

**Syllabus: CRIM-230, Spring 2024**

George Mason University

Course Name: Introduction to Homeland Security

CRN: 10504

Section Number: CRIM 230-001

Meeting Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Where: Merton Hall 1200

Instructor Name: Steven 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 (Third Edition, 2017) by Charles P. Nemeth.

Hardback: ISBN 9781498749091, eBook: 9781315368467.

*Required readings-* The instructor will assign via Blackboard required readings available on the internet (including government publications/documents; news/magazine/web 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, territorial, 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, including in emergency situations.
3. Explain the USA PATRIOT Act's major provisions most relevant to homeland security, and controversies relating to homeland security.
4. Understand basic risk management and risk management theories.
5. Describe the relationship DHS has with other government components, 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:

Grading for the course will be based on the following 3 components that total a maximum 400 points:

1. 3 examinations (on Blackboard Assessments) each worth 100 points (300 points total);
2. 4 Group Discussion Sessions, each worth 10 points (40 points total); and
3. In-Class Active Learning Exercises (60 points total).

### Grading Scale:

100%-90% (400-360 points)	A
89%-80% (359-320 points)	B
79%-70% (319-280 points)	C
69%-60% (279-240 points)	D
Below 60% (< 240 points)	F

\*I do not give + or - grades.

### Description of Course Requirements:

#### 1. Examinations (75% of final grade; maximum of 300 points):

There will be 3 examinations, each worth a potential 100 points (this component counts as 75% of the final grade for the course). There will be a maximum of 50 questions per exam and the exams will cover material presented during lectures and from assigned readings. All exams will be given on Blackboard Assessments, and there will be no class on exam days.

Absent an exceptional reason, such as medical emergencies and other *true* emergencies, there will be no make-up exams. Failure to take an exam when scheduled will result in the grade of "0" for the missed exam.

#### 2. Group Discussion Sessions (10% of final grade; maximum 40 points):

There will be 4 class breakout sessions for group discussions on hypothetical cases involving homeland security issues we will study in the course. Students who attend and participate in all Group Discussion Sessions will receive the maximum 40 points toward their final course grade (this component counts as 10% of the final grade for the course). ***Failure to attend and participate in a Group Discussion Session will result in the loss of a pro rata amount of points for each session or part of session missed.***

#### 3. In-Class Active Learning Exercises (15% of final grade; maximum 60 points):

These exercises will be short, in-class activities. For example, in a particular class I may pose a question requiring brief written responses from students. Students will prepare a brief written response to the question, and will turn in their responses during the same class.

Students who attend classes and complete in-class active learning exercises will receive the maximum 60 points toward their final course grade (this component counts as 15% of the final grade for the course). ***Failure to attend and complete in-class active learning exercises***

***will result in the loss of a pro rata amount of points for missed responses to these exercises.***

***Absences from class:*** I will excuse an absence from class if you advise me **in advance** via email message of your absence and the legitimate reason for the absence (illness, emergency, etc.). If you miss an active learning exercise or group discussion session because of an excused absence I will give you a written assignment that you must complete to receive credit for the same.

**Extra Credit for Class Participation:** Up to 2 extra credit points toward the course final cumulative point total for the course may be earned by students who ACTIVELY AND CONSISTENTLY participate in class discussions. *Note – these extra credit points are added to the final cumulative point total for the course. Further, the award of these extra credit points will be in the instructor's sole discretion.*

***Other than Extra Credit for Class Participation (see above) there are NO extra credit opportunities so it is vital that you satisfy the stated requirements.***

**Blackboard:**

Assignments, announcements, and other important information concerning this course will be posted on 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 optional textbook 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 optional textbook or required, assigned readings. Thus, regular attendance will be critical for success in understanding course material and achieving good grades.

**Participation** - Lectures will be interactive, largely through student-instructor 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 required assignments before class, and to be prepared to ask and answer questions.

**Participation in Active Learning Exercises and in Group Discussion Sessions:** many classes will include active learning exercises, and there will be breakout sessions for group discussions. Students who fail to regularly participate in active learning exercises and group discussion sessions will be ineligible for Class Participation Extra Credit.

**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.

**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* from me and George Mason University, unless the recording is part of an approved accommodation plan.

**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 contact Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Virtual Office Hours:** contact me by email to make an appointment.

**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 (and optional textbook readings):**

Jan. 17	What is Homeland Security	Chapter 1
Jan. 22, 24	Terrorism and the lead up to 9/11	Chapter 2
Jan. 29	Homeland Security Law	Chapter 3
Jan. 31	<i>Group Discussion Session 1</i>	
Feb. 5, 7	Risk Management; Weapons of Mass Destruction	Chapter 4
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Feb. 14, 19	Federal, State and Local Cooperation in Homeland Security	
Feb. 21	Guest Speaker	
Feb. 26, 28	Role of Intelligence	Chapter 8
March 4-10	Spring Recess (no classes)	
March 11	Guest Speaker	

March 13      *Group Discussion Session 2*

**March 18      Exam 2**

March 20, 25    Border Security (CBP)      Chapter 9

April 1          Border Security ICE)

April 3          Guest Speaker

April 8          *Group Discussion Session 3*

April 10,15      Transportation Security      Chapter 10

April 17, 22      Emergency Management      Chapter 7

April 24          Civil Rights/Liberties

April 29          *Group Discussion Session 4*

**May 1          Exam 3**

**Important Dates:**

Jan. 23                      Last day to add a class

Jan. 30                      Last day to drop (no tuition penalty)

Feb. 6                        Last day to drop (50% refund)

Feb. 7-20                    Unrestricted withdrawal period (100% tuition liability)

Feb. 21-March 25          Selective withdrawal period\* (100% tuition liability)

*\* See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.*