

## **BSST 631: SOCIETAL IMPACTS AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM**

Instructor: Emina Herovic, Ph.D., Assistant Clinical Professor  
Email: [eherovic@umd.edu](mailto:eherovic@umd.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Class: Online: Thursdays 6 pm - 8:30 pm (January 25 – May 10, 2018)

Assistant: Joyce Rasing, Graduate Education Program Coordinator  
Email: [jrasing@umd.edu](mailto:jrasing@umd.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course will examine the societal impacts of terrorism and address how various actors and stakeholders respond to both terrorist incidents and the threat of terrorism. This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of both short- and long-term impacts of terrorism at the micro, meso, and macro level and helps students develop a multifaceted perspective on individual and community resilience in the face of terrorist threats.

The course will require use of multiple social and electronic media systems, including but not limited to: Canvas, ICONSNet, PowerPoint, Ignite, and Prezi.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will develop understanding of the responses and impacts of terrorism and the threat of terrorism on individuals and groups through readings, discussion, critical thought, and assignment application.
2. Students will learn to communicate scientific ideas on the topic of terrorism through course discussion, presentation of material, and idea formation.
3. Students will theorize on what allows individuals and communities to develop resilience in the face of terrorist threats through evaluation of past theories, critical thought and discussion with their peers, and examination of gaps in the literature.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research on terrorism by identifying a problem, conceptualizing and operationalizing the phenomenon, and using quantitative and/or qualitative methodology and analysis to develop plausible solutions to the problem.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to work efficiently and effectively on a research team by meeting joint goals and utilizing appropriate communication strategies and conflict management skills.

### **Course Policies**

This course adheres to the UMD course policies as outlined here:  
<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

### **Required Texts**

This course does not have a required textbook(s). The instructor may provide required readings on Canvas. Students will be required to locate relevant and current scholarly works towards their research projects.

## Attendance

Students should attend all class periods to be held online Thursdays 6 pm - 8:30pm EST between January 25, 2018 – May 10, 2018. For a full description of the attendance policy, see: [https://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/attend\\_student.html](https://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/attend_student.html)

## Assignments (400 points total)

### Participation in Class Discussions and Activities and Online Discussion Board (20 points total, 5% of final grade)

This is a graduate-level course and as such, students should be prepared to engage in a meaningful and fruitful discussion every class period. This requires that students complete the assigned readings in preparation for each class and come to class with ideas, thoughts, comments, and questions. Additionally, class periods may involve an activity of intellectual and critical thought and students are responsible for keenly completing the activity.

As this is an online course, it is equally important that students are engaging with their peers outside of class time. When prompted, students should be prepared to engage in conversation via the online discussion board. This requires that students thoughtfully assess the readings, tie together concepts from readings and the real world, and develop discussion board posts that are at least 2 paragraphs (a minimum of 10 sentences in length). Students will be asked to cite at least 1 reading of the week in their response. Students will also be required to respond to at least two other peers' posts.

### Reading Takeaways (4 x 10 points each, 40 points total, 10% of final grade)

Students will be required to come to class periods with at least 1 page of notes (total) from the week's reading. Reading notes should answer the following questions for each reading: (1) What was my main takeaway from this reading? (2) What was something I especially liked/disliked about the author(s) argument? *Although there are 6 reading takeaways due in the daily schedule, students will only be required to turn in 4 as they are not responsible for reading takeaways the days of their reading presentation and discussion.*

### Reading Presentation and Discussion (2 x 50 points, 100 points total, 25% of final grade)

Students will be responsible for reading, critically analyzing, and presenting high level concepts from the reading to the class during their designated week(s). Specifically, on their assigned day(s), teams should be (1) ready to provide a 25-30 minute presentation on: the highlight of the readings and 2-3 real world examples that relate to the readings, and (2) lead discussion for 30 minutes by developing 5-7 critical and engaging questions that were inspired by the reading. Students may deliver their presentations using either PowerPoint or Prezi. *Note: Students are NOT required to post on the online discussion board and turn in a reading takeaway the day of their group's reading presentation and discussion.*

### Simulation Participation (4 x 5 points, 20 points total, 5% of final grade)

Over the course of the semester, students will participate in several online simulations.

Simulations are meant to provide students with a more “real” experience of the concepts discussed in class and measure students’ responses to critical events in real-time. They will take place in a secure, social networking forum called ICONSNet. Students will receive instructions for accessing each simulation. Simulations include:

- 1) Blue Ribbon/Presidential Commission
- 2) Countering Violent Extremism
- 3) Crisis in Valleyton
- 4) India/Pakistan

Drafts of Final Paper (3 x 20 points, 60 points total, 15% of final grade)

During the semester, students will be responsible for drafts of their final paper. The instructor will provide students with guidelines for each draft.

Final Paper: Terrorism Case Analysis (100 points total, 25% of final grade)

Students will be required to submit a final research report, a terrorism case analysis, inclusive of the following sections: cover page, introduction, rationale, literature review (inclusive of theoretical lens), methodology, analysis, implications, and references. The research report should follow APA style guidelines and be at least 20 pages *of content* in length and cite at least 18 sources.

Ignite Presentation (60 points total, 15% of final grade)

At the end of the semester, students will present a 5-minute Ignite presentation of their case study. The instructor will provide students with guidelines and examples to help them prepare.

## Weekly Schedule\*

*\*Please note: this schedule may be apt to change.*

Week		Topics	Class Activities & Assignments Due
1	1/25	Introduction to BSST631/Group Contracts	<p><b>Discussion Board Post Due:</b> Intro to Self &amp; Response to Others</p> <p>Introduction to course, syllabus highlights, and each other</p> <p>Reading Presentation Teams and Dates Provided</p> <p>Teams form contracts</p>
2	2/1	Defining Terrorism	<p><b>Discussion Board Post Due:</b> What is Terrorism?</p> <p><b>Reading Takeaway Due</b></p>
3	2/8	Patriotism, Nationalism, and Terrorism	<p><b>Discussion Board Post Due</b></p> <p><b>Reading Takeaway Due</b></p> <p>Update: Paper Topics</p> <p><b>Groups 1 and 2:</b> Presentation &amp; Discussion</p>
4	2/15	Law Enforcement and Military Responses to Terrorism	<p><b>Discussion Board Post Due</b></p> <p><b>Reading Takeaway Due</b></p> <p>Pair Share: Paper Status and Questions</p> <p><b>Groups 3 and 4:</b> Presentation &amp; Discussion</p>
5	2/22	Simulation/Case Study 1	<b>Rough Draft 1 Due</b>

6	3/1	Emotional Responses to Terrorism	<b>Discussion Board Post Due</b> <b>Reading Takeaway Due</b> <b>Groups 5 and 6:</b> Presentation & Discussion
7	3/8	Cultural Implications of Terrorism	<b>Discussion Board Post Due</b> <b>Reading Takeaway Due</b> <b>Groups 7 and 8:</b> Presentation & Discussion  Update: Paper Status
8	3/15	Simulation/Case Study 2	<b>Rough Draft 2 Due</b>
9	3/22	No Class: SPRING BREAK	
10	3/29	Simulation/Case Study 3	Mid-Semester Evaluation & Feedback
11	4/5	Counter-Terrorism Approaches	<b>Discussion Board Post Due</b> <b>Reading Takeaway Due</b> <b>Groups 9 and 10:</b> Presentation & Discussion
12	4/12	Simulation/Case Study 4	<b>Discussion Board Post Due: Challenges/Questions with Final Paper</b>
13	4/19	Peer Review	<b>Rough Draft 3 Due</b>  In-class peer review and feedback
14	4/26	Final Presentations	<b>Ignite Presentation Materials Due</b>

15	5/3	Final Presentations	<b>Final Paper Due</b>
16	5/10	End of Semester Reflection and Discussion	UMD Course Evaluation

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