

**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***

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### **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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

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

C. Disability Assistance

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

***COURSE SCHEDULE***

**GOVT 481**

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

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

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.