START WINTER COURSES: JANUARY 2016

Mini Skills Courses: one-credit courses teaching marketable skills for students and professionals seeking to build and diversify their assets for the job market.

BSST399F: Geospatial Analysis for Terrorism
Are you interested in learning more about GIS, and how it can be applied to terrorism studies? In this 1-credit Winter 2015 course, students will be introduced to Geospatial Information Systems and the technology's specific applications to terrorism studies. No previous experience with GIS or terrorism data is necessary. Students will leave the course with a firm grasp of GIS technologies and the ways in which they may be implemented in terrorism studies.

BSST399N: Social Network Analysis for Terrorism
Have you heard of Social Network Analysis? Are you interested in learning more about this emerging technique and how it can be utilized to study terrorism? The concept of “network” has become central to many discussions of terrorism and political violence research. However, use of the term is rarely backed with theoretical and empirical analysis of actual networks. This course will instruct students in the basics of social network analysis and how to apply SNA methods in the field of terrorism studies.

BSST399M: Communicating About Terrorism
Have you ever struggled to translate complex, emotionally charged information into useable facts and figures that educate and engage? Have you ever wondered how the experts you see on TV prepare for interviews as news breaks? Join us for BSST399M: Communicating about Terrorism, where students will learn how to write about terrorism research and data to create press releases, media advisories and feature stories, as well as how to prepare yourself and others for new media interviews on contentious topics. Students will also practice synthesizing intricate research findings into engaging and visually appealing products aimed to offer practitioners and policymakers a quick but thorough look at complicated research.

Topical Courses: three-credit, upper-level courses on topics particularly relevant to Terrorism Studies.

BSST338P: The Rise of the Islamic State (ISIL)
The quick rise of the terrorist group self-described as the Islamic State, also known as the ISIL has surprised policymakers and foreign policymakers worldwide. This course provides a comprehensive look at the Islamic State and will discuss key concepts and terms in Islamic history in an effort to establish an understanding of Islamic jurisprudence, meaning of a caliphate, the five pillars of Islam and Shar’ia law. The course will trace the history of the Islamic State’s rise and will examine the leadership figures/personalities behind the group and look in depth at ISIL’s connection to and divorce from al-Qa’ida. Students will examine how the group finances its operations as well as the rise of its affiliates. Students will also explore the group’s use of foreign fighters and social media to further its agenda and explore the U.S. and global responses to counter the Islamic State. At the completion of this course, students will have an in depth understanding of the Islamic State and a better understanding of the key tools, including law enforcement, diplomatic, or intelligence, that are deployed to counter the group.

For more information, visit http://www.start.umd.edu/education/summerwinter-courses. Contact education@start.umd.edu with questions.