**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Community and Continuing Education**

**HLS 105 – Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:**  HLS 105 Terrorism and Counterterrorism

**Credit Hours:**  3.0 **Contact Hours:**  3.0 **Lecture:** 3.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  Grade of “C” or better in HLS 101 or permission of the instructor

**Co-requisites:** None **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Effective Date:**  Fall 2011

**Course Description**: This course examines international and domestic terrorism, motives and the operations of terroristic groups, individuals, and state sponsors. Students will learn about threats to and vulnerabilities of the United States’ national defense and private sectors posed by terrorists. Students will explore and engage in discussions about military responses, measures taken to prevent terrorist strikes, contemporary threats of “cyberterrorism” and “cyberwar” and the need to provide homeland security and preserve civil liberties.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. define, explain, and analyze domestic and international terrorism and the typologies of terrorism and counterterrorism;

2. analyze the structure and dynamics of terroristic groups and the relationship between the terrorism and the media; and

1. describe, explain, and analyze the psychological and physical effects of terrorism on its victims and the methods utilized by law enforcement and intelligence agencies in preventing and detecting terrorism.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Define, explain, and analyze domestic and international terrorism and the typologies of terrorism and counterterrorism:

1.1 *outline threats to national and international security that merit action with vulnerable border and transportation;*

1.2 *analyze methods and techniques for obtaining, analyzing, and detecting terroristic practices;* and

1.3 *describe twenty-first century terrorism worldwide*

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)** (continued):

2. Analyze the structure and dynamics of terroristic groups and the relationship between the terrorism and the media:

2.1 *compare and contrast terrorism in a global context and in America*;

2.2 *describe who and what is involved in the structure and dynamics of terroristic groups;* and

2.3 *analyze and describe terrorist propaganda and the media and terror in cyberspace*

3. Describe, explain, and analyze the psychological and physical effects of terrorism on its victims and the methods utilized by law enforcement and intelligence agencies in preventing and detecting terrorism:

3.1 *describe America’s post-9/11 national security strategies*; and

3.2 *analyze counterterrorism measures*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of lecture, class discussions, homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and completion of a typed 5 – 7 page research paper.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Quiz and exam questions are blueprinted to course objectives. A checklist rubric is used to evaluate the research paper for the presence of course objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Maintain regular attendance.

2. Read assigned chapters and complete homework.

3. Take part in class discussions.

4. Take all quizzes and exams as scheduled.

5. Submit a typed, double-spaced 5 – 7 page research paper on due date.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Homework assignments and class participation 20%**

Students will complete chapter questions in writing, for collection in class, to foster learning and comprehension of terrorism and counterterrorism. The assignments will provide evidence of student mastery of course objectives.

* **2 or more Quizzes**   **20%**

Quizzes will show evidence of the extent to which students meet course objectives, demonstrating an operational knowledge of intelligence gathering and analysis related to terrorism and counterterrorism.

* **5 – 7 page Research Paper 20%**

Papers will be double-spaced and typed and are required to enhance the understanding of border security analysis and how it affects security measures in the United States. The topic will be approved by the instructor and will relate to course objectives.

* Midterm Exam 20%

The midterm exam will show evidence of student mastery of course objectives and of student comprehension of course material covered in the first half of the semester, including material from chapters 1 – 9.

* **Final Exam** **20%**

The final exam will show evidence of student mastery of course objectives and of student comprehension of course material covered in the last half of the semester, including material from chapters 10 – 17.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the text **Terrorism and Counterterrorism**, 4th edition, by Brigitte L Nacos; 2010.

**WeekChapter/Topic**

1 Chapters 1 & 2 – Terrorism: What is Terrorism?

2 Chapters 3 & 4 – Terrorism in Global Context; Terrorism in American Context

3 Chapters 5 & 6 – Making Terroristic Threats: Causes, Conditions, and Influences

4 Chapter 7 – State Sponsors and Involuntary Hosts

5 Chapter 8 – Common Thread: Goals, Targets, and Tactics

6 Chapter 9 – Organizational Structures and Finances

7 Chapter 10 – America’s Post-9/11 National Security Strategy

**MIDTERM EXAM**

8Chapter 11 – Counterterrorism: Utility of Hard and Soft Power

9 Chapters 12 & 13 – Balancing Security, Liberty, and Human Rights; Homeland Security

10 Chapter 14 – Terrorist Propaganda and the Media; Publicity: The Universal Terrorist

Goal

11 Chapter 15 – Terror and Hate in Cyberspace

12 Chapter 16 – Anti- and Counterterrorism in the News

13 Chapter 17 – Living with Terroristic Threats

**Research Paper due**

14 Review for Final Exam

15 **FINAL EXAM**