



## **CPD 012 Asymmetric Threats to Global Security and Stability**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **SECTION I: COURSE IDENTIFICATION**

##### **Course Number and Title:**

**CPD 011 Asymmetric Threats to Global Security and Stability**

##### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the students to transnational, asymmetric warfare, as conducted by terror organizations such as al Qaeda, Hamas and Hezbollah. It scrutinizes asymmetric war's tactics, techniques and procedures. It examines 21<sup>st</sup> century, asymmetric threats to critical infrastructure, banking, public health, transportation, telecommunications, agriculture and food, water, passenger and freight rail systems, chemicals and hazardous materials. It explains why asymmetric warfare is so effective in combating powerful nation states, and illustrates why asymmetric terror attacks are so difficult to interdict and thwart. Students learn how terror organizations fund their global activities through illicit drug trade. The course discusses the tough challenges that have confronted the United States military since 2001 in transitioning from a conventional fighting force to one capable of fighting and winning in an asymmetric combat environment in Afghanistan and Iraq. Finally, the course explains how to doctrinally fight and win in an asymmetric environment.

**Contact Hours: 12**

**Time/Day: 24/7**

**Location: Online**

**Instructor: Joseph Ruffini**

**Instructor Email: eena10jo@frie.com**

**Instructor Phone: 719-930-4776**

**Technical Assistance Phone: 866-357-0841**

## Course Format:

- **Weekly Readings:** Each week the student will read assigned articles from online resources listed in the online course.
- **Weekly Written Assignments:** Each student will download the weekly assignment sheet from the online course, answer the questions on the sheet and submit the document in the online course. The weekly assignment is due by Friday, midnight Eastern Time.
- **Weekly Live Instructor Session:** On the Saturday ending each week, a live session online using Elluminate will be held with your instructor. This will be an interactive session offering an overview of the latest breaking news in the course topics and a chance to share real world experiences and practices. This session will be held each Saturday at 11:00 Eastern Time and will run for 90 minutes. The link to the session is in the online course.

## Course Materials:

- **Required Readings:** All required reading materials are listed in the weekly assignments in the online course and are accessible via the Internet.
- **Recommended, Optional Readings:**
  - *Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by Andrew F. Krepinevich. ISBN 978-0-553-80539-0
  - The following selections from: *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment* edited by Russel D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer. ISBN 0-07-287307-8
    - *Global Rebels: Terrorist Organizations as Trans-National Actors* by Louise E. Richardson, pages 67-74.
    - *Narcotics, Terrorism, and International Crime: The Convergence Phenomenon* by Barry R. McCaffrey and John A. Basso, pages 243-260.
    - *Soft Underbelly of American Primacy: Tactical Advantages of Terror* by Richard K. Betts, pages 376-392.
  - The following selected reading from *Terrorism in Perspective*, by Pamala L. Griset and Sue Mahan. ISBN 0-7619-2404-3
    - *Unconventional Terrorist Tactics* pages 227-235.

## **Mandatory Equipment/software:**

A personal computer with direct access to the Internet, WWW, or a computer service, either the Microsoft Word® or WordPerfect® word-processing program if used to cut and paste into the email box, and a modem with a minimum speed of 28K.

For the live weekly Saturday sessions with the instructor, the student will need to be at their computer with an internet connection linked to Elluminate as directed in the online course. There is no purchase needed for this connection. A software utility will be downloaded before the first Elluminate session. A microphone connected to the computer will be necessary in order for verbal communication to occur with the instructor. If no microphone connection is possible, the student will be able to use the “chat” feature of Elluminate to ask questions and dialogue with the instructor and other students.

## **ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS POLICIES:**

This is an e-learning course. All assignments will be submitted to the instructor not later than midnight Mountain Time on the date that they are due. Assignments are to be submitted in the online course in Microsoft Word format. It is the responsibility of each student to scan their email attachments for viruses and all other infections before transmitting them to the instructor. Corrupted files will not be reviewed or graded. If an assignment cannot be submitted on time, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor BEFORE the assignment due date. Unexplained, late assignments will receive a grade of “0.”

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that submitted assignments are in the online course by verifying in the gradebook online that the assignment attachment is in the proper location in the course.

You may contact the instructor at any time by email or telephone if you have questions or need assistance. If you need technical assistance with the course, contact OnLine Training Institute technical assistance phone number- 866-357-0841. It is recommended that you ***phone your instructor on matters of urgency or emergency.***

## **SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES**

**Instructional Goals:** This course reinforces critical workplace skill sets deemed to be an integral and essential part of any college education to include: written and oral communicative skills, the ability to ask well-defined questions and intelligently challenge the instructor and fellow students, personal responsibility, the ability to provide adequate documentation as necessary, and confidence to both express and defend one’s own convictions and opinions. All are essential to successful course completion, as they play key roles in this course’s goal to build greater self-confidence, enhance oratory abilities

and debating skills, and expand the comprehension and analytical capabilities of each student.

**General Learning Outcomes:** At the completion of this course, successful students will have demonstrated an ability to learn and retain knowledge, analyze and intelligently question information and data presented to them, evaluate the significance and current-day applicability of what they have learned, synthesize ideas from multiple sources, organize thoughts and words, and possess the confidence to apply what has been learned in a real-life, operational environment (on the job).

**Specific Course Outcomes:**

Through assigned readings, online class participation, graded assignments and a final research paper, students will:

1. Understand asymmetric warfare and its tactics, techniques and procedures.
2. Recognize the vulnerabilities of and asymmetric, terrorist threats to America's critical infrastructure, banking, public health, and transportation systems.
3. Recognize the vulnerabilities of and asymmetric, terrorist threats to America's agriculture and food supplies, water telecommunications, chemicals & hazardous materials and nuclear/radiological materials.
4. Realize the necessity for terrorist organizations to employ asymmetric tactics against the powerful nation states which they oppose.
5. Appreciate the magnitude and variety of asymmetric threats to national security.
6. Learn about the illicit, global drug trade that funds terror operations.
7. Realize the tough challenges confronting the U.S. military since 2001, as it was forced to transition from a conventional fighting force to a counterinsurgency/counter terror one.
8. Be cognizant of what nations must do properly to fight and win against an asymmetric enemy.

**Course Topic Schedule:**

- Week 1. The Nature of Asymmetric Warfare
  - 1.1 Understanding Asymmetric Warfare
  - 1.2 Nation State Vulnerabilities to Asymmetric Threats
  - 1.3 Asymmetric Tactics Techniques and Procedures

- Week 2. Asymmetric Vulnerabilities & Threats Part I
  - 2.1 Critical Infrastructure (to include Cyber Infrastructure)
  - 2.2 Banking
  - 2.3 Public Health
  - 2.4 Transportation (to Include Maritime/Global Shipping)
- Week 3. Asymmetric Vulnerabilities & Threats Part II
  - 3.1 Agriculture & Food
  - 3.2 Water Supplies
  - 3.3 Telecommunications
  - 3.4 Chemicals & Hazardous Materials
  - 3.5 Nuclear & Radiological Materials
- Week 4. Asymmetric Tactics to Combat Nation States
  - 4.1 Unconventional Tactics for Fighting a Superpower
  - 4.2 Asymmetric Warfare: The Only Thing New is the Tactics
  - 4.3 Asymmetric Warfare: Old Method, New Concern
  - 4.4 International Terrorism as Asymmetric Warfare
- Week 5. The Magnitude & Variety of Asymmetric Threats
  - 5.1 Growing Terror Threats from Latin America
  - 5.2 Maritime Threats: Small Boats
  - 5.3 Weapons of Mass Destruction
  - 5.4 Illegal Immigration
  - 5.5 Increasing Number of Terror Organizations
- Week 6. Narco-Terrorism
  - 6.1 Illegal Drugs and the Terrorist Threat
  - 6.2 The Afghan Drug Trade
  - 6.3 Al Qaeda, the Taliban and Drugs
- Week 7. Asymmetric Challenges for Our Military
  - 7.1 Asymmetric Warfare as an Emerging Threat
  - 7.2 Narrowing the Gap Between Conventional & Asymmetric Capabilities
  - 7.3 Fourth Generation Warfare
- Week 8. Focusing Nation and Military for Asymmetric Warfare
  - 8.1 Re-Shaping the Military
  - 8.2 A Strategy for Counterterrorism & Asymmetric Warfare
  - 8.3 From Fourth Generation to Hybrid War
- Week 9. Course Research Paper

### **SECTION III: EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

This course is designed for you to learn in an independent study environment. By reading the required web site materials, participating in discussions with the instructor and other students, and answering the instructor's assignment questions via email response, and submitting a final paper, each student will experience the maximum benefit from this course.

**Grading/Evaluation:** Grades will be awarded based upon the following, 1,000 point system:

**Final grades will be determined as follows:**

- A = 90 – 100 pts.
- B = 75 – 89 pts.
- C = 60 – 74 pts.
- D = 50 – 59 pts.
- F = 49 points and below

■ Points are awarded based upon each student’s demonstrated grasp of the salient points of the readings as evidenced by written answers to assigned questions.

■ All assignments will receive a numerical grade based upon that week’s maximum point value. For example, assignments submitted for week 1 can be awarded from 1 to 15 points by the instructor.

■ DO NOT presume that because one week’s study material may be worth fewer points than some of the others that the subject material is any less important. Think of weeks 4, 5 and 7 as opportunities to maximize scores for those weeks while having additional time begin work on the final paper.

■ Weekly point scale is as follows:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| ○ Week 1: The Nature of Asymmetric Warfare                      | 15 points |
| ○ Week 2: Asymmetric Vulnerabilities & Threats Part I           | 10 points |
| ○ Week 3: Asymmetric Vulnerabilities & Threats Part II          | 10 points |
| ○ Week 4: Asymmetric Tactics to Combat Nation States            | 5 points  |
| ○ Week 5: The Magnitude & Variety of Asymmetric Threat          | 5 points  |
| ○ Week 6: Narco-Terrorism                                       | 20 points |
| ○ Week 7: Asymmetric Challenges for our Military                | 5 points  |
| ○ Week 8: Focusing our Nation & Military for Asymmetric Warfare | 10 points |
| ○ Week 9: Course research Paper                                 | 20 points |

**TOTAL**

**100 points**

■ **BONUS POINTS:** From week 1 through week 8, students can be awarded up to 2 bonus points each week for their verbal participation and contribution. These additional points – up to 16 achievable -will be added to the student’s final total out of the possible 100. These bonus points could very well result in the student’s final grade being pushed up to higher letter grades. For example, if a student’s final point total for the written assignments and final research paper is 74, that student would be given a grade of “C” for the course. If, however, that student’s weekly, verbal participation was exceptional, and that student was awarded 16 out of a possible 16 points, then that student’s final point total would be raised to 90, bringing the final grade from a “C” to an “A.” Bottom line, **IT WILL PAY TO DO**

## **THE READINGS; MAKE NOTES, BE PREPARED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.**

Points will be awarded based upon the *quality* (not quantity) of student's verbal contributions as follows:

1 Point: Demonstrated understanding and in-depth analysis of the assigned readings.

.5 Points: Willingness to effectively challenge the opinions of the instructor.

.5 Points: Strength of conviction and ability to "hold one's own" in the discussions.

### **Late Assignment Policy:**

Late submissions without prior notification to and discussion with the instructor will receive a 20% deduction in points from the grade awarded for the assignment. For example, if the instructor grades that week's assignment as 10 out of a possible 15 points, but the assignment was submitted late without prior discussion and explanation, then the final grade for that submission would be 8 points out of 15 possible points. The instructor understands that many students have jobs, families and other additional responsibilities; ergo, the instructor will extend student deadlines based upon individual requests. The objective of this course is to teach, not to sanction. The instructor will trust students to tell the truth when exceptions are requested and granted. If a student takes advantage of or lies to the instructor, and the instructor finds out, that student will be receive a grade of "0" points for the assignment in question.

### **Guidance for the Weekly Assignments that must be submitted to the online course:**

- The instructor DOES NOT specify how long written answers to any questions must be. ALL questions must be answered to the instructor's satisfaction; specifically, the student must demonstrate to the instructor that he/she had performed the required reading and grasped the important points. Some students are more succinct and to-the-point than others. Some require more words to state their opinions. No matter, as long as the requirements are met.
- It is recommended that before performing the reading assignments, students review the questions that they must answer in order to highlight sections of the readings and/or take notes most appropriately and expeditiously.

### **The Research Paper:**

The research paper for this class is due not later than midnight on the Saturday ending Week 9.

This paper must be a minimum of twelve (12) pages double-spaced in narrative content (not including cover page and bibliography), in Arial, 12 point font, with left, right, top and bottom margins of one inch. There is no maximum length for this research paper.

Students may choose one of the following topics for their research papers:

- Among All of the Terrorist Threats Discussed in This Course, \_\_\_\_\_ Poses the Single Most Clear and Present Danger to Our National Security
- The Afghan Drug Trade: How it Threatens Global Security and Why the Free World Must Shut it Down Now
- Defeating an Asymmetric Adversary: It Can be Done and it has Been Done

All papers must be of college-level, academic quality. All papers must be grammatically correct and spell-checked. They must flow in a logical sequence, stating an initial premise, presenting an argument with documentation as appropriate, and ending with a logical and substantiated conclusion. Document references using the APA style citations with a separate Reference page. Include no pictures, no flow charts, and no diagrams. Use narrative text only. References obtained from the Internet must be properly cited according to APA style.

All of your homework assignments and papers will be graded based upon what is called the "REOS" method: Strength of your "Reasoning" (Logic); What, and how much "Evidence" (Sources) you present; Your own "Observations" on the material and its meaning; and the "Substance" of the paper (how much significant, new, and innovative information you present).