WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE NUMBER: MAJ 7001
COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Issues in Terrorism

I. RATIONALE:

This course should give students an understanding of why individuals resort to terrorism, the conditions which lead to this decision, and then the method used to carry out their change of the status quo. Efforts to counter these threats are also discussed.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role terrorism plays in the world today and what motivates an individual or organization to commit acts which are then classified as terrorism

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

   A-1. Compare and Contrast the various definitions of terrorism.
   A-2. Analyze and discuss what acts are classified or identified as acts of terrorism.
   A-3. Evaluate and discuss the mind set or motivation of a person who becomes a terrorist or joins a terrorist organization/group.
   A-4. Develop an understanding of why the option of terrorism was chosen as opposed to other methods such as diplomacy, political or economic sanctions.

GOAL B: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the conditions that are present when one decides to commit an act(s) of terrorism. What goes on in the mind of the terrorist to make that person commit a terrorist act. Also, what are the external conditions that appear to force the individual into action.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

   B-1. Develop an understanding of how a small number of people are dissatisfied with the status quo due to some sort of frustration and decided to change that course.
   B-2. Analyze and discuss the pressures brought on by internal or external forces which results in a person/group resorting to terrorism.
   B-3. Assess how the realistic timing of a terrorist act against an unpopular target will hope to gain popular support of the terrorist.
   B-4. Evaluate whether the call to action by terrorists is defensive or opportunistic in nature.
IDEA OBJECTIVES: E = 1, I = 4, 11

B-5. Develop an understanding of the policies/practices that are taking place in a certain area which leads individuals to believe they have no choice but to resort to terrorism for change to that system.

GOAL C: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the methods used by individuals/groups to achieve their goals to change the status quo.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1. Evaluate and discuss what options are available by a terrorist in deciding the approach they will take to further their cause.
C-2. Assess whether innocent people who will become victims are part of the plan developed by terrorists.
C-3. Be able to discuss and identify other factors that go into deciding what type of terrorist act will be committed, such as location, resources, funding, etc.
C-4. Analyze and discuss how terrorists determine the target of their act and how hitting that target will further their cause.

GOAL D: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the methods used by various nations and organizations to counteract these terrorist threats and actions.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

D-1. Critique examples of what various nations have done to defend themselves from terrorist’s threats and acts.
D-2. Evaluate and discuss the actions taken by the United States to counter ongoing threats and acts of violence by various terrorists.
D-3. Analyze and discuss the approaches taken by various intelligence agencies in dealing with the problem of terrorism.
D-4. Be able to discuss how terrorism has spawned new businesses and adding to or deleting from various economies.

GOAL E: The student will demonstrate and use appropriate written and oral communication skills.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

E-1. Utilize professional writing skills to analyze and cite appropriate sources (e.g. APA format) to express and convey empirical research.
E-2. Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.