Bachelors of Science: Homeland Security and Emergency Management Curriculum

HLS 301 Introduction to Homeland Security  Credits: 3

This course provides an initial exposure to national security studies and is designed to provide a basic understanding of this topic to those pursuing a major as well as those with an interest in this field of study. Students will explore the definition of homeland security, identify the stakeholders and current issues, explore its relevance in today’s society, and explore what may be emerging under the national security umbrella. Homeland Security has become part of the American lexicon, and students in this class will give the discipline an academic scrutiny.

HLS 302 – The Psychology of Terrorism  Credits: 3

This course emphasizes the study of the psychology of terrorism, and reviews those conditions that foster terrorism and suicide bombers as well as the psychological impact of terrorism on our local, national, and international communities. Candidates will study the social aspects of terrorism, and how its use fits into the political spectrum of existing and emerging countries. Radical terrorist groups will be investigated from a cultural, religious and philosophical perspective.

HLS 312 – Emergency Preparedness and Management  Credits: 3

This course explores the roles, duties and responsibilities of emergency managers on the local, state, federal and private levels as well as the duties and responsibilities of each. The course will also explore how managing emergencies differs from other security functions through its involvement with crisis management: decisions made with limited data, new or non-customary relationships, changing scale of responsibilities, and an evolving role of private industry and citizens. Students will also gain an exposure to the Incident Command System.

HLS 320 – Cyber Security  Credits: 3

This course will study security in the virtual world. Course work will study the threat, as well as policy issues that thrust cyber activity into the criminal realm, or the realm of international conflict and the rules of war. Threat analysis will include some types of threat, theft of intellectual property, and infrastructure disruption.

HLS 332 – Social and Political Roots of Terrorism  Credits: 3

This course includes the study of terrorism as the impetus for the development of Homeland Security as a discipline and industry. It will define and address those conditions that foster domestic terrorism, as well as study the psychological impact of terrorism on our nation’s communities. Further, it will address the social aspects of terrorism, and how terrorism works into the political spectrum and can thus impact domestic policy. A number of domestic terrorist groups will be investigated including left wing and right wing groups, as well as single purpose entities such as environmental or radical anti-abortion groups. Students will consider counter-radicalization, the media campaign, counter-terrorism, and the exploration of the “human terrain” initiative.
HLS 342 – Values and Security Policy  Credits: 3

This course explores the inter relationship between policy and values. Students will examine in what ways and to what extent Homeland Security policy is driven by the American value system. How do policies such as rendition, using unmanned drones to kill terrorists, and military incarceration of suspected terrorists reflect current values? Policy tends to be somewhat dynamic, which could reflect a changing value system.

HLS 352 – Legal, Moral and Civil Rights  Credits: 3

As homeland security has matured, mandates and legal obligations have grown for the security and emergency management practitioner. This course will enable students to explore obligations from both a legal and community expectation standpoint, and will challenge them to consider the parameters of the security or emergency management leader’s moral responsibility to the community including preparation, response and recovery. During a disaster, public expectations vary regarding the government’s role and responsibility. Students will identify these obligations, where the line should be drawn, and how those expectations can best be addressed. Lastly, students will grapple with the question of how to balance individual privacy with national security.

HLS 362 Risk – Assessment, Analysis, and Impact  Credits: 3

This course gives the student an opportunity to study how risk is determined, and what value this information has for the homeland security practitioner. Students will explore how assessments are conducted, and how data is processed into a picture useful to the preparation, prevention and response to a disaster. Once a risk picture exists, security leaders can decide what to protect, and the impact of the loss of a particular asset. This process is a key element of Critical Infrastructure Protection.

HLS 372 – Interest Integration  Credits: 3

One of the most important skills for the future emergency preparedness or national security practitioner is the ability to facilitate the successful integration of stakeholders from disparate groups. As with any complex issue, emergency management and homeland security have a wide variety of interested parties, and their respective agendas may be at odds. This course will explore various interest groups and their agendas, and provide the student with practical methods to coalesce these groups for the benefit of local, regional and national security.

HLS 382 – Strategic Planning and Budgeting  Credits: 3

All national security efforts should flow from the National Strategy for Homeland Security since it is this document which drives all subsequent levels to include state, local and business strategies for local and national security. This course explores national strategy development, the existing strategies for homeland security, and provides students with a detailed overview of how these strategies flow into resourcing and budgeting.

HLS 406 – Character and the Ethics of Leadership  Credits: 3

Course Description: Candidates will explore contemporary models of security leadership, synthesize a personal statement of vocation informed by their leadership values and assumptions, and test their synthesis against a variety of assignments and practical experiences. The course also provides a forum where candidates enjoy the opportunity to identify and consider their own character, personal values, and workplace ethics. Each will develop an understanding of the importance of ethical leadership in one’s professional, personal and family life, and will appreciate the personal fulfillment that flows from living and modeling such values and, perhaps most importantly, of serving others.
HLS 454 – The Intelligence Community  
Credits: 3

Quality Intelligence provides the security leader on any level with timely analysis of relevant information. The challenge with this intelligence is to guarantee it is collected and utilized within legal guidelines and still provide appropriate assistance from the best sources possible. This course introduces the student to the intelligence community, the intelligence process, the legal and ethical conduct expected and required in gathering intelligence, and intelligence analysis. Students will better understand integration of sources, and how intelligence can be used to optimize the homeland security effort.

HLS 460 – Religion in the Modern World  
Credits: 3

This course explores the role of religion in shaping the politics and conflict in the world today. Students will explore the major religions dominant in the world today, and how they do or do not shape the environment. Also studied will be the misuse and radicalization of religion for the support of political agendas. This includes a deeper view of the various major religions, and how mainstream beliefs play into the international landscape.

HLS 464 – Building Resilient Communities  
Credits: 3

Resilient communities are those that have taken appropriate, affirmative actions to minimize the impact of a catastrophic occurrence. Historical examples show that life is never the same after a disaster, but communities that survive and thrive are those that have resiliency. This course will step students through the emergency management planning cycle (prevent, prepare, respond, recover) to illustrate how to foster community resiliency.

HLS 494 – Practicum  
Credits: 3

The practicum is the culmination of the learning process where theory is put into practice. For the Homeland Security major, there are multiple options for this final effort. First, students can elect to research a specific element of foreign or domestic terrorism. This would require an in depth study of a particular group, with a final product of a mitigation or co-opting strategy. An alternative is an emergency management project that would include the creation of a detailed emergency preparation or response action plan. The plan would be based on a risk analysis that includes critical infrastructure protection, threat prioritization, and intelligence analysis. Another alternative available to students is to partner with an agency, conduct Homeland Security related research for that agency, and provide analyzed research results that meet the needs of the partner agency.