Weapons of Mass Destruction
HSEM 231
3 credits
Prerequisites:
ENGL111

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Mr. Ron DeWitt
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Course Description

In a post 9/11 environment, concerns surrounding the potential use of weapons of mass destruction have been an ever-increasing concern. This course is intended to serve as an introduction to the study and history of weapons of mass destruction as a tool of terrorism.

Course Objectives

- Understand the Definitions, Trends and the Concept of the “New Terrorism”
- The Nature of Post 9/11 WMD as a Terrorism Threat
- The Terrorist WMD of Choice
- Understand the Threat posed by Different Types of WMD
- Understand Lessons Learned from the Use of WMD

Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand the roots of modern terrorism
- Understand the mechanisms for the employment of WMD
- Understand the various impacts in the use of Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) weapons
- Understand the impacts of decontamination and recovery
- Understand the consequences of quarantines and restrictions

Course Text Books

Additional Reading

Additional reading assignments have been selected from articles and Web Sites. Where possible, the course author has obtained permission to include session handouts of the assigned reading.

Instructional Methods

Instructional methodologies, including online lectures, case studies, use of discussion board forums to support small group activities and promote independent research and student developed presentations to actively involve each student in the learning process. When possible and practical, learning activities will be processed to include not only "what" was learned, but the "so what" and "now what" in order to complete the learning cycle.

Recommended preparation: 2-3 hours weekly

Evaluation

Required Reading, Writing and Participation:

40% - Weekly three page reviews of the assigned readings with accompanying power point slide presentations.

20% - Case Study Presentations (develop case study presentations based upon text and independents study.

20% - Quizzes on material covered during the course.

10% - Discussion Board forum participation.

10% - Independent Research Paper. Through independent research, develop a 5 to 7 page paper cover three major organizations charged with the responsibility to respond to WMD events.

Grading

Weekly reading reviews and slides - 40% = 400 points
Case study development - 20% = 200 points
Quizzes – 20%
Discussion Board Forum Management – 10%
Independent Research Paper - 10% = 100 points

Total = 1000 points

A= 90-100% (900-1000 points)
B= 80-89% (800-899 points)
C= 70-79%  (700-799 points)
D= 60-69% (600-699 points)
F= 59 % or less (599 points or less)

Course Policies
Students are expected to remain up to date with the scheduled lesson plans on a weekly basis. Students will be penalized for the late submission of class assignments or should they fall behind by more than two weeks (outside of emergency or mutually agreed upon circumstances). Students are expected to observe academic honesty. Dishonest practices including giving or receiving assistance in any manner or form during an examination, unauthorized possession of exam questions, and plagiarism (willfully presenting another person’s writings, opinions or thoughts as one’s own, without proper credit and documentation) will not be tolerated.

Violations of the UAF Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the appropriate authority for possible disciplinary actions including removal of violator from this course.

Support Services
Students are encouraged to utilize the UAF Writing Center in 801 Gruening, ph 474-5314 as needed to assist in the development and refinement of their written products. Please contact me as required should you need to contact other subject matter support services relevant to the development of your leadership or classroom projects/topics.

Students with Disabilities
Students with learning or other disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (Phone # 474-7043). Please inform me of your needs and if I need to meet with the Office of Disability Services to provide the appropriate accommodations and supports to assist you in meeting the goals of the course.

Class Schedule

1. Course Introduction / Expectations
   Definitions, Trends and the Concept of the “New Terrorism”
   The Nature of the Post 9/11 WMD Terrorism Threat
   Discussion Board Week #1

2. Understanding the Threat
   The WMD Terrorism Hype
   The Terrorist WMD of Choice
   Discussion Board Week #2
3. Understanding the Threat (cont)
   Different Faces of Nuclear Terrorism
   Radiological Dispersal Devices
   Discussion Board Week #3

Quiz #1

4. Understanding the Threat (cont)
   Sabotage of Nuclear Facilities and Other Critical Infrastructure
   Bioterrorism
   Discussion Board Week #4

5. Understanding the Threat (cont)
   Chemical Terrorism
   Food Security and Agricultural Terrorism
   Cyberterrorism
   Discussion Board Week #5

6. Case Study I posted for review and comment

7. Responding to the Threat
   Deterrence and Preemption
   Nonproliferation Regimes
   Discussion Board Week #7

Quiz #2

8. Responding to the Threat (cont)
   Interdiction and Law Enforcement
   Discussion Board Week #8

9. Lessons Learned and Future Threats
   The Need for a Comprehensive Multidimensional Threat
   Discussion Board Week #9

Quiz #3

10. Lessons Learned and Future Threats (cont)
    Gaps in the International Framework for Combating Terrorism
    Discussion Board Week #10
11. Lessons Learned and Future Threats (cont)
   Discussion Board Week #11

12. Lessons Learned and Future Threats (cont)
   Future Threats
   Quiz #4

13. Lessons Learned and Future Threats (cont)
    Develop case studies not provided in the text


15. Case Study II posted for review and comment