

NF212 Concepts of Terrorism

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides an introduction into the theories explaining terrorist behavior. It will examine the question of what constitutes terrorism, terrorist groups, and what economic, social, religious and other issues lead to the conduct of groups like al Qaeda. Additionally, students will be required to think critically about how terrorist groups form, what makes them disband, and how knowledge is transferred among groups and group-members. Further, it will cover the history and development of both the term “terrorism” and the development of modern terrorism in practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the widely-cited characteristics that all terrorist groups have and be able to apply these characteristics to perpetrators of different events to understand whether or not they are terrorism.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate research about terrorism.
3. Demonstrate understanding of how terrorist groups form, general characteristics that terrorist groups have, and differentiate these groups from other types of paramilitary entities.
4. Evaluate theories of terrorism.
5. Apply the material learned in class to events going on currently.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Martin, G. (2021). *Understanding terrorism: Challenges, perspectives, and issues*. Sage.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a “Key Assessment” that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program’s core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the broader curriculum. For this course Activity 7.2 needs to be uploaded to Taskstream.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (20)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (20)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (20)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (20)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (20)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (20)	260

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Activity 1.2 (20) Activity 1.3 (20)	Activity 2.2 (20)	Activity 3.2 (20)	Activity 4.2 (20)	Activity 5.2 (20)	Activity 6.2 (20)		-
Assignments Activity 1.4 (50)	Assignments Activity 2.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 3.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 4.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 5.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 6.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (160)	460
Quiz Activity 1.5 (40)	Quiz Activity 2.4 (40)	Quiz Activity 3.4 (40)	Quiz Activity 4.4 (40)	Quiz Activity 5.4 (40)	Quiz Activity 6.4 (40)	Quiz Activity 7.3 (40)	280
130	130	130	130	130	130	220	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Week 1 - A Conceptual Review of Terrorism

- MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 1.2: Understanding Terrorism – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 1.3: Definition of Terrorism – Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 1.2: Understanding Terrorism – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 1.3: Definition of Terrorism – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 1.4: Terrorist Tactics
- SUN: Activity 1.5: Quiz 1

Week 2 - Terrorism: Causes and Sponsors

- WED: Activity 2.1: Study of Terrorism – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 2.2: State Sponsored Terrorism – Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 2.1: Study of Terrorism – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 2.2: State Sponsored Terrorism – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 2.3: Terrorism and Variety of Theories
- SUN: Activity 2.4: Quiz 2

Week 3 - Terrorism: Types of Terrorists

- WED: Activity 3.1: Terrorist Organizations – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 3.2: Study of Phenomenon – Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 3.1: Terrorist Organizations – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 3.2: Study of Phenomenon – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 3.3: Islamic Jihad and the Christian Crusade
- SUN: Activity 3.4: Quiz 3

Week 4 - Terrorist Spillovers

- WED: Activity 4.1: Combat Asymmetrical Warfare – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 4.2: Transnational Criminal Enterprises – Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 4.1: Combat Asymmetrical Warfare – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 4.2: Transnational Criminal Enterprises – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 4.3: Criminal Enterprises
- SUN: Activity 4.4: Quiz 4

Week 5 - Terrorist Trade & The Media

- WED: Activity 5.1: Weapons of Mass Destruction – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 5.2: New Terrorism Utilizes – Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 5.1: Weapons of Mass Destruction – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 5.2: New Terrorism Utilizes – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 5.3: Cyberterrorism
- SUN: Activity 5.4: Quiz 5

Week 6 - Terrorism and Counterterrorism in the United States

- WED: Activity 6.1: Terrorism and Hate Groups – Introductory Post
- WED: Activity 6.2: Economic Sanctions– Introductory Post
- SAT: Activity 6.1: Terrorism and Hate Groups – Secondary Posts
- SAT: Activity 6.2: Economic Sanctions – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 6.3: Terrorist Organizations
- SUN: Activity 6.4: Quiz 6

Week 7 - The Future of Terrorism and Homeland Security

- WED: Activity 7.1: Beyond Law Enforcement – Introductory Post
- THUR: Activity 7.2: Developing an Effective Counterterrorism Strategy
- SAT: Activity 7.1: Beyond Law Enforcement – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 7.3: Quiz 7

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.