WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE NUMBER: MAJ 7000
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Homeland Security

I. RATIONALE:
Since its inception following the 9/11 terror attacks, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has impacted American laws, landscape, and lifestyles in both obvious and sometimes obscure ways. This course aims to broaden and further the student’s understanding of the history, relationships, and current issues of Homeland Security, emergency response, and terrorism present in America today.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will provide an on-line introduction to the concept of Homeland Security, its place in today’s society, and how our nation’s approach to emergency response has changed since September 11th, 2001. Students will be given an overview of the statutory authority establishing DHS, as well as its role and responsibilities. This overview will address Federal, State and local entities’ responsibilities for Homeland Security, and the means by which they coordinate efforts with each other. The impact of terrorism and the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction will be discussed. During this course, students will be asked to identify current threats facing DHS and to participate in discussion forums relevant to the current course material.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: The student will develop an understanding of the evolution of events that led to the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The structure of, and entities comprising DHS will also be covered.

Learning Outcome: The student will:

A-1 Analyze and discuss the terrorist events of September 11, 2001 and the impact of the resulting Global War on Terror.
A-2 Examine and discuss the impact of Hurricane Katrina and the failure to protect life and property during this event.
A-2 Examine the history of America’s emergency management organizations.
A-3 Develop an understanding of the basic reorganization of government agencies and their responsibilities within DHS.
A-4 Analyze and discuss the shift in focus from response to natural or manmade disasters to the intentional terrorist act.
GOAL B:  The student will demonstrate an understanding of legislation taken by the U.S. Government prior to and as a result of the terror attack of 9/11 with special emphasis on the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act.

Learning Outcome:  The student will:

B-1  Discuss and understand the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
B-2  Understand, discuss, and debate the Uniting and Strengthening America by providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (USA PATRIOT ACT).

GOAL C:  The student will develop an understanding of the types of threats facing the nation’s Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources and of current strategies to combat these threats.

Learning Outcome:  The student will:

C-1  Be able to identify and discuss specific CI/KR sectors, and the Government agencies responsible for their protection.
C-2  Discuss and debate the strategic importance of each CI/KR, and the likelihood of loss of each due to natural disasters or terrorist acts.

GOAL D:  The student will become familiar with basic terrorism terminology, several global terrorist groups, and major terrorism events. Student will also demonstrate an understanding of WMD agents, the history and implications of their use, and the global efforts to stem their production and employment.

Learning Outcome: The student will:

D-1  Be able to define terrorism and distinguish between differing types of terrorism.
D-2  Analyze and discuss particular terrorist groups, their motivations, and their tactics.
D-3  Debate the moral questions surrounding terrorists groups, their motivations, and their methods.
D-4  Identify and discuss common WMD terminology, specific weapons, and their employment.

GOAL E:  The student will demonstrate understanding of risk analysis principles and the application of defensive techniques currently employed by government and private sector organizations. Student will also develop understanding of the four phases of disaster management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
IDEA OBJECTIVES:  E = 2, I = 4

Learning Outcome: The student will:

E-1 Analyze and discuss the basic risk analysis principles.
E-3 Understand how government’s prioritizing of risk impacts budget
E-5 Discuss how protective measures are being implemented in both the corporate world and in individuals’ lives.
E-4 Examine and discuss the four phases of disaster management.

GOAL F: Student will develop a basic understanding of the need for, components of, and differences between the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF).

Learning Outcome: The student will:

F-1 Understand the scope and mission of the NIMS and NRF.
F-2 Be able to identify and discuss the characteristics of the NIMS and NRF.

GOAL G The student will identify key challenges of effective crisis communications and demonstrate the role of technology in today’s emergency management industry.

Learning Outcome: The student will:

G-1 Identify and discuss the key challenges of effective crisis communications.
G-2 Understand in detail the Homeland Security Advisory System, its limitations, and practical applications.
G-3 Be able to explain and discuss how technology is being employed to improve homeland security, citing specific examples.