BSST - TERRORISM STUDIES

BSST230 Terrorism and the Media (3 Credits)
Student will investigate the interplay between terrorism around the world and mass media content about terrorism. The course will focus both on how news and entertainment media portray terrorism and terrorists, and the effects of terrorism and media portrayal of terrorism on the public and public policy. This course examines terrorism from historical and contemporary perspectives, providing grounds for learning about and discussion of the interplay between terrorism and communication. Credit Only Granted for: BSOS288T, BSST230, or BSST288T. Formerly: BSOS288T and BSST288T.

BSST240 Understanding The Principles and Perils of CBRN Weapons (3 Credits)
Explores the 'dark side' of scientific applications. Students will gain an understanding of CBRN Weapons, through the exploration of the scientific method, and certain fundamental principles of chemistry, biology, and physics. Students will also learn how to test hypotheses, use basic statistics, interpret results, and apply their new knowledge through discussions of practical applications in the domains of public health, emergency management, epidemiology, and threat assessment. Bringing these fields together in one class will allow students to better understand the use of and threat from CBRN weapons in terrorism. Additional Information: If taken in the same term as BSST241 these courses will count for General Education Natural Sciences Lab.

BSST241 Understanding the Principles and Perils of CBRN Weapons (Lab) (1 Credit)
An exploration of the threat of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) weapons aimed to provide students with a basic, multidisciplinary, natural science foundation in chemistry, biology, and physics. Corequisite: BSST240. Additional Information: This is an optional 1-credit lab course offered in coordination with BSST240. If taken in the same term as BSST240 these courses will count for General Education Natural Sciences Lab.

BSST258 Special Topics in Study Abroad II (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program. Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

BSST288 Special Topics in Terrorism Studies (3 Credits)
A special topics course for students in the Global Terrorism Minor program. Topics that may be offered are Psychology of Terrorism; Development of Counterterrorism Policies and Programs; Terrorism and Popular Culture; Terrorism and the Media; International Perspective on Terrorism and Counterterrorism (Education Abroad); The Evolution of Hezbollah; Terrorism and Small Wars; Political Islam in the West. Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

BSST277 Introduction to Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat (1 Credit)
This course focuses on bringing current events and policy issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism, as they are discussed in mass media, into the dialogue with academic theories and research. Through a discussion-based seminar, students will bring current, terrorism-related events to classroom discussion, where they will consider the media-framed current events in relation to academic research. Students will be continually challenged to draw connections between terrorism-related events in the news and relevant academic research. Recommended: It is recommended that BSST330 be taken in the same semester as as BSST329. Restriction: Restricted to students enrolled in the Global Terrorism Minor (#BS07). Credit Only Granted for: BSST277 OR BSST399K. Formerly: BSST399K.

BSST330 Terrorist Motivations and Behaviors (3 Credits)
Explores theories explaining the formation of terrorist groups and the motivations behind terrorist behavior, building upon theories from social psychology, sociology, political science, criminology, and history. Restriction: Must be in the Global Terrorism minor; or special permission available for students in other Global Studies minors.

BSST331 Innovations in Counterterrorism (3 Credits)
Explores the manners in which stats respond to terrorist incidents and the threat of terrorism through counterterrorism approaches and strategies. We will examine counterterrorism responses from law enforcement, military, and the intelligence community. This will include discussions about policy decisions made in response to both terrorist attacks and the threat of terrorism. Counterterrorism strategies this course will cover include deterrence, interdiction, and legal efforts to combat terrorism, including terrorist financing and online recruitment. The course is divided into four general parts. First, we will provide an overview of government counterterrorism options and review key concepts. Second, we will examine law enforcement responses to terrorism including efforts to counter cyberterrorism, social media recruitment, and terrorist financing online. Third, we will focus on military responses to attacks conducted by terrorist groups, including deterrence strategies, targeted strikes, and covert operations. Last, we will review the challenges and complexities of counterterrorism approaches, including the ethical, moral, and legal dilemmas. Restriction: Must be in the Terrorism Studies minor program.

BSST332 The Practice of Terrorism Studies (5 Credits)
Capstone course for students in the Global Terrorism Minor. Explores in-depth rigorous approaches to conducting research on terrorism and to developing policy on terrorism and counterterrorism. Examines the interplay between terrorism research and counterterrorism policy. All students will participate in an internship or complete a substantive original research project alongside the courses weekly seminar meeting. Prerequisite: BSST330 and BSST331. Restriction: Must be in the Terrorism Studies minor program.

BSST334 States of Emergency (3 Credits)
Students will explore the manner in which crises unfold from the perspective of a variety of emergency response disciplines, including: emergency management, law enforcement, intelligence analysis, cyber analysis, risk communication, health and human services, and emergency psychiatry/psychology. Students will participate in a semester-long simulation of an unfolding terrorist attack.
BSST335 Innovations in Countering Violent Extremism (3 Credits)
Develop solutions to community-based radicalization through a blend of entrepreneurial, Design Thinking strategies and terrorist disengagement theories. Students will design original programs targeting real-world, at-risk communities and present their programs to a panel of experts.
Credit Only Granted for: BSST335 or BSST338V.
Formerly: BSST338V.

BSST337 Ideology and Social Conditions in the Making of Terrorism (3 Credits)
This class focuses on the relations of ideology with social conditions in the historical context of the Middle East and North Africa in order to explain the process of the rise and domination of Islamist extremism and suicide terrorism as a dominant oppositional discourse in the region.
Resting on a cognitive conception of ideology, this class focuses on the process in which ideological discourses shape the making of the terrorist mind.
Credit Only Granted for: BSST338G or BSST337.
Formerly: BSST338G.

BSST338 Special Topics in Terrorism Studies (3 Credits)
A special topics course for students in the Global Terrorism Minor program. Topics that may be offered are Psychology of Terrorism; Development of Counterterrorism Policies and Programs; Terrorism and Popular Culture; Terrorism and the Media; International Perspective on Terrorism and Counterterrorism (Education Abroad); The Evolution of Hezbollah; Terrorism and Small Wars; Political Islam in the West.

Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

BSST340 Oral Communication for National Security Careers (3 Credits)
Students will discuss perspectives on strategic communication and national security, while discussing and practicing public speaking skills and developing proficiency in three genres of security-related briefings. Students will work with the technical, scientific, and/or specialized data, vocabularies, processes, and products of the academic disciplines and/or fields of expertise relevant to national and international security careers.
Credit Only Granted for: BSST340 or BSST338E.
Formerly: BSST338E.

BSST358 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

BSST370 Financing Terror and Hate (3 Credits)
This course will discuss terrorist financial activities, initiatives focused on countering those financial activities, and sanctions policy. This course approaches these topics through various techniques including, structured analytic tools, such as weighted ranking methods, scenario trees, causal flow diagramming, hypothesis testing, utility analysis, as well as game theory and logic will be incorporated into the course to provide students a better framework to form analytic judgments. At the end of the course, students will have gained a solid foundational understanding of the financing and counter-financing of terrorists.
Credit Only Granted for: BSST370 or BSST338Z.
Formerly: BSST338Z.

BSST372 Terrorist Hostage Taking (3 Credits)
Examines different forms of hostage taking, drawing on theory and research from across a range of different fields, including international relations, political science, criminology, psychology, sociology and economics. We will consider these events in terms of how they are similar, how they differ and what they are designed to achieve. This course provides insights into the complicated nature of terrorism via hostage taking in order to broaden student understanding of current events. This course also gives students practical experience in finding and coding data, and studying complex human behaviors.

BSST374 Political Assassinations (3 Credits)
Course topics include political assassinations, their consequences, and the possible means for their prevention, from profiling assassins to protection of potential targets. Research on political assassinations has developed from many different disciplines and so we will be drawing on theory and research from across a range of different fields, including international relations, political science, criminology, psychology, sociology and economics. In each lecture we will review the scholarly issues associated with political assassinations as well as considering the practical, counter attack challenges faced by security and law enforcement.

BSST386 Experiential Learning in Terrorism Studies (1-5 Credits)
This course will supplement student’s experiential learning experience, or internship in the field of terrorism studies and homeland security with guided reflection on their experiences.

BSST389 Internship in Terrorism Studies (1-6 Credits)
Supplements student’s experiential learning experience, or internship in the field of terrorism studies and homeland security, with guided reflection on their experiences.
Restriction: Must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
Repeatable to: 9 credits.

BSST391 Social Network Analysis of Terrorism (1 Credit)
The course provides insights into the complicated nature of terrorism via hostage taking in order to broaden student understanding of current events. This course also gives students practical experience in finding and coding data, and studying complex human behaviors.

BSST458 Special Topics in Study Abroad IV (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.