



## SPRING 2026 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: Law 419-001

Course Title: Prosecuting Terrorism Seminar

Credit Hours: 2

Grading Mode: Letter grade

Meeting Time(s): Wednesdays 6:05 pm to 8:05 pm

Meeting Mode: On campus

Exam Time(s): N/A

Exam Mode: Final Paper

Prerequisite(s): None

Corequisite(s): None

Instructor(s): Dennis Fitzpatrick

Contact Information and Office Hours:

[dfitzpa3@gmu.edu](mailto:dfitzpa3@gmu.edu)

I'm typically available for individual meetings an hour before each class or by appointment.

Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

Anti-Terrorism and Criminal Enforcement, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Author Norman Abrams. ISBN: 9781636592978

Course Overview:

This seminar focuses on the law and policies underlying the investigation and prosecution of national security cases. The course will focus on the legal issues – and challenges – of trying terrorists in Article II civilian courts. Topics in each section will focus on the eternal and enduring clash between liberty and security and include: the role of lawyers in the Intelligence Community; the role of the Department of Justice in national security; the role of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; the challenges of classified information; and other topics.

Students will come away with a better understanding of both the practice and the principles of national security law, and they will develop their own ideas in a 20-page paper at the end of course.

### Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will have a greater understanding and ability to:

1. Identify policy challenges in the prosecution of terrorism cases in Art. III courts.
2. Identify, analyze and resolve 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment legal issues in terrorism cases.
3. Discuss what is terrorism and how is terrorism defined.
4. Discuss what type of terrorism crimes are being committed and prosecuted.

### Grading Policies:

Participation %: 25%

Final Exam/ Paper %: 75%

### Classroom Policies:

**Attendance:** Per AR 3-1.4, “maintenance of matriculation requires regular class preparation, participation and attendance, registration in the course of study required for the student’s program (full-time or part-time), successive registration for each fall and spring term of each academic year until study is completed, and compliance with all other relevant requirements.”

**Absences:** Per AR 4-1.1, “if a student is absent for any reason for more than 20 percent of the sessions of a course, the student is not eligible for credit in that course. A student who is not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course is absent from that session.”

### Participation & Preparation:

Students are expected to participate in class discussion about the assigned reading material.

### Use of Technology & AI:

**Moderate Use Policy:** Generative AI tools may be used in this course for the following purposes, and with the following guidelines. Students may use AI in this course to study, but may not use AI as the primary source for text of written assignments, during any quiz or exam, or during Socratic dialogue. Students must use AI tools responsibly, verify facts presented by AI, disclose when AI tools are used to create course work product, properly cite any AI tools utilized, and should be prepared to produce the transcript of prompts and responses upon request. Misuse will be treated as a violation of academic standards.

## Course Schedule & Assignments

### Week 1:

Date: January 14, 2026

Topic: Terrorism; Intro to Concept; How it is used.

Assignment(s): Abrams pps 1-27.

### Week 2:

Date: January 28, 2026

Topic: Terrorism Offenses

Assignment(s): Abrams pps 28-36; pps 43-51; 63-70

### Week 3:

Date: February 4, 2026

Topic: Material Support Statutes

Assignment(s): Abrams 71-95

### Week 4:

Date: February 11, 2026

Topic: Material Support Statutes Cont.

Assignment(s): Abrams 96-135.

### Week 5:

Date: February 18, 2026

Topic: Additional Terrorism and Terrorism Related Crimes

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 177-188; pps. 310-332

### Week 6:

Date: February 25, 2026

Topic: Domestic Terrorism

Assignment(s): pps 333-377.

Week 7:

Date: March 4, 2026

Topic: Use of the U.S. Military

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 405-421

Week 8:

Date: March 18, 2026

Topic: Searches and Orders to Produce Records

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 485-522

Week 9:

Date: March 25, 2026

Topic: Electronic Surveillance in Terrorism Matters

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 535-554; pps. 700-711

Week 10:

Date: April 1, 2026

Topic: Interrogations

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 725-752; 756-767.

Week 11:

Date: April 8, 2026

Topic: Interrogations

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 767-799

Week 12:

Date: April 15, 2026

Topic: Two-Step Interrogation Process

Assignment(s): Abrams 800-823.

Week 13:

Date: April 22, 2026

Topic: Military Issues

Assignment(s): Abrams pps. 825-846; pps. 983-995.

## Student Resources

[Antonin Scalia Law School Academic Regulations](#)

[GMU Common Course Policies Addendum](#)

[Mason Square Services](#)

[Mason Square Police](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room 110

Emergency - Dial 911

Escort Services - 703-993-8070

Dispatch – 703-993-2810

[Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#)

Mason Square Sexual Assault Services:

Van Metre Hall, Room 222D

703-993-8186

Notice of Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If a student wishes to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. Students may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

[Mason Square Clinic](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room B102

703-991-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[University Life](#)