

## **Weapons of Mass Destruction**

**HSEM 231**

**3 credits**

**Prerequisites:**

**ENGL111**

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Mr. Ron DeWitt  
Adjunct Professor, UAF School of Management  
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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**

Russell D. Howard and James J.F. Forrest, eds., *Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism* (McGraw-Hill, 2008).

## **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 DevicesDiscussion Board Week #3

Quiz #1

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

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

6. Case Study I posted for review and comment

7. Responding to the Threat
  - Deterrence and Preemption
  - Nonproliferation RegimesDiscussion Board Week # 7

Quiz #2

8. Responding to the Threat (cont)
  - Interdiction and Law EnforcementDiscussion Board Week #8

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

Quiz #3

10. Lessons Learned and Future Threats (cont)
  - Gaps in the International Framework for Combating TerrorismDiscussion 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

14. Independent Research Paper Due

15. Case Study II posted for review and comment