

	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS Terrorism and Emergency Management Fall 2026 ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS
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COURSE INFORMATION

EADP 4090 Terrorism and Emergency Management

Fall 2026

EADP 4090, 3 credit hours

Instructor Contact Information

Dr. Ronald P Timmons, Principal Lecturer

Chilton Hall 308H, (940) 565-2213

Office hours: Wednesdays 12 noon – 2 PM, or by Zoom (verify by email prior)

Ronald.Timmons@unt.edu

About the Instructor

My passion is to help you learn about topics important to your career, using my experience and insights gained in years of public service.

I am a graduate of the Public Affairs Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Dallas and the Public Administration master's degree program at the State University of New York. I also completed a master's degree in Homeland Security and Defense at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Prior to appointment as a lecturer at UNT, my service in the public sector was in New York state and Texas as a fire chief, 911 director, and emergency management director.

I welcome your participation in this course as we work together to find new and better ways to secure our homeland.

Required Text



McEntire, David A. *Introduction to Homeland Security - Understanding Terrorism Prevention and Emergency Management*, Second Edition. Hoboken: Wiley, 2018. 9781119430636
SECOND EDITION

Digital version is available through the UNT Library

Course Description

This course is intended to help you understand what terrorism is, how it influences modern society and what you can do about it, both personally and professionally. As an on-line option to the same course taught in UNT classrooms for several years, this delivery format allows the engaged and ambitious student the opportunity to gain the same knowledge as their on-campus peers.

To maximize your effectiveness in this course, you will need to apply many of the same ethics as a classroom course-- stay on track, pace yourself and sustain your attention through the end of the semester. It is important to fulfill your obligation to maximize your knowledge content, considering the time and personal resources you are investing.

On-line courses provide some additional convenience to the learner, such as time and location transparency and flexibility, yet there are additional responsibilities. It takes additional personal discipline to independently motivate yourself to complete assignments in a timely manner and to cover the assigned material and even explore beyond the minimum requirements. You will still have time- dependent assignments mimicking the pace and obligations of the classroom; you should frankly acknowledge to yourself that the in-person oversight of your instructor, and even some of the peer pressure classroom projects generate, will be different and it will be up to you to keep the personal challenge level high.

As the instructor, you can expect from me learning guidance, professional course content advice and direction, and sincere intent to provide a conducive and fair learning environment. Just like in classroom courses, it is best to stay in touch with the instructor throughout the semester, with office hours contact if necessary, and email conversations using UNT email addresses.

Learning Objectives

1. The learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums within the course learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.
2. You will describe and synthesize learning, theory, and contemporary concepts as it relates to homeland security in particular, as well as general, all-hazards emergency management principles.
3. The student will be able to define, from scholarly sources, what terrorism is and identify why it occurs.
4. Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of practical measures to deal with the challenge of terrorism.
5. The learner will analyze the effect of terrorists' operations, articulate terrorist motivations, and discuss the methods to lessen the impacts of attacks.

How the Course is Organized

Each week of the semester is segmented into weekly video lectures, accessible in the course Canvas site. Those wishing to see the word transcripts as the video plays may use the cc button on the lower right corner of the viewer screens. Students read the chapter, take a quiz and contribute to a discussion forum, when assigned. The units follow the same order as the textbook chapters.

Note: Some of the pictures and titles in the videos reflect the previous version of the textbook. The video provides commentary from the course instructor, and emphasizes key aspects, mimicking a classroom lecture. In all cases, quiz and test material will be drawn from the actual new, second edition, textbook material.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities

- ✓ Read the corresponding text chapter [In your textbook] ✓ View the weekly video lecture ✓
- ✓ Take the unit quiz within the proper timeframe ✓ Contribute to any assigned weekly discussion

What Should Students Do First?

Review the “Start Here” content inside the course Canvas. Familiarize yourself with all of the elements in this syllabus and contact the instructor by email with any questions. All communications between students and the instructor are through UNT.EDU emails. A simple syllabus quiz will verify your awareness of basic course structure.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / ASSISTANCE

Minimum Technical Skills Needed
Using the Canvas Learning System
Using email

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The University of North Texas [UIT Student Helpdesk](#) provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Monday-Friday 8am-8pm

ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System: Canvas. To get started with the course, please go to: <https://canvas.unt.edu>
You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: <http://ams.unt.edu>.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Assessment 1:

Syllabus Quiz: 6 points (6% of total course grade)

A required syllabus quiz will be available for the first two weeks of class. Students are required to read the syllabus and complete the online quiz in Canvas. Six percent of your course grade is associated with the open-book quiz. The purpose of this assessment is to ensure you have read and understand the syllabus. For this one quiz only, you will have two chances to achieve a high score.

Assessment 2:

15 Unit Quizzes: 2 points each (30% of total course grade)

Course Objective/Learning Outcomes #2 & 4:

2. The learner will describe and synthesize learning, theory, and contemporary concepts as it relates to homeland security in particular, as well as general, all-hazards emergency management principles.
4. The learner will describe and synthesize learning, theory, and contemporary concepts as it relates to homeland security in particular, as well as general, all-hazards emergency management principles.

The open-book quizzes following each unit are taken using the Canvas Quiz tool. You will have ten minutes and one attempt. Students must complete them within the assignment window and during the listed time limits. The quiz window rolls one week before and one week after each assigned week; late attempts will not be permitted.

Assessment Method: Multiple Choice

Assessment 3:

12 Discussion Forums: 2 points each (24% of total course grade)

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes #1 & 5:

1. The learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums within the course learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

5. The learner will analyze the effect of terrorists' operations, articulate terrorist motivations, and discuss the methods to lessen the impacts of attacks.

The discussion forums are related to the unit readings. Upon completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion with your learning community peers. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for both *quality* and *quantity*, timeliness of your contributions, and a detailed analysis of linking together theory (readings) to application (activities). In fairness to all, you must make your initial post before the Thursday deadline, so there is something there for others to read and comment on. Those chronically posting in the final hours before the midnight deadline may be subject to grade penalty.

Make your posts in at least one paragraph containing at least four substantial sentences. Show your awareness of the assigned material, demonstrating you have read the material and you have considered the information. Also, comment to other student's post. For the best result, develop your input inside a word processing application, such as MS Word; once you are satisfied with optimum word choice and proper spelling, you can paste your work into the proper Canvas discussion section.

Please remember the scope of this course- it is to understand and appreciate terrorism within the context of emergency management principles. The focus is to devise processes and procedures to hasten a community's return to normalcy after a terror attack. Consistent with an "all hazards" approach, we consider the commonality among other disasters, like floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornado outbreaks. While terrorism carries many complicating factors, the underlying approach of this course is to dwell on community resilience and response after an attack.

Within the discussions, there can be a tendency to lose focus by disproportionately getting distracted by politically-charged rhetoric and divisive, partisan positions. For example, labeling one domestic group or another as "terrorists" has become a hot political topic. The constraints of a semi-anonymous student online discussion forum has inherent limitations for civil debate. I hope you can find other outlets to have those important political discussions in person—at a coffee shop with friends, or at a political science class. Fellow students in an online course are from a variety of walks of life and professions; be sure that your comments are not pejorative, and remain focused and germane to the topic of that chapter of the textbook.

Assessment Method: Each forum will be graded using this Discussion Forum Rubric.

Two full points are awarded for contributions pertinent to the topic, adding to the discussion underway.

Grade point penalties, in .25 increments, may be assessed for instances of:

- significant spelling and grammatical errors
- incomplete grammatical syntax (no “texting talk” like imho, cuz, i, etc.)
- overly-short answers, such as: “me too,” “I agree,” are not acceptable; comment posts must be at least four sentences.
- excessive copying and pasting from other sources
- incomplete effort (new post from you, plus a comment on another student’s is required)
- responses not pertinent to the topic
- mistimed contribution
- chronically posting initial comments so close to the deadline, others have nothing to read
- copying the work of other students, or pasting from external sources

Assessment 4:

Midterm Exam: 20 points

Final Exam: 20 points

Course Objective/Learning Outcomes #1-5: The learner will integrate all course learning objectives in these comprehensive exams.

These closed book exams will cover the required unit reading assignments and the content of the online lectures. Complete the exams online by accessing the Canvas exam section. The exams will be timed and grades made available to students upon submission. Do not use public wifi, unstable Internet connections, nor the Canvas mobile app for testing. Complete the exam from memory, without use of outside references; browser continuity will be monitored to assure single-focus on the exam.

If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. If you experience any issues while taking an exam, you must contact the Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis, based on the documentation.

Assessment Method: Multiple Choice

Course Grading

Each point earned during the semester equals one percent towards your final grade.

Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

No “extra credit” will be available; the final point total determines the final grade.

Course Assignments	
Syllabus Quiz	6 points
Unit Quizzes	30 points
Unit Discussions	24 points
Midterm Exam	20 points
Final Exam	20 points

Accessing Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Late submissions are subject to grade penalty, as outlined. In the event of technical issues, follow the steps provided and also notify the instructor immediately, by UNT email.

Participation / Discussions

Regular student participation and honoring of assignment deadlines are expected, as outlined throughout this syllabus. Students not meeting assignment timeframes may be subject to grade penalty.

The course Canvas is the main content platform. The instructor will note the time and dates of your Canvas work as a measure of your attention to the course and an indication mimicking “attendance” at a traditional classroom course. Course content, flow, and any necessary changes will be communicated via Canvas, obligating the student to login regularly to sufficiently participate and remain aware. Any student not logging in for more than seven days will be subject to grade penalty for absence. If unanticipated, extenuating circumstances prevent you from logging in for more than seven days, contact the instructor by UNT email.

Online Quizzes and Tests

The weekly quizzes are “open-book,” but you must complete within the assigned time.

The midterm and final exams are “closed-book,” and timed; they can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you begin. Avoid unstable wifi connections, such a public wifi, if there is any chance of losing the connection during the exam. Student access to computer labs is provided on the UNT campus.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR/COURSE DESIGN

Tip: Use the calendar feature inside Canvas to stay current on grading deadlines.

Chapter Summaries, include information from John Wiley & Sons, Inc. © 2008, 2015, 2019

August 17 – August 23

Introductory Session

Review the syllabus, take the syllabus quiz, contribute to the introductory discussion

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz before the due date:

CHAPTER 1. UNDERSTANDING A NEW GLOBAL PRIORITY: TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

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August 24 – August 30

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 2. IDENTIFYING TERRORISM: IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR RELATION TO DISASTERS and take the chapter quiz.

Contribute to the class discussion by Thursday at 11:59 PM, and comment on other student's posts by Sunday.

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August 31 – September 6

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 3. RECOGNIZING THE CAUSES OF TERRORISM: DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES AND THE ROLE OF IDEOLOGY

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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September 7 – September 13

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 4. COMPREHENDING TERRORISTS AND THEIR BEHAVIOR: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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September 14 – September 20

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 5. UNCOVERING THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF TERRORISM: HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND CHANGE OVER TIME

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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September 21 – September 27

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 6. EVALUATING A MAJOR DILEMMA: TERRORISM, THE MEDIA, AND CENSORSHIP

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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September 28 – October 4

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 7. CONTEMPLATING A QUANDARY: TERRORISM, SECURITY, AND LIBERTY

No class discussion forum this week.

Review chapters 1-7 for the midterm exam

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October 8 - 9

MIDTERM EXAM

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October 12 - October 18

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 8. PREVENTING TERRORIST ATTACKS: ROOT CAUSES, LAW, INTELLIGENCE, AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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October 19 – October 25

Read BOTH CHAPTERS and take BOTH chapter quizzes:

CHAPTER 9. SECURING THE NATION: BORDER CONTROL AND SECTOR SAFETY

CHAPTER 10. PROTECTING AGAINST POTENTIAL ATTACKS: THREAT ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION, AND OTHER MEASURES

[NO class discussion forum this week, so you can work on both quizzes]

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October 26 – November 1

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 11. PREPARING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE: EFFORTS FOR READINESS

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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November 2 - November 8

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 12. RESPONDING TO ATTACKS: IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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November 9 – November 15

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 13. RECOVERING FROM IMPACTS: SHORT- AND LONG-TERM MEASURES

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

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November 16 – November 22

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 14. ASSESSING SIGNIFICANT THREATS: WMD AND CYBERTERRORISM

Contribute to the class discussion forum.

THANKSGIVING BREAK November 23 – November 29

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November 30 – December 6

Read the chapter and take the chapter quiz:

CHAPTER 15. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Contribute to the final class discussion forum.

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December 8 and 9 Final Exam (two days, only)

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COURSE EVALUATION

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) survey will be conducted later in the semester; students will receive an email describing the process. Your input is encouraged and valued. In addition, you are encouraged to contact the instructor by email, during the semester, with any suggestions for improvement of the student learning experience.

SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS

This course format works best when the utmost of mutual trust is exercised. Students are expected to produce original work during this course, representing individual effort, without the direct substitution of the work of others. Department and University policy, as summarized below, will be applied in cases of apparent cheating.

The assignments in the course are intended to be your original thoughts, composed entirely of your original text. Use of artificial intelligence (AI) text generation will be considered a form of plagiarism.

Definitions

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism “as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others’ tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one’s own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.”

Penalties

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of “F” in the course. In the case of graduate department exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the department faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism in course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Curriculum and Degree Program[s] Committee. This committee, acting as an agent of the Department, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Appeals

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment Policy

Assignment details and deadlines are clearly outlined inside the course Canvas.

Examination Policy

A mixture of open-book unit quizzes and closed-book midterm and final examinations are used in this course, as outlined in this syllabus.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

As one of the course learners, you can expect timely feedback from the instructor for discussion forum assignments and general contacts by UNT email. Responds to general questions will usually be given within 24 hours, with delayed responses possible over weekends and vacation periods. Discussion grading and feedback will usually be made within one week of due date. Grading will be posted in a regular sequence on Canvas. If any deviation from these timelines becomes necessary, you will be notified on Canvas.

Late Work

Students experiencing unusual, extenuating circumstances may be granted permission to submit work up to one week after deadlines. Timely notification to the instructor, from your UNT email, to the instructor's UNT email, is necessary for this consideration.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities, such as discussion forums, and quizzes.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the instructor.

Incompletes and Withdrawals

Students with a passing grade on the last day of the semester may request the instructor to issue a grade of (I)- Incomplete to provide time to complete missing assignments or examinations for good cause. As per UNT policy, incomplete grades are not a reprieve from failing course work and incompletes do revert to a failing grade if not changed by the instructor within one year. It is the student's obligation to make their intentions clear to the instructor, before the final exam, using the student's UNT email address, directed to the instructor's UNT email address. Once the final exam week starts, no requests for incompletes will be honored.

Students deciding to withdraw from the course must monitor the University's withdrawal deadline and initiate the action, on their own, with the UNT Registrar's Office; the instructor will not initiate a withdrawal and has no option other than issuing a failing grade if the student ends the semester with less than 60 points.

Undergraduate Online Course Attendance Policy

Students must log into Canvas at least once per week to demonstrate continued attention to the course, equal to physical attendance at traditional classroom courses.

Syllabus Change Policy

If it becomes necessary to change the syllabus, students will be notified via Canvas.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

UNT is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities.

Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline. 1/15/04, Rev. 7/22/2016