



DOMESTIC TERRORISM (2026_SUMM_30293_CJ_5336 W02 31198 Domestic Terrorism) Start Date: 05/27/2026 End Date: 07/01/2026. Class Meet: Asynchronous Online	Assistant Professor Ercan BALCIOGLU Tel: (432) 837-8336 ercan.balcioglu@sulross.edu Office hours: By Appointment (Contact me via Blackboard Message. I am responding to your Blackboard message daily.)
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COURSE MATERIALS

The following course materials are required:

1. There is not textbook required for this course. All required reading (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard. Regarding scientific journal articles, BYRIAN WILDENTHAL MEMORIAL LIBRARY OF SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY has an extensive database infrastructure. You can get detailed information and advice from libraries website <https://library.sulross.edu/#>
Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of the University and reach the articles on the reading list.
The Syllabus is subject to updates and changes always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.
2. Recommended-American Psychological Association (October 2019). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition-spiral>

Additional resources, including supplementary readings, videos, and other materials, will be made available on Blackboard throughout the semester.

SRSU Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library at Sul Ross State University provides free resources and services for the entire SRSU community, including books, articles, and online databases accessible at www.library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. A photo ID is required to check out physical materials. Librarians are available for assistance via email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), phone (432-837-8123), or in person.

For RGC students: You also have access to the Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries located in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. These libraries provide additional space and resources, as well as access to online materials via library.swtjc.edu. Moreover, they serve as pickup locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) services from the Alpine campus. Logging into your Sul Ross Blackboard account connects you directly to the library webpage, where you can explore online databases and access articles on the reading list. Please note, the syllabus is subject to updates. Regularly check course announcements for changes. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus, as necessary.

Course Description

This course is designed to expand students' understanding of domestic terrorism within the United States. It offers a comprehensive exploration of how domestic terrorist organizations and violent extremist movements have originated and evolved over time. Throughout the course, students will examine key subjects including the formation of extremist identities, lone wolf attacks, eco-terrorism and animal rights extremism, religious radicalism, racially motivated hate groups, and a range of other radical ideologies and issues connected to terrorism on American soil.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to build a thorough understanding of the various dimensions of domestic terrorism in the United States. By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

LO1 – Recognize and analyze the dynamics of in-group and out-group relationships as they relate to the development of extremist identities.

LO2 – Understand the concept of lone wolf terrorism and explain its significance in the broader context of domestic terrorism in the United States.

LO3 – Explore, evaluate, and engage in critical discussion of the diverse ideologies behind domestic terrorist organizations and violent extremist movements.

LO4 – Identify and assess the various strategies and approaches used to counter domestic terrorism and violent extremism within the United States.

Student Learning Outcomes

CJ-GRAD-SLO 1: Students will analyze the role of U.S. court systems in domestic terrorism cases, including evaluating the impact of Supreme Court rulings on counterterrorism laws and civil liberties.

CJ-GRAD-SLO 2: Students will identify and apply criminological theories to explain radicalization, extremist group behavior, and lone wolf terrorism, while critically evaluating competing theoretical perspectives.

CJ-GRAD-SLO 3: Students will demonstrate competency in research methods as applied to domestic terrorism, including critiquing scholarly research and applying findings to inform Criminal Justice and Homeland Security policy.

MARKETABLE SKILLS

This course is also designed to equip students with valuable, career-ready skills applicable to Criminal Justice and related professions. The following marketable skills will be emphasized throughout the course:

MS 1 – Written Communication Skills

MS 2 – Critical Thinking and Observation

MS 3 – Multicultural Understanding

MS 4 – Accessing and Utilizing Crime Data Resources and Current Legal Codes and Procedures

MS 5 – Teamwork and Collaborative Problem-Solving

MS 6 – Analyzing Factors Contributing to Crime

Technology Requirements

This course relies heavily on Blackboard, which students are expected to check on a regular basis for announcements, assignments, grades, and course materials. Key Blackboard features used in this course include email, course documents, discussion boards, the grade center, SafeAssign, and external links.

Basic Computer Skills Required:

- Sending and receiving emails with attachments
 - Navigating the internet and downloading files
 - Proficiency in word processing software (e.g., MS Word)
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Required Technology:

- A reliable computer with a stable internet connection
 - An up-to-date web browser capable of streaming content and downloading course materials.
 - Access to Blackboard via your LoboID and password
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For technical assistance, tutorials and support resources are available through the Blackboard support page.

Participation Policy

This is a fully online course with no scheduled class meetings; however, active participation remains a core expectation. To begin, students are asked to complete the non-graded "Introduction" post to introduce themselves to their classmates and instructor.

Students are expected to:

- Log into Blackboard regularly to monitor announcements, assignments, and deadlines.
- Complete all assignments and exams online by their posted due dates.
- Direct any questions regarding course materials, assignments, or exams to the instructor through Blackboard Ultra Messaging

Consistent engagement throughout the course is essential to academic success.

Attendance Policy

Although this course is conducted entirely online, student engagement and participation are still mandatory. The University's attendance policy applies to all distance learning courses, and a student may be dropped by an "F" grade for excessive non-participation, defined as more than one week of inactivity during a summer session.

Inactivity includes:

- Failure to log into Blackboard Ultra.
- Failure to submit assignments.
- Failure to participate in required course activities.
- Failure to communicate with the instructor.
- Failure to adhere to the participation guidelines outlined in the syllabus.

Students must uphold academic integrity and comply with copyright laws. All submitted work must be the student's own unless group work is explicitly assigned. Students accessing the course remotely are expected to conduct themselves professionally with respect to the host campus, its facilities, and staff.

Students are required to check their SRSU email accounts regularly, as all official course communications—including those sent through Blackboard Ultra—will be directed there.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments and coursework must be submitted by their stated deadlines. Since students are informed of all due dates at the start of the term, late work is generally not accepted, and students are expected to plan and manage their time accordingly.

Exceptions will only be considered in cases involving documented, university-recognized excuses. Students who miss an assignment or exam must promptly provide a valid explanation along with supporting documentation.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the syllabus regularly and remain aware of all upcoming deadlines throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty as outlined in the **Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct**. Any form of academic dishonesty—including **cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, or falsification of records**—will not be tolerated and will be addressed in accordance with university policies.

Definitions:

- **Cheating:** Using unauthorized materials or assistance during exams, altering academic records, or obtaining answers through dishonest means.
- **Plagiarism:** Submitting another's work, ideas, or words as your own without proper citation.
- **Collusion:** Assisting or being complicit in another student's academic dishonesty.

Using tools like **ChatGPT or other AI generators** is prohibited unless explicitly permitted for a specific assignment. Violations may result in penalties ranging from a failing grade on an assignment to failure of the course and may lead to further disciplinary action.

Maintaining academic integrity protects both the value of your education and the credibility of the university.

APA Style

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) Seventh Edition formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA, a few resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the course academic honesty standards. Beside numerous online sources you can also visit the following link for help with APA https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

Student Support Services

Sul Ross State University offers various programs to help students succeed, including advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of services, visit Student Support Services at <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall, Room 105.

Counseling Services: Sul Ross students have access to nine free counseling sessions through TimelyCare. For 24/7 support, visit TimelyCare/SRSU. In-person counseling is also available in Ferguson Hall, Room 112 (Alpine campus), and via telehealth for remote and RGC students.

Students with Special Needs - Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA)

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with

documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. The office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall # 112, and the mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SRSU, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Departmental Undergraduate Program Marketable Skills

(Aligned with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – 60x30TX Plan)

The 60x30TX initiative aims for 60% of Texans aged 25–34 to hold a degree or credential by 2030. One key component of this goal is that all graduates from public institutions in Texas will complete academic programs with clearly defined marketable skills—competencies valued by employers that support career readiness and lifelong employability.

Marketable skills include both technical and soft skills—often referred to as “employability” or “transferable” skills—developed through coursework, research, internships, and co-curricular activities.

Graduates of the Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Undergraduate Programs at Sul Ross State University will demonstrate the following marketable skills:

1. Effective Verbal and Written Communication
2. Data Literacy and Quantitative Analysis Skills
3. Critical Thinking and Observational Abilities
4. Teamwork and Collaborative Work Practices
5. Cultural Competency and Multicultural Understanding
6. Analytical Skills in Crime Causation and Prevention
7. Knowledge of Legal Codes, Procedures, and Public Safety Protocols

These skills prepare students for diverse roles in law enforcement, homeland security, public service, and justice-related professions.

Other Course Expectations

- This is an upper-level college course, and students are expected to produce work that reflects that level of academic rigor. This includes the use of proper APA formatting, correct grammar, clear sentence structure, and organized presentation of ideas.
- Students are responsible for carefully reviewing the syllabus to stay informed about assignment requirements and due dates. Please contact the instructor promptly if clarification is needed.

Reaction Papers

You are required to submit a **Reaction Paper** each week based on the assigned readings.

Each paper should meet the following format requirements:

- **Length:** 1 full page
- **Spacing:** 1.5-spaced
- **Font:** 12-point Times New Roman

Each Reaction Paper should focus on the **assigned readings for the week**. If there is more than one assigned reading, you are expected to **read all required materials** but may choose **one reading** on which to base your paper for that week.

Important: A Reaction Paper is **not a summary** of the reading. Instead, it should reflect:

- Your **perspective**
- Your **analysis and critique** of the ideas presented
- Any **connections** you see to course themes or real-world applications

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

For your **Midterm Exam**, you will prepare an **Annotated Bibliography** of **10–12 scholarly sources** that will serve as part of the literature foundation for your **Final Paper**.

You must use **scholarly, scientific, peer-reviewed journal articles**.

- **Government or expert reports** are the only exception to this requirement.
- **Web articles, popular magazines, and newspapers** (e.g., NYT, Time, Newsweek) will **not** receive credit unless the article is a **reprint from a peer-reviewed journal**.
- Your selected articles should reflect **scientific research** and the use of appropriate **research methods**.

 For Each Source, Your Annotation Should Address the Following:

1. **Author(s):** Who wrote the article?
2. **Purpose:** What was the author's purpose in writing this piece?
3. **Major Findings:** What are the key assertions or findings of the article?
4. **Evidence:** How does the author support these findings?
5. **Comparison:** How does this source compare or contrast with another source in your bibliography?
6. **Relevance:** How does this source contribute to your understanding of your chosen Final Paper topic?
7. **Research Methods:** What research methods were used in this study?

A **sample paper** will be posted on **Blackboard** to provide guidance on proper formatting and structure.

You will write a final paper on one of the transnational crimes covered in chapters 4-13. The paper should.

- a) be 10 to 15 pages (this is the body of your paper excluding everything else)
- b) include these parts: Title page (1 page), Table of Contents (1 page), Abstract (1 page), Body of the paper - one of the transnational crimes covered in chapters 4-13 (10+ pages), References (1 page), Appendices (if any) (see APA Manual for formatting guidelines),
- c) be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- d) include **at least five scholarly citations** other than the ones we covered in the class (not website articles, Wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, etc.), and
- e) be written according to APA formatting and citation style. Save and attach your final paper using the following naming format exactly:

Final Paper_2026_SUMM_30282_CJ_5328_FirstName_LastName

Please attach your Final Paper and send it to me using Blackboard Message, ensuring you put the same name of your Final Paper as explained above in the Subject line of your Blackboard Message.

 Requirements:

- Your paper must include **at least 10 scholarly citations**.
 - **Websites, Wikipedia, news media, or popular magazines** (e.g., NYT, Newsweek) are **not acceptable sources**.
 - Use **peer-reviewed journal articles, books, or government/expert reports**.
- Length: **10 to 15 pages** (not including **cover page** or **reference list**)
- Format:
 - **Double-spaced**
 - **12-point Times New Roman font**
 - **APA style** for formatting and citations
 - [APA Style Guide](#)
 - [Purdue OWL APA Guide](#)

 Submission Process – 3 Steps:

Your Final Paper will be submitted in the following **three stages** to guide your progress and ensure proper feedback:

- 1 **Topic Proposal / Introduction of Topic**
- 2 **Annotated Bibliography** (Midterm Exam Assignment)
- 3 **Final Paper Submission**

Important: Refer to the **course calendar** and **academic calendar** posted on Blackboard for all important **due dates** and **submission deadlines**.

This **Final Paper** will be worth **200 points** — it is the largest single component of your course grade. Please begin planning and researching your topic early in the term.

Grading

Grading Components

Assessment	Points
Reaction Papers (5 x 20 points)	100
Weekly Quizzes (5 x 20 points)	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Paper	200
Total Possible Points	500

Course Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	500 – 460
B	459 – 420
C	419 – 380
D	379 – 340
F	339 & below

Course Schedule

This course schedule is subject to change as needed to meet the needs of the course. Students will be notified of adjustments when they are made. Also, any additional reading materials, resources and other information will be posted on Blackboard. Students will be notified of how to access this information by the instructor. *****All times are in central time*****

DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1 May 28- June 2	Introduction of Syllabus and course requirements Understanding and Conceptualizing Domestic Terrorism: Issues for Congress	QUIZ-1 REACTION PAPER 1 Quiz 1 and Paper 1 submission will be available between Thursday 5/28 and close

		at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/2
Week 2 June 3 – 10	INTRODUCTION RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC Trends in views of democracy and society and support for political violence in the USA, 2022–2024: findings from a nationally representative survey	QUIZ-2 REACTION PAPER 2 Quiz 2 and Paper 2 submission will be available between Wednesday 6/3 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/10
Week 3 June 11– 16	Lone Wolf Terrorism: Types, Stripes, And Double Standards	QUIZ-3 REACTION PAPER 3 Quiz 3 and Paper 3 submission will be available between Wednesday 6/11 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/16
Week 4 June 17 –23	MIDTERM EXAM ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DHS Continues to See High Risk of Foreign and Domestic Terrorism in 2024 Homeland Threat Assessment	QUIZ-4 REACTION PAPER 4 Quiz 4 and Paper 4 submission will be available between Wednesday 6/17 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/23
Week 5 June 24 –30	Left-Wing Terrorism and Political Violence in the United States	QUIZ-5 REACTION PAPER 5

		Quiz 5 and Paper 5 submission will be available between Wednesday 6/24 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/30
July 1 !!! END OF TERM !!!	FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION (Due Date July 1, 2026)	

END OF COURSE EVALUATIONS: Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH DATA

- 1-Homeland Security Digital Library <https://www.hSDL.org/?collection&id=86563>
- 2- FBI <https://www.fbi.gov/cve508/teen-website/what-are-known-violent-extremist-groups>
- 3- RAND Corporation <https://www.rand.org/topics/domestic-terrorism.html>
- 4- Texas Domestic Terrorism Threat Assessment
https://www.dps.texas.gov/director_staff/media_and_communications/2020/txTerrorThreatAssessment.pdf
- 5- Domestic Terrorism At Home and Abroad <https://extremism.gwu.edu/event/domesticterrorism-home-and-abroad>
- 6- Anti-Defamation League <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/combat-hate/extremism-terrorismbigotry>
- 7- SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremistfiles/groups>
- 8- Office of the Director of National Intelligence <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/nctc-home>
- 9- U.S. Institute of Peace <https://www.usip.org/publications/2005/07/terrorism-and-counterterrorism-web-links>
- 10- Downloadable Data on Terrorism
<https://subjectguides.library.american.edu/c.php?g=478725&p=3273238>
- 11- Internet Websites and Links for (Counter-) Terrorism Research
<http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/jongman-internet-websites/html>