

## **SYLLABUS**

CRIM 230, Fall 2019

George Mason University

Course Name: Introduction to Homeland Security

CRN: 82195

Section Number: CRIM 230-004

Meeting Days/Times: Monday and Wednesday, 4:30pm - 5:45pm

Meeting Location: Krug Hall 242

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**

Optional Textbook: Homeland Security, An Introduction to Principles and Practice (3rd Edition, 2017) by Charles P. Nemeth. Hardback: ISBN [9781498749091](#), eBook: [9781315368467](#). In addition to the textbook the instructor will provide PowerPoint presentations for each subject covered. **All PowerPoint presentations are required readings.** The instructor may also assign other readings (some required, some suggested) 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:**

4 Examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points. Lowest exam or missed exam grade will be dropped. Course grade will be based on the percentage of the maximum of 300 points for the 3 exams counted.

#### Grading Scale

100%-90% - A (300-270 points)

89%-80 – B (269-240 points)

79%-70% - C (239-210 points)

69%-60% - D (209-180 points)

Below 60% - F (less than 180 points)

**Extra credit for class participation:** Up to 2 extra credit points toward the course final grade may be earned by students who *consistently and actively* participate in class discussions.

### **Description of Course Requirements**

Examinations: there will be 4 examinations. The lowest examination grade will be dropped provided you take all 4 exams. Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and matching questions. There will be a maximum of 50 questions per examination. The examinations will cover material presented during lectures and from required readings.

**\*\*\*\*There will be no make-up or early examinations. Failure to take an examination when scheduled will result in the grade of "0" for the missed exam. That missed exam will constitute the "dropped" exam. If you miss an exam it is absolutely critical that you take the other 3 exams.**

**Other than participation extra credit (see above) there will be no other opportunity for extra credit so it is vital 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 PowerPoint presentations and required 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 PowerPoint presentations 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](http://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](http://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:**

Aug. 26, 28 Chapter 1	What is Homeland Security
Sept. 2	Labor Day, no class (University closed)
Sept. 4 Chapter 2	Terrorism and the lead up to 9/11
Sept. 9 Chapter 3	Terrorism and 9/11 (continued) Review for Exam 1
Sept. 11	Exam 1
Sept. 16, 18	Homeland Security Law, Regulations, Orders, and Policies
Sept. 23 Chapter 4	USA PATRIOT Act
Sept. 25	Risk Management
Sept. 30	Risk Management (continued)
Oct. 7, 9 Chapter 6	Federal, State, and Local Cooperation in Homeland Security Efforts Review for Exam 2 (Chapters 4-6)
Oct. 14	Fall Break (no class)
Oct. 15	Exam 2
Oct. 16	Guest Lecture

Oct. 21 Chapter 7	Emergency Management
Oct. 23	Emergency Management (continued)
Oct. 28 Chapter 8	Intelligence
Oct. 30	Intelligence (continued)
Nov. 4	Guest Lecture
Nov. 6 Chapter 9	Border Security Review for Exam 3
Nov. 11	Exam 3
Nov. 13	Border Security (continued)
Nov. 18 Chapter 10	Transportation Security
Nov. 20	Transportation Security (continued)
Nov. 25	Privacy/Civil Rights in Homeland Security
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2	Privacy/Civil Rights in Homeland Security (continued)
Dec. 4	Review for Exam 4
Dec. 9	Reading Day (no class)
Dec. 11 4:30pm-7:15pm	Exam 4

**Important Dates:**

Classes begin	August 26
Last day to add a class (census date)	September 3
Last day to drop*	September 9
Selective withdrawal period	September 18-30
Fall Break (classes do not meet)	October 14 (Monday classes meet Oct. 15)

\* 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.