PSM 416 Domestic Terrorism and Extremist Groups

Course Description: This course traces the history, emergence, and growth of domestic terrorist and extremist groups within the United States. Students will assess various groups' intentions, capabilities, and activities within contexts of and ramifications on political, national security, and legal paradigms.

"Domestic Terrorism and Extremist Groups" traces the roots of domestic political violence and terrorism in the United States, and will expose the student to academic works concerning contemporary domestic extremists and the terrorist threat they may pose. The course will explore how a radical nature has continued to persist in isolated pockets throughout our Nation’s history, and will do this primarily through a review of academic studies and works that elucidate what some assess as the most dominant driver behind domestic terrorism in the United States – prejudice, fear, and hate. The course will also address domestic weapons of mass destruction terrorism potentials.

Course Objectives
1. Demonstrate a better understanding of the radical roots of the United States and how this heritage tends to provide polemic "fuel" for the domestic extremist.
2. Judge the writings of contemporary academicians and others whose works tend to provide reasonable explanations regarding why domestic terrorism emerges in the United States, even though it is viewed as the most progressive, free, and democratic state in the World.
3. Evaluate some of the principal drivers behind contemporary political violence in the United States.
4. Show an understanding of the design and purpose of the National Strategy for Homeland Security and the Patriot Act (PL107-56) in order to gain an appreciation for the complexities involved in protecting the Homeland against acts of terrorism. This is particularly salient since the purpose of each is to facilitate a secure environment in a way that does not reduce or otherwise infringe on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and other laws designed to protect and guarantee citizens’ rights.

Text Books:


Additional References: None

Outcomes: Upon completion of this course:
The student will be able to:
Assessment: Students will be evaluated for mastery of learning objectives by methods of evaluation to be determined by the instructor.

Method of Instruction:
Lecture, class discussion, audiovisual, demonstration, illustration, practical application by students.

Course Grade: (What it takes to earn the grade)
The course grade will be based on the following distribution:

Attendance Policy:
The faculty of Southern Illinois University Carbondale affirm the importance of prompt and regular attendance on the part of all undergraduate students. Quality instruction clearly depends upon active participation in the classroom or its equivalent learning environment. This concept is further expounded upon in the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Undergraduate Catalog. Students who are absent from more than one-third (1/3) of a course’s instructional hours will seriously jeopardize their grade for the course. Students who stop attending or never attend a class without officially dropping that class will be awarded a grade of WF for the class. The WF grade is designed for students who enroll in a course but don’t attend or quit attending and do not drop the course. When awarding the WF grade the last date of attendance or nonattendance must be reported along with the grade.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:
Students may be subject to disciplinary proceedings resulting in an academic penalty or disciplinary penalty for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

ADA Statement for Students Requiring Special Accommodations:
As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if accommodations are needed, inform your instructor as soon as possible.

Safety Instructions:
Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. If you are located on a military installation, and depending on the type emergency a senior military member may take control; of the situation and direct you on the action to take. Please follow their instructions and do as asked. Similarly, if you are at a community college, their security personal may arrive and take control of a situation please follow their instructions as well.