SRA 211 Section 001 – Threat of Terrorism and Crime
Spring 2017

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and by appointment
Class Meeting Place/Times: Room 113 IST Building (Cybertorium), Monday, Wednesday &
Friday 10:10 - 11:00 a.m.
Learning Assistants: Laura Daly; Christina McMahon

Required Text:
ISBN: 978-0-521-85924-0 (hardback)
ISBN: 978-0-521-67642-0 (paperback)

Supplemental Reading Assignments:
Readings and other materials will be posted on the course's ANGEL website, located in Angel
folders for each class date and are designated as READINGS

Course Description:
SRA 211 is an introductory course with a broad focus on terrorism and crime in relation to
security and risk analysis. The course introduces SRA majors and other interested students to the
nature, scope and seriousness of the security threats posed by terrorist and criminal
activity. Students will examine law enforcement and counter-terrorism policies and measures,
including international counter-terrorism cooperation. Students will also consider the methods
used to study terrorism and crime and the implications of the strengths and weaknesses of these
methods for the reliability and completeness of our knowledge and understanding of terrorist and
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criminal threats. This course will utilize collaborative and action-learning experiences wherever appropriate. Emphasis will be placed on teamwork, group interaction and developing and practicing writing, speaking and critical thinking/analysis skills through application of the concepts that will be presented during the course.

The semester will be divided into four discrete, yet interrelated units. In addition, one week of the class will be devoted to in-class preparation and presentations of a team-based counterterrorism simulation project.

UNIT 1: Methods of Study and Analysis:
Students will become acquainted with the fundamentals of studying crime and terrorism, including critical thinking analysis and the role of personal bias in the analytical process. Students will be introduced to current views of terrorist and criminal psychology as well as to the ways in which analytical tools such as game theory, social network analysis and network mapping can be applied to terrorist and criminal groups and activities. (Unit 1 Quiz)

UNIT 2: Terrorism:
Unit 2 will focus on the causes, intentions, nature and scope of security threats posed by terrorism. Students will examine the various types of terrorist groups and the range of terrorist motivations, including the phenomenon of Islamic extremism and the so-called "Global Jihad." Specific terrorist threats, such as terrorists’ use of weapons of mass destruction as well as terrorist threats against critical infrastructure (including cyber-infrastructure) will be discussed. (Unit 2 Quiz)

UNIT 3: Counter-terrorism Efforts:
The major objective of Unit 3 will be to assess United States counter-terrorism policies and international counter-terrorism cooperation. Students will review the architecture of the U.S. counterterrorism infrastructure and will examine the nature of today’s terrorist threat and the relationship between robust counter-terrorism policies and civil liberties (including data privacy). (Unit 3 Quiz)

Team Project Preparation & Presentations:
In order to develop an understanding of the methods used by intelligence and investigative agencies to map terrorist/criminal networks, students will participate in a Team Project simulating international efforts to thwart a major terrorist attack (described in more detail below).

UNIT 4: Crime and Law Enforcement:
The focus of Unit 4 is on the causes, intentions, nature and scope of security threats posed by criminal activity. Sessions will consider drug cartels, cybercrime and white collar crime as well as theories and policies aimed at crime prevention and mitigation. The discussion of organized crime will include an overview of transnational criminal issues, including trafficking in persons, illegal trade in weapons, commercial piracy and international drug and other smuggling, as well as an in-depth look at the Sicilian Mafia. The unit will conclude with a discussion of crime and
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violence at academic institutions, including examination of the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings.

The goal of the SRA program is to build future leaders in this critical major. Prospective employers in both government and the private sector increasingly focus on skill sets such as critical thinking ability, teamwork and team-building and effective communication (both written and oral) skills. An international perspective is increasingly important as the pace of technological innovation increases amid trends toward greater globalization. This course helps students to become familiar with the subject matter, vocabulary and skills of the field.

**Course Policies**

**Course Evaluation:** The grading scale for the class is as follows (numbers are in percentages):

94 - 100: A
90 - 93.99: A-
87 - 89.99: B+
84 - 86.99: B
80 - 83.99: B-
77 - 79.99: C+
70 - 76.99: C
60 - 69.99: D
Below 60: F

The percentages will be based on a 1,000 point system over the course of the semester (that is, every 10 points earned by a student for quiz results, in-class exercises, homework, etc., will count as one percentage point toward the final grade).

There will be three quizzes, one held at the conclusion of Unit 1-3 and based on material covered during the unit. Each will consist primarily of objective multiple-choice questions, but may also include short answer and/or essay questions. There will also be a team project (including presentation) outlined below. A comprehensive final examination will be held during the regular final examination period. The final examination will be cumulative, but will focus in particular on the material covered in Unit 4. Results will be posted as soon as possible after each quiz. The dates for unit quizzes indicated on the class schedule are subject to change; any changes will be announced in class. Additional components of evaluation (participation, attendance & homework assignments) are discussed below.

The course grade is based on all these components, but weighted as follows:

Class Participation/In-Class Exercises - 60 points
Homework Assignments - 160 points
Unit 1 Quiz - 100 points
Unit 2 Quiz - 100 points
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Unit 3 Quiz - 100 points
Team Project Country Team Report - 100 points
Team Project Group Presentation - 100 points
Team Project Peer Evaluation - 30 points
Final Exam - 250 points

Final Course Grade (sum of above) **1000 points**

**Attendance, Participation and Assignments:**

Attendance is expected for all classes, quizzes and group activities. **Excused absences will be granted for good reason, but the instructor and Learning Assistants must be notified of the absence and the reason prior to the class in question.** Each unexcused absence in excess of three (3) will result in a grade **reduction of ten (10) points per missed class session from your course point total (equal to one percent of your course grade).** Additionally, students will not be awarded points for any in-class activities that occur on class days during which the student's absence is unexcused (including the initial three unexcused absences).

Topics discussed during all class sessions will be tested on the quizzes and most will be relevant to the final team project. The slides on which instructor presentations are based -- and which will be available on ANGEL after each class session -- **will contain most, but not all** of the material for which students will be responsible.

Participation in the classroom (including participation in in-class exercises) is likewise expected, as is the timely completion and submission of out-of-class assignments.

**Make-up Exams, Quizzes & Other Assignments/Late Assignments**

No make-up exams, quizzes or other assignments will be given without prior approval by the instructor and valid written documentation supporting the request. The same rule applies to homework assignments and in-class activities.

Make-ups for tests and/or assignments for students who do not comply with these rules may, at the discretion of the instructor, be allowed on a reduced-point basis.

Assignments turned in late will, at the discretion of the instructor, be graded on a reduced-point basis.

**Team Project:**
The course team project will entail a simulation of international counterterrorism cooperation at the fictional "2017 State College G-8 Summit." Each team will represent one of the countries of the G-8 process. Teams will be provided with a series of simulated "intelligence reports" indicating the likelihood of an imminent major terrorist attack and will be required to use information obtained via the simulated intelligence inputs and analytical tools developed in SRA 211 to research and map the terrorism organization, evaluate intelligence, share information with international partners to the extent allowable, and in so doing unravel the plot and thwart the planned terrorist attack.

Grades for Teams:

All team members are expected to contribute equitably to the work of their respective teams. Accordingly, all team members will normally receive the same grade for each assignment. If, however, there is evidence that one or more team members contributed either minimally or not at all, the instructor reserves the right to reduce their grades.

Pennsylvania State University Policies applicable to this Course

Academic Integrity:

According to the Penn State Principles and University Code of Conduct:

Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State University, allowing the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. In accordance with the University's Code of Conduct, you must not engage in or tolerate academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person, or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated, and where warranted, punitive action will be taken. For every incident when a penalty of any kind is assessed, a report must be filed. This form is used for both undergraduate and graduate courses. This report must be signed by both the instructor and the student, and then submitted to the Senior Associate Dean.

Affirmative Action & Sexual Harassment:

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by Commonwealth or Federal authorities. Penn State does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or
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handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, gender, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries to the Affirmative Action Office, 211 Willard Building.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

IST welcomes persons with disabilities to all of its classes, programs, and events. If you need accommodations, or have questions about access to buildings where IST activities are held, please contact us in advance of your participation or visit. If you need assistance during a class, program, or event, please contact the member of our staff or faculty in charge.

An Invitation to Students with Learning Disabilities:

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site at http://equity.psu.edu/ods/.

In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (see the documentation guidelines at http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.

Classroom Procedures

Mobile telephones: The ringing of cell phones during class is a real nuisance. Please turn off your mobile devices before class starts.

Internet Policy: There will be times when computer use during class will be both encouraged and necessary to complete in-class exercise assignments. Otherwise, classroom computers or laptop computers may not be used for any purpose unrelated to class work or class discussion. The instructor reserves the right to require all classroom computers to be turned off if this policy is not respected.

Study Guide for SRA 211
Cybercrime, cyber terrorism, and the related policies and regulations covered in this course are complex and require interpretation; these are skills that must be acquired continuously through steady, consistent and progressive exposure over the whole semester. The PowerPoint slides available from the course website through Angel are highly abbreviated, condensations used primarily to focus attention on the subject. Detailed note taking is essential to fill in the many important details and note how the laws, rules, policies and procedures apply in the examples given in the text and in class.

SRA 211 participates in the Newspaper-in-Education program, implemented locally as Penn State's Newspaper Readership program. Students are encouraged to find stories, editorials and advertisements related to course subject matter, read these items and be prepared to discuss them within your groups and during class. Use one or more quality national newspapers of your choice (i.e., New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, USA Today) and various regional/local newspapers.

Class Schedule

The course ANGEL website contains a schedule of classes, outlining the material to be covered as well as reading and other outside assignments. All reading assignments are due on the date for which they are listed. Other assignments are due prior to the following class session.

Readings linked or provided for download from Angel are located in Angel folders for each class date and are designated as READINGS -- these are listed below as “Angel Readings.”

Readings from the required course text, Forst, TERRORISM, CRIME AND PUBLIC POLICY, are designated below as “FORST pp. ##.”

Topics on this class schedule will be covered as time permits. Any schedule changes will be posted to the SRA 211 Angel website and announced in class. **Students should anticipate the addition of reading and other assignments and in-class exercise over the course of semester, and should periodically check for updated class schedules.**