
**Homeland Security Risk Assessment (CRIM 490 - 004)
Fall 2012**

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Office Hours: Monday 10:45AM - 12:45PM
Wednesday 10:45AM - 12:45PM

Time: Monday 9:00AM-10:15AM Wednesday 9:00AM-10:15AM)

Location: Robinson Hall A111

Course Description and Purpose

Natural and manmade disasters including terrorist attacks have occurred and will continue to occur with little or no warning in America. At any time, the critical infrastructure, key resources, and people of the United States are exposed to risk. As a result, homeland security agencies must determine how to spend a finite amount of resources to protect an infinite number of places where Americans could be at risk on any given day. The urgency of this effort has increased tremendously since the terrorist attacks on 9/11. In response, federal, state, local, and private organizations charged with protecting citizens, facilities, and infrastructure are conducting and will continue to conduct threat, risk, and vulnerability assessments

This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of the natural and manmade threats confronting America and the planning and strategy necessary to protect critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) in response to the threats. First, we will review United States national security policies in a historical context. Second, we will examine the United States homeland security goals and national plans for protecting CI/KR and explore the all hazards concept of threat. Third, we will focus on the nature of the terrorist threat to the United States including domestic and foreign terrorist organizations, methods of attack, and likely targets with special emphasis on understanding the threat to soft targets. Fourth, we will examine the process of identifying threat, risk, and vulnerability with emphasis on why and how this information is used to protect our nation's critical infrastructure and key resources. We will review methods to assess threat, determine impact of a terrorist attack on a given target, analyze criminal or terrorist targets, assess risk, and prioritize the vulnerability assessment of critical facilities, infrastructure, and events. Finally, in a "hands on" practical exercise you will conduct a modified Threat /Risk Assessment utilizing one of the methodologies widely used by homeland security emergency responders.

Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic information about federal, state, and local planning, and strategy to protect critical infrastructure and key (CI/KR) resources in response to all hazards.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic information about the threat posed by domestic and foreign terrorists to the American homeland.
- Students will understand the basics in performing threat, risk, and vulnerability assessments.
- Students will gain experience conducting a Threat/Risk Assessment utilizing one of the methodologies widely used by homeland security emergency responders.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Format

Class sessions will consist of lectures, class discussions, small group work, and when possible guest speakers. In addition, national and international events continuously reflect current and emerging homeland security concerns. Because of this, we will maintain flexibility in the issues we address and you are encouraged to identify for class discussion current events related to course topics.

Requirements and Grading

The final grade will be determined as follows.

Attendance and Participation	5%
Quizzes	25%
Threat/Risk Assessment Practical Exercise	30%
Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

Letter Grade Numerical Equivalency

A+ 97- 100
A 94 - 96
A- 90 - 93
B+ 87 - 89
B 84 - 86
B- 80 - 83
C+ 77 - 79
C 74 - 76
C- 70 - 73
D 60 - 69
F < 60

(See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor51> for more information on the university grading system.)

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class each week and come to class having completed the readings and fully prepared to participate in class discussions. Each week we will address a question or issue related to the session topic. Students will be randomly selected to contribute to class discussion on the topic. Also, we will occasionally spend time working through issues as small groups. This is a Special Topics course that stresses application of information contained in the readings and lectures. In addition, the lectures and assigned readings are complimentary and contain many materials unique to this course. **Therefore, there is a direct link between completing reading assignments, regular class attendance, and the successful completion of this course.**

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in class during the semester. The purpose of the quizzes is to enable me to gauge your level of preparation and progress toward mastery of the course materials. They also provide a mechanism to reward those students who consistently prepare and attend class regularly.

The quizzes will be unannounced and can cover both the readings for the current session and information presented in the immediate previous session lecture. The format will be 5-10 multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions. I'll drop the 3 lowest quiz scores for each student, and average the rest of the grades to get your quiz contribution to your overall score for the class. ***Missed quizzes cannot be taken at a later (or earlier) time.***

Threat/Risk Assessment Practical Exercise

The practical exercise will require you to conduct a modified threat/risk assessment of an appropriate facility utilizing the methodology learned in class. The assignment will be discussed in class later in the semester, and will require a written paper describing your work (length and format to be discussed in class).

Final Exam

The Final exam is comprehensive. That is it will cover any assigned reading material, class discussions, presentations, lectures, and videos for the entire semester. The exam format will be multiple choice, True/False, Fill in the Blank, and Short Essay. The final exam will be “closed book” – no reference materials other than those provided with the exam paper will be permitted.

Note: No make-up exam will be given unless the student provides satisfactory written verification of personal illness or other emergency.

Additional Information

Each week we will have a certain amount of material to cover so please arrive for class on time. Also, if you must leave early, please notify me before the start of class.

This is a large class and to enable me to quickly get to know each student I will take role until I am familiar with class members.

I may periodically contact you concerning the class. Please make sure you have an active university email account in good working order.

This course is assigned a folder on the GMU Blackboard system. In the course folder, you will find the syllabus, class schedule, and a copy of most assigned readings. Also, I will occasionally post important class announcements on Blackboard. Please check it regularly. To access Blackboard, go to <http://courses.gmu.edu>. If you have any trouble logging in to Blackboard please contact the ITU Support Center at 703-993-8870 or support@gmu.edu. Once you have successfully logged in, if you do not see a folder for this course, please contact me.

Personal electronic devices (computers, cell phones, pagers, mp3, etc.) MUST BE TURNED OFF

DURING CLASS AND NOT ACCESSED DURING CLASS. Personal electronic devices including computers can be used in class only when authorized by the instructor for in class projects.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

All work is to be completed independently. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. 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 registrar.gmu.edu.)

Last Day to Add Classes: 9/4/2012

Last Day to Drop Classes: 9/28/2012 (With tuition penalty)

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.

Do not submit work via e-mail unless instructed to do so. **All work must be submitted on the due date. The only exception to this requirement is for documented medical emergencies. If you must be absent please make arrangements to submit your work on the date due.**

Assigned Texts

Kilroy, Richard J. (Ed.). (2008). Threats to Homeland Security. New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

National Domestic Preparedness Coalition. (2008). Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model Workbook. Rhode Island: National Domestic Preparedness Coalition

Other Assigned Readings (All readings are available on Blackboard)

National Strategy for Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets (Executive Summary)

National Infrastructure Protection Plan (Executive Summary)

The Persistent Threat to Soft Targets

A Question of When

Campus Attacks

Problems with Preparedness: U.S. Readiness for a Domestic Terrorist Attack

2011 Report on Terrorism (Recommended)

Cutting Through the Lone-Wolf Hype

Domestic Terrorism: A Persistent Threat in the United States

The Domestic Terrorist Threat: Background and Issues for Congress (Recommended)

A Finer Point

Assessing and / Managing the Terrorism Threat

Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Guide

Risk Assessments and Future Challenges

Homeland Security Risk Assessments: Key Issues and Challenges

Class Schedule (CRIM 490 - 004)
(Fall 2012)

Below is the general outline that I intend to follow during this course. This is not “engraved in stone” and may be changed if class circumstances dictate. Reading assignments should be completed prior to the date indicated.

Week 1 (Monday 8/27/12, Wednesday 8/29/12)

Topic: Introductions

Review of Syllabus and Class Schedule

Topic: National Security

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 1

Week 2 (Wednesday 9/5/12)

Topic: National Security

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 1

Week 3 (Monday 9/10/12, Wednesday 9/12/12)

Topic: Homeland Security Goals, Plans

Reading Assignments: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 2

National Strategy for Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets (Executive Summary)

National Infrastructure Protection Plan (Executive Summary)

Week 4 (Monday 9/17/12, Wednesday 9/19/12)

Topic: America’s Vulnerability

Reading Assignment:

The Persistent Threat to Soft Targets

A Question of When

Campus Attacks

Problems with Preparedness: U.S. Readiness for a Domestic Terrorist Attack

Week 5 (Monday 9/24/12, Wednesday 9/26/12)

Topic: Threat to America: All Hazards

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 3

Week 6 (Monday 10/1/12, Wednesday 10/3/12)

Topic: Threat to America: Terrorist State Actors/Non State Actors

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapters 5 and 6

2011 Report on Terrorism (Recommended)

Week 7 (Tuesday 10/9/12, Wednesday 10/10/12)

Topic: Threat to America: Cyber / WMD

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapters 7 and 8

Week 8 (Monday 10/15/12, Wednesday 10/17/12)

Topic: Threat to America: Domestic Terrorists

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 9

Cutting Through the Lone-Wolf Hype

Domestic Terrorism: A Persistent Threat in the United States

The Domestic Terrorist Threat: Background and Issues for Congress (Recommended)

Week 9 (Monday 10/22/12, Wednesday 10/24/12)

Topic: Threat, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments

Reading Assignment: Threats to Homeland Security: Chapter 4

A Finer Point

Assessing and / Managing the Terrorism Threat

Week 10 (Monday 10/29/12, Wednesday 10/31/12)

Topic: Threat, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments

Reading Assignment:

Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Guide

Risk Assessments and Future Challenges

Homeland Security Risk Assessments: Key Issues and Challenges

Week 11 (Monday 11/5/12, Wednesday 11/7/12)

Topic: Threat, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments- Threat Assessment

Reading Assignment: Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model Workbook

Week 12 (Monday 11/12/12, Wednesday 11/14/12)

Topic: Threat, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments- Risk Assessment

Reading Assignment: Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model Workbook

Week 13 (Monday 11/19/12, Wednesday 11/21/12) (Threat/Risk Assessment Practical Exercise Assigned)

Topic: Threat, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments- Vulnerability Assessment

Reading Assignment: Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model Workbook

Week 14 (Monday 11/26/12, Wednesday 11/28/12)

Topic: No Class (Students Conduct Threat/Risk Practical Exercise)

Reading Assignment: None

Week 15 (Monday 12/3/12, Wednesday 12/5/12) (Threat/Risk Assessment Practical Exercise Paper Due (12/3/12))

Topic: Practical Exercise Debrief/Course Review

Reading Assignment: None

EXAM (12/17/12)