

SYLLABUS

CRIM 230, Spring 2019

George Mason University

Course Name: Introduction to Homeland Security

CRN: 11564

Section Number: CRIM 230-002

Meeting Times: Thursdays, 1:30pm – 4:10pm

Meeting Location: Blue Ridge Hall 129

Instructor Name: Steven L. Basha

E-mail Address: sbasha2@gmu.edu

This syllabus is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to make changes, as needed, in his sole discretion.

Course Materials

Required Readings:

Homeland Security, An Introduction to Principles and Practice (Third Edition, 2017) by Charles P. Nemeth.

Hardback: ISBN [9781498749091](#), eBook: [9781315368467](#).

In addition to the text book the instructor will assign readings available on the Internet (including articles, scholarly papers, etc.).

Course Description:

Introduces fundamental concepts of homeland security. Examines governmental actions designed to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from man-made and natural disasters. Focuses on efforts to align preparedness, incident management, and emergency response plans from various agencies (federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and non-governmental).

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):

On completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Relate the historical circumstances leading to the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), its constituent agencies and components, and its current status.
2. Comprehend the role of DHS in homeland security and emergency situations.
3. Explain the USA PATRIOT Act's major provisions and controversies.
4. Understand risk management and risk management theories.
5. Describe the relationship DHS has with other components of government, particularly law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
6. Articulate the role of DHS in formulating and implementing domestic and foreign intelligence policies.
7. Explain the role of U.S. border control and enforcement agencies in homeland security efforts.
8. Discuss law enforcement and intelligence homeland security activities.
9. Explain how homeland security efforts affect privacy and civil rights.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Four Examinations (300 points total – lowest exam grade dropped)

Grading Scale

100%-90% - A

89%-80 – B

79%-70% - C

69%-60% - D

Below 60 - F

Description of Course Requirements

Examinations:

There will be four examinations. I will drop the lowest examination grade. Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching, and essay questions. There will be a maximum of 50 questions per examination and the examinations will cover material presented during lectures and from the textbook and other assigned readings.

There will be no make-up or early exams. Failure to take an exam when scheduled will result in the grade of "0" for the missed exam. That missed exam will constitute the "dropped" exam.

There will be no other opportunity for extra credit assignments so it is important that you satisfy the stated requirements.

Blackboard:

Assignments, announcements, and other important information concerning this course will be posted in Blackboard. Thus, it is your responsibility to check Blackboard on a frequent and regular basis to stay abreast of important class information.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance - The subjects we will cover in this course are complex. Though the required textbook readings will provide a basic framework on many of these subjects, class lectures will deliver the critical points and explanations that are vital to understand the course. Further, the examinations will cover material presented in the lectures that may not be covered in the textbook or other assigned readings. Thus, regular attendance will be critical for success in understanding course material and on achieving good grades. ***If you do not regularly attend class, on each exam you can expect to miss 10-20% of the questions as they will be on material only covered by lecture in class.***

Participation - Lectures will be interactive, largely through student-instructor classroom discussions. Toward that end, student questions will be encouraged, and I will often ask questions to generate discussion with the aim of elucidating and emphasizing critical points. Accordingly, it is important to read the textbook and any other reading assignments before class, and to be prepared to ask and answer questions.

Policies and Procedures:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this course. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website at registrar.gmu.edu.)

Classroom civility: Students are expected to respect each other and the instructor. Students should not disrupt class by, among other things, frequently arriving late/leaving early, or by unnecessary talking.

If you bring a laptop, cell phone, tablet, or other electronic device to class please set the same on silent mode.

Copyright: Any audio or visual recording of lectures, reuse or remix of course materials, or further dissemination of course content is not permitted without prior written consent of the course instructor and George Mason University unless the recording is part of an approved accommodation plan. Accordingly, without the instructor's consent you cannot upload or post course material on the internet.

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for their own work, and students and faculty are responsible for dealing with violations [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/distance>].

Honor Code: Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].

Inclement Weather and Other Closing Information:

Information regarding weather related changes in the University's schedule (e.g., closing or late opening) will be provided on the GMU website and via MasonAlert. Changes to schedule or deliverable due dates, if any, will be communicated via email and on Blackboard.

Academic Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact Disability Services at [703.993.2474](tel:703.993.2474) or ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Office Hours: make an appointment with me, or see me after class.

Email: Mason uses only Mason e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class.

Course of Study:

January 24 The Idea and Origin of Homeland Security
Chapter 1

January 31 Terror, Threat, and Disaster Post-9/11
Chapter 2

February 7 Homeland Security Law and Regulations
Chapter 3 Review for Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)

February 14 Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)
USA PATRIOT Act

February 21 Risk Management, Threats, and Hazards
Chapter 4

February 28 Risk Management (continued)

March 7 Challenges: National v. State and Local
Chapter 6 Review for Exam 2 (Chapters 4-6)

March 14 Spring Break (no class)

March 21 Exam 2 (Chapters 4-6)
Chapter 7 FEMA, Response and Recovery

March 28 FEMA (continued)

April 4 Intelligence
Chapter 8

April 11 Intelligence (continued)

April 18 Border Security

Chapter 9 Review for Exam 3 (Chapters 7, 8, 9)

April 25 Exam 3
Chapter 10 Transportation Security

May 2 Privacy/Civil Rights in Homeland Security

May 9 Reading Day

May 14 Exam 4 (Chapter 10 and Privacy/Civil Rights)

Important Dates:

Classes begin	January 22
Last day to add a class (census date)	January 29
Last day to drop*	February 22
Selective withdrawal period	Feb. 26 – Mar. 30
Spring Recess (classes do not meet)	Mar. 12 – Mar. 18

* After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.