpose of this course is to provide the tools necessary to become educated consumers of research and news in the post- 9/11 world.

**COURSE GOALS**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- ✓ Understand the phenomenon of terrorism as distinguishable from other forms of political violence;
- ✓ Be familiar with the theoretical underpinnings of terrorism;
- ✓ Understand the rationality of terrorist violence as opposed to the common perception of terrorism as acts of deranged individuals;
- ✓ Identify causal factors that drive terrorist violence;
- ✓ Understand the risks to human security presented by terrorist violence;
- ✓ Identify and discuss legal methods of responding to and controlling terror groups;
- ✓ Articulate course concepts in both written and verbal form; and
- ✓ Possess a body of knowledge and skills suitable for further academic study or professional training on the topics of terrorism and security.

## REQUIRED TEXTS / READINGS

### *Textbook*

White, J. R. (2016). *Terrorism and homeland security* (9<sup>th</sup> Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN13: 9781305633773

### *Other Readings*

Supplied electronically via Canvas

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

*Online Discussion (20%)*: Active participation in discussions is a necessary and integral part of the course. Each week there will be an online discussion, through Canvas, on specific readings and key issues or current events related to that week's overall topic. Students will be expected to discuss the implications of the issue or event to our understanding of terrorism-related events in the United States and the world.

*Article Critique (10%)*: This assignment will require students to write a short paper (not less than 1,000 words) as a critique to an article provided by the instructor (available on Canvas). Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

*Substantial Paper (20%)*: This assignment will require students to select a terrorist group (or its prevailing activity) and report its origins and evolution; the structure and operation of the organization; its primary target(s); and its impact on society. Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>.**

*Midterm and Final Examinations (50%)*: Students will be administered a Midterm and a Final Examination, each worth 25% of their final grade. Each timed exam will occur online and will cover material from lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.

## GRADING INFORMATION

To receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met, and every assignment must be completed. *At the discretion of the course instructor, late assignments/papers may be subject to a deduction of 10 percent for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.*

### Grade Scale

A	=	94-100%	A-	=	90-93%
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	=	Below 60%

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Course topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

Week	Beginning	Topic	Readings
1	01/27/21	<b>Introduction/Defining Terrorism</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 1 (The Shifting Definition of Terrorism)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
2	02/01/21	<b>Types of Terrorism</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 2 (Practical Criminology, Radicalization, and Types of Terrorism)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
3	02/08/21	<b>The Business of Terrorism</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 3 (Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
4	02/15/21	<b>Terrorism and the Media</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 4 (Terrorism and the Media)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>5</b>	02/22/21	<b>Terrorist Tactics</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 5 (Force Multipliers, Gender Roles, and Tactics)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
<b>6</b>	03/01/21	<b>Separatists</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 6 (Long-Term Separatist Terrorism)
<b>7</b>	03/08/21	<b>Nationalists</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 7 (Nationalistic and Endemic Terrorism)
<b>8</b>	03/15/21	<b>Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 8 (Background to the Middle East) Chapter 9 (Terrorism in Israel and Palestine)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
<b>9</b>	03/22/21	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>NO READINGS</b>
<b>10</b>	03/29/21	<b>SPRING RECESS</b>	<b>NO READINGS</b>
<b>11</b>	04/05/21	<b>Revolutionaries and Jihadists</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 10 (Revolutionary and Counterrevolutionary Terrorism) Chapter 11 (Jihadist Networks)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas  <b>Article Critique due Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>12</b>	04/12/21	<b>Domestic Terrorism</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 12 (Domestic Terrorism)
<b>13</b>	04/19/21	<b>Cyberterrorism</b>	Readings provided by instructor on Canvas  <b>Substantial Paper due Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>14</b>	04/26/21	<b>Homeland Security I: Legal Framework</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 13 (An Introduction for Homeland Security) Chapter 14 (Organizing Homeland Security) Chapter 15 (Homeland Security and Constitutional Issues)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>15</b>	05/03/21	<b>Homeland Security II: Policing Terrorism</b>	<i>Terrorism and Homeland Security (White)</i> Chapter 16 (Law Enforcement, Homeland Security, and the Future)  Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
<b>16</b>	05/10/21	<b>REVIEW</b>	<b>NO READINGS</b>
<b>17</b>	05/17/21	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 5.15 – 7.30pm</b>