American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
HLSS212
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats to the Homeland
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NONE

Course Description (Catalog)

HLSS212 provides an in-depth study of the history of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agent and material development and use by nations, nation-states, state-sponsored organizations, and terrorists. This course further examines CBRN threats worldwide and reviews CBRN Arms Limitations, Treaties, Organizations, Regimes and Agreements. Finally, the course discusses various approaches to deter use of CBRN agents, materials, and weapons.

Course Scope

This course provides basic knowledge building and comprehension in the discipline.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1 Describe chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) weapons

CO-2 Identify basic threats associated with CBRN weapons

CO-3 Summarize past terrorist use of CBRN weapons based on case studies

CO-4 Compare and contrast various CBRN weapons that could be used in a terrorist attack
CO-5 Examine critical knowledge of the current CBRN threat

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

There is not an assigned text for this course. The readings consist of selected e-book chapters and journal articles.

Please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php and search by the course number (ex: HLSS212) to access your required resources.

Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the “Lessons” area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 25 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two (2) or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Midterm assignment – 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home exam that consists of multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answer questions, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.
STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Progress assignment - 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home exam that consists of multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answer questions, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Final assignment – 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 5 pages total, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Instruments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum Discussions (8)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Assignment</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Assignment</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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8 – Week Course Outline

**Week 1: CBRN Overview**
Course Objective: CO1

Assignments: Complete Introduction Forum and Week 1 Forum

Required Readings:

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**Week 2: CBRN Overview**
Course Objective: CO1 and CO2

**Assignments:** Complete Week 2 Forum

**Required Readings:**


**Video:** The Weathermen directed by Martin, Jonathan & Wright, Nicolas, in International Terrorism Since 1945 Episode 14 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), (2008)

**Week 3: Chemical Terrorism**
Course Objective: CO1, CO2, CO3

**Assignments:** Complete Week 3 Forum

**Required Readings:**

Central Intelligence Agency. 2007. Iraq’s Chemical Warfare Program.


Explore: CDC’s Chemical Weapons Elimination

Watch: Japanese Sarin Cult directed by Wright, Nicolas, in International Terrorism Since 1945 Episode 17 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), 2008)

**Week 4: Bioterrorism**
Course Objective: CO1, CO2, CO3
Assignments: Complete Week 4 Forum and Midterm Assignment

**Required Readings:**


Watch:
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The Baader-Meinhof Gang directed by Wright, Nicolas, in International Terrorism Since 1945 Episode 8 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), (2008)

Rajneeshpuram: An Experiment to Provoke God by Hilow, Michael Regis, produced by (Filmmakers Library, 1995)

**Week 5: Agroterrorism**
Course Objective: CO1, CO2, and CO3

**Assignments:** Complete Week 5 Forum

**Required Readings:**


Rushton, J. 2012. The Impact of Foot and Mouth Disease. Royal Veterinary College, University of London.


**Week 6: Radiological Terrorism**
Course Objective: CO1, CO2, and CO3

**Assignments:** Complete Week 6 Forum

**Required Readings:**


**Week 7 – Nuclear Terrorism**

Course Objective: CO2 and CO3

**Assignments:** Complete Week 7 Forum and Progress Assignment

**Required Readings:**


**Explore:** “Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe” website
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Explore: Nuclear Weapons Program Worldwide: An Historical Overview

Explore: CDC Nuclear FAQ

**Week 8: Future of CBRN Threats**
Course Objective: CO4 and CO5

**Assignments:** Complete Week 8 Forum and Final Assignment

**Required Readings:**


**Policies**

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

**Citation and Reference Style**
Attention Please: Students will follow the APA 6 Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework. See [http://www.apus.edu/content/dam/online-library/resources-services/Fuson_2012_APA.pdf](http://www.apus.edu/content/dam/online-library/resources-services/Fuson_2012_APA.pdf).

**Late Assignments**
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Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

**Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), ; ), 😊

**Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting
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volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

**Request a Library Guide for your course**
(https://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.

- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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Radiation Information Network’s “Dirty Bombs”

CSIS, “Confronting an Uncertain Threat,”