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## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies**  
**HLSS498**  
**Senior Seminar in Homeland Security**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Length of Course: 8 Weeks**  
**Prerequisite: See Course Description below**

### Course Description (Catalog)

This senior capstone course allows students majoring in homeland security to analyze specific program related issues and problems using the knowledge and understanding gained by completing the required courses in the program and a significant number of the major courses. This is a capstone course to be taken after all other English courses have been satisfactorily completed. Student must have SENIOR standing to register.

### Course Scope

The Senior Seminar in Homeland Security [HS] provides the student with a capstone experience at the conclusion of core and required courses in the degree path. The course presents contemporary HS issues for analysis via interactive Forum postings. The issues we'll address begin with an analysis of strategic presidential and HS guidance, then the operational and tactical view of HS realities. We'll review the threat in detail and then see what the DHS is doing organizationally to be ready for those threats. This course will require an independent, original research paper on an issue of the student's choice.

### Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Assess current Administration planning for national preparedness.

CO-2: Assess status of the DHS planning.

CO-3: Assess the Intelligence Community view of current and future threats to America.

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CO-4: Research how the DHS assesses the same threats.

CO-5: Analyze the performance of DHS sectors.

CO-6: Conduct original, independent research on a homeland security issue.

### **Course Delivery Method**

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

### **Course Resources**

There is not an assigned text for this course. The readings consist of selected e-book chapters and journal articles that will be provided under the Lessons tab in the classroom.

### **Evaluation Procedures**

#### **Forum discussions – 60 percent**

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

#### **Midterm assignment - 15 percent**

This assignment is the outline of your Final Research Paper. Your revised thesis statement and research *outline* is due at the end of Week 4. This will include your original thesis statement and your revised thesis statement after 4 weeks of research. Also, this will include an outline of your research design including introductory points, major topical points and sub-points for each, and concluding points. Please use APA parenthetical citations and references.

#### **Final assignment – 25 percent**

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The research paper is designed for you to contribute *original research* and analysis on an issue of your choosing *relevant to homeland security*. You will make an initial announcement of your research paper thesis statement at the end of Week 1. For some guidance on constructing a thesis statement see this page: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/thesis.html>

Your final research must be at least 2,000 words (8 pages+) plus a cover page (with name, date, course, and title/question), and any figures, tables, maps, footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography. NOTE: The Title and Reference pages DO NOT COUNT TOWARD TOTAL PAGE COUNT.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	<b>60</b>
Midterm Assignment	<b>15</b>
Final Assignment	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## 8 – Week Course Outline

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Topic(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Course Objective(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Reading(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment(s)</u></b>
<b>1</b>	Introductions, Study Deductions & Research Thesis Definition	CO-6	See the Week 1 Lesson	Introduction Forum
<b>2</b>	National Preparedness	CO-1	DHS, "National Preparedness Report", 30 Mar 2012.	Week 2 Forum
<b>3</b>	DHS Planning	CO-2	Napolitano, Janet, "DHS Strategic Plan, FY 2012-2016", 13 Feb 2012	Week 3 Forum
<b>4</b>	Mid-Term Research	CO 1 & 2	Midterm Paper	Week 4 Forum Research paper outline

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	Paper Outline			
<b>5</b>	Current and Future Threats to America	CO-3	Clapper, James R., "2011 DNI, Annual Threat Assessment [WTA]" 10 Feb 2011  Clapper, James R., "2012 DNI, Worldwide Threat Assessment [WTA]" 31 Jan 2012	Week 5 Forum
<b>6</b>	DHS Risk/Threat Assessment	CO-4	The Strategic National Risk Assessment in Support of PPD-8; Dec 2011	Week 6 Forum
<b>7</b>	Compare and contrast DHS Annual Performance	CO-5	Skinner, Richard L., "DHS Annual Performance Plan [APP]", FY 2011  Edwards, Charles K., "DHS Annual Performance Plan [APP]", FY 2012	Week 7 Forum
<b>8</b>	Final Paper	CO-1- CO-5	Final	Week 8 Forum  Final Research Paper

## Policies

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Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework for this course.

See [http://www.apus.edu/content/dam/online-library/resources-services/Fuson\\_2012\\_APA.pdf](http://www.apus.edu/content/dam/online-library/resources-services/Fuson_2012_APA.pdf)

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

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- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

## Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

### **Request a Library Guide for your course** (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.

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- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

### **Selected Bibliography**

N/A