

Weapons of Mass Destruction (HMSY 1343) Online



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self-Assessment:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

Course Description

This course covers hazard and risk assessment, crime scene preservation, chemical agents, biological agents, radiological agents, explosive devices, detection-sampling and plume models, and personal protection methods. The critical role of first responders in weapons of mass destruction, mitigation, and survival will also be presented. Discussion will include historical events related to the use of weapons of mass destruction. *This course is time-bound, structured, and completed fully online.*

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Jihadists and Weapons of Mass Destruction* by Gary Ackerman and Jeremy Tamsett, 1st edition.
 - a. ISBN number is 978-1-4200-6964-8.
2. *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Awareness Level WMD Training (AWR-160)*
 - a. This course text was produced by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness, National Preparedness Consortium. The chapters from this text will be used to augment information provided throughout the course and specifically instruct students on awareness essential for first responder safety in WMD incidents.
 - b. This text is provided free of charge to the student with the eLearning environment.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify weapons of mass destruction and means of dissemination.
2. Compare the different biological, chemical, and radiological materials used in weapons of mass destruction.
3. Recognize the motivational element of jihadist groups and the orientations of those groups to use weapons of mass destruction.
4. Identify various aspects of countering and defending against the WMD threat.
5. Recognize future indicators of an intent and capability to use weapons of mass destruction.

Course Outline

- A. The Jihadists
 - 1. Jihadist Ideology and Strategy and the Possible Employment of WMD
 - 2. Obedience to Divinity? The Psychology of Jihadist WMD Terrorism
 - 3. Jihadist Tactics and Targeting
 - 4. Jihadist Capabilities and the Diffusion of Knowledge
- B. The Agents of Harm
 - 1. Jihadists and Chemical Weapons
 - 2. Jihadists and Biological and Toxin Weapons
 - 3. Radiological Weapons and Jihadist Terrorism
- 4. Jihadists and Nuclear Weapons
- C. The Once and Future Threat
 - 1. Islamist Use and Pursuit of CBRN Terrorism
 - 2. The Future of Jihadists and WMD: Trends and Emerging Threats
 - 3. Conclusion
- D. Awareness and Recognition
 - 1. Prevention and Deterrence
 - 2. Chemical Agents
 - 3. Biological Agents
 - 4. Radiological Materials and Nuclear Weapons
 - 5. Explosive Devices

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Unit Tests (4)	20%
Chapter Assignments (14)	20%
Discussion Thread Participation	10%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	20%

Course Requirements

- 1. Students will log in a minimum of three times a week.
- 2. Students will participate in discussion threads by posting at least one original posting and responding to at least two class mates for each forum.
- 3. Students must complete a team project. The instructor will assign teams.
- 4. Students will complete assignments, test and a comprehensive final.

Course Policies

- 1. Students must log in and participate in the online course a minimum of three hours per week.
- 2. Not late assignments, test or projects will be accepted.
- 3. Students that miss a test will receive a grade of 0.

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4. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
5. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE DEALT WITH STRICTLY!** - An automatic F for the semester, plus a report will be filed with potential dismissal from Lamar Institute of Technology.
6. In support of internet etiquette, students are expected to use courteous, professional and respectful language for course e-mails, assignment submissions, and discussions.
7. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25368512>

A functional internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the online resource:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	References
1	Orientation	Online: Orientation Folder
	Jihadist and WMD Text Introduction	Text: Chapter 1
	Jihadist Ideology and Strategy and the Possible Employment of WMD	Online: Section 1, Week 1
	Prevention and Deterrence	Online: Prevention and Deterrence
	QUIZ 1 on Prevention and Deterrence	
2	Obedience to Divinity? The Psychology of Jihadist WMD Terrorism	Text: Chapter 2 Online: Section 1, Week 2
3	Jihadist Tactics and Targeting	Text: Chapter 3 Online: Section 1, Week 3
4	Jihadist Capabilities and the Diffusion of Knowledge	Text: Chapter 4 Online: Section 1, Week 4
5	Section 1: TEST 1 on Chapters 1 – 4	Text: Chapters 1 – 4 Online: Section 1, Assessments

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Week	Topic	References
	Jihadists and Chemical Weapons	Text: Chapter 5 Online: Section 2, Week 5
	Chemical Agents QUIZ 2 on Chemical Agents	Online: Chemical Agents
6	Jihadists and Biological and Toxin Weapons	Text: Chapter 6 Online: Section 2, Week 6
	Biological Agents Quiz 3 on Biological Agents	Online: Biological Agents
7	Radiological Weapons and Jihadist Terrorism	Text: Chapter 7 Online: Section 2, Week 7
8	Jihadists and Nuclear Weapons	Text: Chapter 8 Online: Section 2, Week 8
	Radiological Materials and Nuclear Weapons Quiz 4 on Radiological Materials and Nuclear Weapons	Online: Radiological Materials and Nuclear Weapons
9	Section 2: TEST 2 on Chapters 5 – 8	Text: Chapters 5 – 8 Online: Section 2, Assessments
	Islamic Use and Pursuit of CBRN Terrorism	Text: Chapter 13 Online: Section 3, Week 9
10	The Future of Jihadists and WMD: Trends and Emerging Threats	Text: Chapter 14 Online: Section 3, Week 10
11	Conclusion	Text: Chapter 15 Online: Section 3, Week 11
12	Section 3: TEST 3 on Chapters 13 - 15	Text: Chapters 13 – 15 Online: Section 3, Assessments
	Al-Qaida's CBRN Activities	Text: Appendix A Online: Section 4, Week 12
13	Selected Jihadist Statements and Discussion on WMD	Text: Appendix B Online: Section 4, Week 13
	Explosive Devices Quiz 4 on Explosive Devices	Online: Explosive Devices
14	Section 4: TEST 4 on Appendix A & B	Text: Appendix A & B Online: Section 4, Assessments
	Review for Final Exam and Team Project	
15	Team Project Due	Text & Online Materials
	Final Exam (Comprehensive)	Text: Chapters 1 – 8, 13 – 15, and Appendix A & B Online: Sections 1, 2 & 3

Contact information varies by instructor.