

EMDS 402

Terrorism, Violence, Resiliency, and Response

Fall 2025 Syllabus

I. Instructor: Jim Williams MS, RN, EMT-P

Office: 1716 Chestnut Street

Phone: (270) 392-0901 (Cell/Text)

It is better if you text me and include your issue along with your name in the text so I know who I'm communicating with.

Email: James.Williams@wku.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Lecture Format: Web-based (Online)

II: Course Description: Explores issues emerging from acts of terror and extreme violence, including the impact on organizations and society. Examines practical approaches to resiliency assessment including risk identification, prevention initiatives, impact analysis, response, and recovery planning.

III. Disability Statement: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

IV. Class Attendance and Participation: This is a web-based online course. Students are free to manage their schedules within and around the due dates of the various assignments. Participation in class discussion board assignments is required and students must participate on a **regular basis throughout the course**. Class participation is a student responsibility and will be considered in determining the final grade.

V. Grading Procedure: The instructor may modify the syllabus to accommodate appropriate coverage of topics. This course will utilize Blackboard to enhance learning opportunities. You should regularly access the course site to view announcements, course instructions, submit assignments, review lecture notes, etc.

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Examinations: One examination will be given according to the class outline. Test questions will be taken from discussion assignments, reading assignments, handouts, audiovisuals, and material discussed. The test will count 200 points. The exam will be completed using the testing capabilities of the Blackboard learning management system. Students must take the exam at the scheduled date/time. Exam will be timed and scored upon completion. The final exam must be taken on the date stipulated in the WKU Final Exam calendar or as directed by the instructor.

Discussions: Unless otherwise noted, the minimum participation is 3 times for each forum. One initial post and two responses to other students' posts. Each discussion assignment will be posted in the Discussion section of Blackboard. **Total points for all 5 discussions is 250 points.** Grading will be based on the following requirements:

A (45-50 points) = Three or more substantial postings in each graded forum. The postings provide insightful comments and stimulate active discussion threads. Posts provide good responses to questions posed, read the comments of others and interact with them.

B (40-44 points) = Meets the minimum participation requirements. Postings initiate few interesting threads and are not interacting with others.

C (35-39 points) = Two substantial posts followed by one general response in each forum per week.

D (30-34 points) = Fewer than 2 postings or one day of participation and non-interacting.

Grading Criteria:

Examinations (1@200 pts. ea) 200 pts.

Discussions (5@50 pts. ea) 250 pts

Completion of FEMA Courses (3 @ 100 pts. ea) 300 pts.

A = 675-750 points

B = 600-674 points

C = 525-559 points

D = 450-524 points

F = Below 449 points

Total possible points 750 pts.

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Instructor Feedback: In general, I will attempt to grade assignments in a timely manner, generally in 4 to 5 days, up to a week depending on the length of the assignment. Grades will be available through our Blackboard course Gradebook. Depending on the assignment, I will provide some form of feedback within the Blackboard Gradebook. Some assignments may have a rubric provided, and that will be used as feedback. Also, if you have any concerns regarding your assignment grades, please email me ASAP.

Academic Standards: I expect all students to support the same respect for individuals, commitment to issue and problem resolution, and open communication and feedback as in any learning environment. Specifically, all students are expected to:

- Accept responsibility and accountability for all use, actions and content posted to any online classroom, public meeting or personal inbox (email).
- Maintain the same ethical standards expected in a collaborative, academic environment.
- Demonstrate respect for all faculty, students, and staff regardless of age, race, gender, religion, national origin, veteran's status, disability, or sexual orientation.

In the online environment, the following will not be tolerated:

- Harmful, threatening, libelous, or abusive content
- Profanity of any kind
- Copyright infringement or violation of patent, trademark, proprietary information, or confidentiality agreements
- Misrepresentation of identity through alteration of inbox (email) names
- Posting unsolicited advertisements to public meetings or private inboxes (no spamming)
- Transferring computer viruses, intentionally or unintentionally, or other code that disrupts or interferes with other users' use of the online environment or personal computers, systems, or networks.

Honesty: I highly value academic honesty. A student must always submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student's original words or ideas, then the student must cite all relevant sources. The student should also make it clear the extent to which such sources are used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. All submissions to any public meeting or private mailbox fall within the scope of words and ideas that require citations if used by someone other than the original author. Academic dishonesty in an Online learning environment could involve the following:

- Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignments
 - Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment
 - Copying work submitted by another student to a public class meeting
 - Using information from on-line information services without proper citation
- Any of these practices could result in charges of academic dishonesty. Sanctions range from failing assignment or class grades to expulsion.

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Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) In general, I expect that the work you submit in this class will be your own. Work submitted that is generated by an AI tool (for example ChatGPT or others) may be considered plagiarism. Exams will always be expected to be completed WITHOUT any type of assistance, including AI tools. (An exception to this is that you may use any notes you take for yourself from assigned multimedia resources.) For other course assignments, general ideas from a work created by an AI tool may be used if appropriately cited just like any other outside source you might utilize. Please proofread any AI work as well to catch any “hallucinations” or fictitious sources (I occasionally check just to see if you’ve come up on info I haven’t seen). Again, if you chose to utilize AI, you are expected to properly document and cite this information. For this course, we use the APA style of writing. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>. Once again, AI tools may NOT be utilized for the exams in this course. If you choose to use these tools in writing an exam, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the WKU Code of Student Conduct. If you are unsure if you are using AI tools appropriately for other course work, I encourage you to visit with me.

Regular & Substantive Interaction The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage. In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways: Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards, Weekly announcements, Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission. Additionally, I am available via text/email/phone almost constantly for individual questions or concerns.

WKU Syllabus Statement regarding COVID-19:

All students are strongly encouraged [to get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in Kentucky, the University requires that students who may have returned from a COVID quarantine must wear a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth until the date designated by the healthcare provider, when in public areas within all buildings. Students required to wear masks must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)):

270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Terrorism & Violent Acts Classification and Trends

Week 1 will provide an introduction to EMDS 502, and a review of critical information related to terrorism both in general and specific to key incidents. Including: Categories of Terrorism, History of Terrorism, The Events of 9/11, and Post 9/11 Terrorism.

The assignments for week one will be found on Blackboard and will include a presentation introducing the course and providing an overview of terrorism and violence, required readings, and discussion board questions.

Week 2: Active Shooter: Response, Recovery, and Preventative Strategies

Week 2 will delve into the topic of Active Shooter. We will provide definitions and some historical prospective what has risen to the forefront as a potential threat in virtually every sector of public life. We will look at the Evolution of responses to active shooters incidents, post incident actions as well as prevention and protection initiatives.

Complete the assignment and discussion board as posted.

Week 3: Weapons of Mass Destruction

Week 3 will provide a detailed review of Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMD's and their forms and classifications, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives or **CBRNE**.

Read the reference materials posted and complete the three online courses noted below.

You will need a FEMA Student ID Number or SID. If you do not have one go to this site to acquire one:

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid> .

Complete FEMA/TEEX Online Course AWR- 160 WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders

For AWR-160 you will also need to register with the Texas A&M Extension Service Portal:

<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx>

Complete the two courses as noted below:

Complete FEMA / CDP Online Course AWR- 903 Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/course/AWR-903>

Complete FEMA / CDP Online Course AWR- 921 Bomb Making Materials Awareness Employee Training

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/course/AWR-921>

Once you successfully complete the training, download your certificate from the TEEX site and upload into Blackboard using the link found for Week 3. There is NO Discussion Board assignment for this week!

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Week 4: Analysis of Selected Cases of Terrorism and Violence

Week four will provide an opportunity to review selected cases of terrorism and violence from a global prospective.

You will select two incidents from the list, research each, and answer the questions in the discussion board.

You will need to cite a minimum of three credible sources for each case. The sources should include at least one official agency after action report or a peer reviewed journal article.

Week 5: Protective Measures for Acts of Terror and Violence

Week five will begin a look at prevention strategies, primarily focused on identification of potential targets and the application of protective measures. The readings will include materials on vulnerability assessments, physical security measures, as well as identification of emerging programs and technologies.

Read the provided materials from the various federal agencies.

Complete the assignment and discussion board as posted.

Complete and submit Final Exam

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