

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**Terrorism and Emergency Management**  
**Summer 2023**  
**ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

EADP 4090 Terrorism and Emergency Management

Summer 2023

EADP 4090, 3 credit hours

**Instructor Contact Information**

Dr. Ronald P Timmons, Principal Lecturer

(940) 565-2213

Office hours: Video conferencing by appointment

Ronald.Timmons@unt.edu

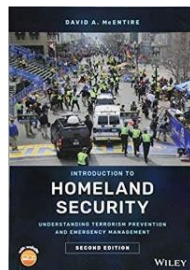
**About the Instructor**

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

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, emergency medical technician, 911 director, and emergency management director. 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.

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

All quiz and test material will be based on the second edition.

A digital version is available free 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 work 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 yourself 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 chapter 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 second edition of the textbook.

## **How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities**

- ✓ **Read the corresponding text chapter** ✓ **View the chapter video lecture**
- ✓ **Take the unit quiz within the proper timeframe** ✓ **Contribute to any assigned 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 communication between student and 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](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Rm 130, 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 week 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.

### 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. Students must complete them within the assignment window and during the listed time limits. The quiz window generally rolls one week before and one week after each assigned week; late attempts will not be permitted. Use the calendar tool in Canvas to assure timely attention to quiz deadlines.

Assessment Method: Multiple Choice

### Assessment 3:

#### 4 Weekly Discussion Forums: 6 points each (24% of total course grade)

[NO DISCUSSION FORUM THE WEEK OF 7/10-7/16 DUE TO MIDTERM EXAM]

### 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). You are expected to make a new post on assigned weeks and also comment on one other student's post during the same discussion week.

Make your posts two paragraphs, each containing at least five substantial sentences. Show your awareness of the assigned material, demonstrating you have read the material and you have considered the information. Also, comment on one other student's post, using at least one full paragraph. 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.

There are two deadlines each week that a discussion is assigned:

- 1) You must post your initial weekly comments before Thursday at 11:59 PM, so it will be available for review by other students, for their commenting purposes. This post must be at least two paragraphs of at least five sentences.
- 2) Your comments on one other student's post is due on Sunday at 11:59 PM. This post must be at least one paragraph.

Failure to do so will result in potential grade point penalty.

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

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

.25 grade point penalty for instances of:

- significant spelling and grammatical errors
- overly short answers, such as: "me too," "I agree," are not acceptable; comment posts must be at least three 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

#### **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.

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

There are no "extra credit" opportunities. One missed quiz can obviously cost a full letter grade.

Course Assignments	
Syllabus Quiz	6 points
Unit Quizzes	30 points
Weekly 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 your 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**

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

June 26 – July 2 [Chapters 1-3]

### **Introductory Session**

Review the syllabus, take the syllabus quiz.

Read the chapters and take the chapter quizzes before the due date:

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

CHAPTER 2. IDENTIFYING TERRORISM: IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR RELATION TO DISASTERS 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; initial post by every Thursday, comment on other student's posts by every Sunday.

July 3 – July 9 [Chapters 4-7]

Read the chapters and take the chapter quizzes:

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

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

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

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

Contribute to the class discussion forum; initial post by every Thursday, comment on other student's posts by every Sunday.

Review chapters 1-7 for the midterm exam

MIDTERM EXAM, TWO DAYS ONLY: July 10 & July 11

July 10 – July 16 [Chapters 8-11]

Read the chapters and take the chapter quizzes:

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

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

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

CHAPTER 11. PREPARING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE: EFFORTS FOR READINESS

NO DISCUSSION THIS WEEK, DUE TO MIDTERM EXAM

July 17 – July 23 [Chapters 12-14]

Read the chapters and take the chapter quizzes:

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

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

CHAPTER 14. ASSESSING SIGNIFICANT THREATS: WMD AND CYBERTERRORISM

Contribute to the class discussion forum; initial post by every Thursday, comment on other student's posts by every Sunday.

July 24 – July 28 [Chapters 15]

CHAPTER 15. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Contribute to the class discussion forum; sole post due by Thursday, (no comment on other student's posts required this final week).

FINAL EXAM, TWO DAYS ONLY: July 27 & 28.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **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.

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline. 1/15/04, Rev. 7/22/2016