

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

GOVT 481 COUNTER-TERRORISM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will evaluate the main aspects of the war on terror. The course will focus on dilemmas relating to intelligence gathering, offensive and defensive actions taken against terrorist organizations, civil liberties and media coverage, and the strategies and approaches for combating terrorism.

RATIONALE

The terrorist threat posed by Islamic extremist groups is the greatest threat to the Western World of the modern era—greater even than that of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. This course will build on the foundational understandings of terrorism with specific focus on the weapons, tactics, strategies, and approaches necessary to counter or combat terrorism. The desire is to produce graduates, who will become future decision makers, with the tools necessary to make rational and effective decisions for both preventing and countering terrorism.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video capabilities
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Explain the history of terrorism and terrorist groups, as well as the development of terrorist ideologies.
- B. Analyze counter-terrorist case studies, their histories, successes, and failures.
- C. Create cogent, practical proposals for future counter-terrorist operations.

- D. Evaluate ideas and theories surrounding counter-terrorism.
- E. Apply appropriate counter-terrorism strategies based on reasoned arguments.
- F. Compare biblical Scriptures and perspectives with real world situations.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (8)

The student will take part in 8 Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. The student will post a thread of 250 words minimum presenting his/her own opinion on the assigned topic by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of the assigned module/week. Additionally, the student will post replies of at least 100 words to 2 other students' threads by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

D. Research Paper

The student will choose a topic directly related to the study of intelligence analysis and write a 5–8-page research paper on that topic, making use of a minimum of 5 different sources. The paper must be written in Turabian format and adhere to the standards of academic writing. In Module/Week 2, the student will post a thread of his/her chosen research paper topic in a Discussion Board Forum. The completed Research Paper is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 7.

E. Exams (2)

The student will complete a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam during Modules/Weeks 4 and 8. Both exams are open-book/open-notes, but are not to be collaborated on with any other person. The student will have 2 hours and 45 minutes to complete 4 essay questions per exam.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
Research Paper	200
Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)	200
Final Exam (Modules 5–8)	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Plagiarism

Any student caught plagiarizing will be subject to university disciplinary procedures ranging from failure of the project to expulsion from school. The simple rule is, when in doubt, CITE IT! Yes, direct quotations must be cited, but so must any concept that is not your own. If you borrow it from elsewhere, you must give credit to the place where you took it from. Plagiarism is a serious offense and utilizing the work of others without proper citation is a clear violation of University policy.

E. Multiple Submissions of Papers

Effective Spring 2007, any writing assignment required for a Helms School of Government course must be an original composition drafted specifically for the individual course. When a course requirement in an upper division course builds upon a previously researched topic, and the student desires to utilize his/her prior submission as a foundational document for the new course assignment, he/she may bring a copy of the previous paper to the current instructor. The instructor will review with the student the additional research and writing elements needed to complete the current assignment without violating this policy.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

GOVT 481

Textbook: Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism* (2006).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hoffman: ch. 1 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1	10 50
2	Hoffman: chs. 2–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	50
3	Hoffman: ch. 4 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
4	Hoffman: ch. 5 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Midterm Exam	50 200
5	Hoffman: ch. 6 1 presentation	DB Forum 5	50
6	Hoffman: ch. 7 1 presentation	DB Forum 6	50
7	Hoffman: ch. 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 7 Research Paper	50 200
8	Hoffman: ch. 9 1 presentation	DB Forum 8 Final Exam	50 200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.