December 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory Ball  
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Minor in Global Terrorism (PCC Log. No. 16026)

At its meeting on December 2, 2016, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to modify the Minor in Global Terrorism. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2017. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/  
Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management  
Reka Montfort, University Senate  
Chip Denman, Division of Information Technology  
Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
Anne Turkos, University Archives  
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Katherine Russell, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Gary LaFree, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
University of Maryland PCC
Program/Curriculum/Unit Proposal

Program: Global Terrorism Minor

Department/Unit: START

College/School: BSOS

Proposal Contact Person (with email): Katherine Izsak; kworboys@umd.edu

Type of Action (check one):
☐ Curriculum change (includes modifying minors, concentrations/specializations and creating informal specializations)
☐ Curriculum change is for an LEP Program
☐ Rename a program or formal Area of Concentration
☐ Establish/Discontinue a formal Area of Concentration
☐ Other:

Italics indicate that the proposal must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Approval Signatures - Please print name, sign, and date. For proposals requiring multiple unit approvals, please use additional cover sheet(s).

1. Department Committee Chair
   [Signature] Katherine Izsak 9/7/16

2. Department Chair
   [Signature] 10/4/16

3. College/School PCC Chair
   [Signature] Karel Setyan 10/4/16

4. Dean
   [Signature] Katherine Russell 10/4/16

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC
   [Signature] Andrew Harris 12/2/16

7. University Senate Chair (if required)

8. Senior Vice President and Provost
   [Signature] 12/19/16

Instructions:
When approved by the dean of the college or school, please send the proposal and signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus-5031, and email the proposal document as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

Summary of Proposed Action (use additional sheet if necessary):

We propose a revision to the structure of the Global Terrorism Minor that involves: 1. Addition of a 1-credit introductory course; 2. Replacement of the research methods requirement with a Terrorism Studies elective requirement; 3. Replacement of the 5-credit capstone course with a required 3-credit service- and experiential-learning practicum and a 2-credit internship course. 4. Addition of a second application cycle, so that students may apply in either the fall or spring semester.

Unit Code(s) (to be entered by the Office of Academic Planning and Programs):
Proposal to Revise Global Terrorism Minor Curriculum

Report to University of Maryland PCC Committee

Fall 2016
Introduction

The Global Terrorism Minor, housed within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and run by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), is an interdisciplinary program for motivated, high-achieving students interested in studying terrorist motivations and behaviors, responses to terrorism, and impacts of terrorism and counterterrorism. The program is designed to train the next generation of terrorism researchers and analysts, preparing students for homeland, national, and international security careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as graduate work in fields relevant to Terrorism Studies. Approved in 2007, and revised in 2010, when it was incorporated into the Global Studies Program, the Global Terrorism Minor is currently built on an outdated set of courses. The Minor is largely based on the resources START had available in 2007, when it existed as a much smaller center. START has grown substantially since then, developing 29 new, permanent courses and more than 30 different special topics courses over the past decade. In addition to the growth of course offerings, we are motivated to alter the minor for another reason: over the course of ten years of administering this program, we have observed that the rigidity of our current structure prevents many interested and capable students from participating in the program. Based on these anecdotal data, the advancement of the field of Terrorism Studies and, the proliferation of new courses available within the BSST course code, we propose a revision to the structure of the Global Terrorism Minor. Discussed in more detail below, we propose the following changes:

1. Addition of a 1-credit introductory course;
2. Replacement of the research methods requirement with a Terrorism Studies elective requirement; and,
3. Replacement of the 5-credit capstone course with a required 3-credit service and experiential learning practicum and a 3-credit internship course.
4. Addition of a second application cycle, so that students may apply in either the fall or spring semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Current Curriculum Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST330: Terrorist Behaviors and Motivations</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST331: Responses to Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSST332: The Practice of Terrorism Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Studies Signature Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Credits</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Proposed Curriculum Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST327: Introduction to Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST330: Terrorist Motivations and Behaviors</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST331: Responses to Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST335: Innovations in Countering Violent Extremism</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST386: Experiential Education in Terrorism Studies (or BSST399T: Teaching Terrorism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrorism Studies Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Studies Signature Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Credits</strong></td>
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</table>
The current learning objectives, provided below, will remain in effect with the new curriculum. Through completion of the Global Terrorism Minor, students will develop:

- A comprehensive understanding of theories explaining the formation of terrorist groups and the motivations behind terrorist behavior;
- A comprehensive understanding of the impact of terrorism on groups and individuals;
- First-hand experience working in the homeland, national, and international security communities; and,
- A capacity to conduct research on terrorism using a range of analytical tools and research methods.

**Current Path**

Under the current program, students apply and are admitted through the spring semester of their sophomore year. They can begin coursework the next fall. Their progress through the minor is therefore structured rigidly and typically looks like the path shown in Figure 1.

![Current Path Diagram](image)

*Figure 1: Current path through the Global Terrorism Minor. Requirements marked with an * can be completed any semester.*

This current structure requires applicants to have at least two fall semesters and one spring semester remaining on campus prior to graduating. It therefore effectively bars juniors and transfer students from participating in the program if they plan to complete a traditional, 8-semester path to graduation. It also presents obstacles to studying abroad.

**Proposed Paths**

The proposed curriculum revision, displayed in Figures 2-4, comprises the following 18-credits of requirements:

- BSST327: Introduction to Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat (1 credit) (NEW),
- BSST330: Terrorist Behaviors and Motivations (3 credits),
- BSST331: Responses to Terrorism (3 credits).
- BSST335: Innovations in Countering Violent Extremism (3 credits) (NEW),
- A Terrorism Studies elective course (3 credits) (NEW),
- A Global Studies Signature Course (3 credits); and

![Diagram](image)

*Figure 2: Proposed new path through the Global Terrorism Minor in the same timeline as previously offered.*

- BSST386: Experiential Education in Terrorism Studies (minimum of 3 credits) (NEW), or
- BSST399T: Special Topics in Terrorism Studies: Teaching Terrorism (3 credits) (NEW).

![Diagram](image)

*Figure 3: Proposed path through the Global Terrorism Minor with fall admission.*
Change 1: Introduction of BSST327: Introduction to Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat

This course focuses on bringing current events and policy issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism into dialogue with academic theories and research, with particular attention to how these events and issues are discussed in mass media. Through a discussion-based seminar, students bring terrorism-relevant current events to classroom discussion, where the instructor and students discuss the media-framed event in relation to academic research. We created this course in response to data from student course evaluations. Students indicated frustration over the structure of BSST330, and its position as the first course in the minor, where significant attention is paid to scholarly theories surrounding terrorism, but comparatively less time is spent focusing on the kinds of current events that motivate many students to enroll in the minor.

Table 3: List of Permanent Courses Approved as Terrorism Studies Elective Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>General Education</th>
<th>Terms Offered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSST230: Terrorism and the Media</td>
<td>History and Social Science</td>
<td>Fall (Freshman Connection)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST240: Understanding the Principles and Perils of CBRN Weapons (Lecture)</td>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSST241: Understanding the Principles and Perils of CBRN Weapons (Lab)</td>
<td>Natural Sciences-Lab</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSST334: States of Emergency</td>
<td>I-Series</td>
<td>Fall, Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSST340: Oral Communications for National Security Careers</td>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>Fall (Freshman Connection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSST358j: Disaster Recovery</td>
<td>History and Social Science; Cultural Competence (Pending)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Change 2: Replacement of a Research Methods Course with a Terrorism Studies Elective Requirement

Over the past decade of administering the Global Terrorism Minor, it has become clear that most students use their required research methods course within their majors to satisfy the Global Terrorism Minor research methods requirement. Over 75% of all past Minor students have fulfilled the research methodology requirement through either their major requirements or a requirement for another specific program (e.g., language program, minor, Federal Semester, ROTC). It has also become clear that many more students are interested in an internship option for their capstone experience than a research option as only 17% of all students in the history of the program have conducted an independent research project alongside BSST332 rather than an internship. As such, it has been increasingly clear that the research methods requirement is not substantively integrated into the Global Terrorism Minor coursework and does not push students to engage in any training outside of what their major already requires.

A review of coursework for the new proposed minor structure also reveals that students in the proposed new format of the minor will study and practice the following research methods during their required courses: archival research, ethnography, media studies research, interviewing, market analysis, narrative analysis, historical analysis, comparative case study, and risk assessment. As such, we believe that we meet the stated objective to prepare students to conduct research and analysis related to terrorism without requiring an external, disciplinarily based research methods course.

In order to make these 3 credits of the Global Terrorism Minor a more cohesive part of the overall program, we propose to replace the research methods requirement with a Terrorism Studies elective requirement. Doing so will allow students to develop greater content knowledge related to Terrorism Studies, particularly through our growing list of courses offered through the BSST code, which build on the students' understanding of the formation of terrorist groups, the motivations and behaviors of terrorists, and/or the impact of terrorism on societies and individuals. It will also maximize student flexibility and create stronger links to START's existing and planned programs on campus, online, and abroad, such as the First-Year Innovation and Research Experience (FIRE) stream focusing on risk communication and resilience research; an affiliated seminar course through the Honors College; several courses in Freshman Connection's programming; an upper-level I-Series course; several short-term
Education Abroad courses (including disaster recovery and resilience in Japan, and countering violent extremism in Singapore); and numerous electives available during the summer and winter terms, many of which carry General Education credit.

We will also approve other courses deemed to be clearly focused on terrorism, as proposed by students, meaning that they can fulfill this requirement while they are on longer term or non-START study abroad programs, as well. A selection of courses currently on the Terrorism Studies elective list are provided in Tables 3 and 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Sample of Past Temporary Courses Taught that Could Serve as Terrorism Studies Electives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSOS338A: Political Islam in the West</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSOS338F: Modern Terrorism in the Mass Media</td>
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<td>BSOS388: Psychology of Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSOS3880: Geography of Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSOS388T: Evolution of Hezbollah</td>
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<td>BSOS388Y: Cybersecurity</td>
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<td>BSST288Y: Terrorism and Popular Culture</td>
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<td>BSST338A: Prevention and Protection in the Age of Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSST338D: Structural Analysis of Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSST338M: Ideology and Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST388A: Politics of Radicalization and Deradicalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST389G: Experiential Education for Underrepresented Minorities in National Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSST399F: Geographic Analysis for Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSST399L: Homeland Security</td>
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<td>BSST399N: Social Network Analysis for Terrorism</td>
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<td>BSST399O: Directed Terrorism Research</td>
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VPAC approved prefix change from BSOS to BSST in May 2011

Change 3: Replacing Current 5-Credit Capstone with a New 3-Credit Course and a 2-Credit Internship

Based on student and faculty feedback, collected both formally through evaluations and informally through discussion, we looked into the design of BSST332 and found a disconnect between the intent behind the course and student perceptions of it. BSST332 was designed to marry students' hands-on experience obtained through either internship or independent research with the academic study of counterterrorism policies and the roles of counterterrorism agencies through iterative revision of policy relevant assignments like briefings, memos, and literature reviews that drew inspiration from their real-world opportunities. We discovered, however, that students were failing to see the connection between their work on memos and literature reviews and their real-world experiences. Over two iterations of the course, with concerted effort paid to curricular revisions, switching faculty assignments, and adding additional foci to the course, we were unable to rectify these disconnects for students, and students remained profoundly dissatisfied with the course.
In place of BSST332, we propose a three-credit internship requirement, accredited through BSST 386: Experiential Learning in Terrorism, as well as an experiential learning course, BSST335: Innovations in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), that can serve as a capstone experience for minor students. Together, we believe these course will more effectively target the minor’s final learning objective of providing students with first-hand experience working within the homeland, national, and international security sectors, than the current structure does.

BSST335 is the first undergraduate course in the country focused on teaching CVE. BSST335 builds on current understandings of radicalization, deradicalization, disengagement, and demobilization theory to educate students on the functions and challenges of CVE. Students then partner with community-based organizations and develop CVE proposals for implementation in authentic communities. To accomplish this goal, students are led through the Design Thinking process, an innovative, iterative design process rooted in empathy for the end user.

BSST335 will provide students with experiential learning opportunities and opportunities to engage with terrorism studies practitioners. We want to maintain an internship requirement, in addition to this experiential opportunity, because we believe that it is important that our students also have the chance to intern, network, and then purposefully reflect on their experiences before they enter the homeland, national, and international security job markets upon graduation. BSST386 will supplement students’ experiential learning opportunities gained through an internship relevant to the study of terrorism with guided reflection on their experiences. We expect most students in the minor to utilize this BSST386 option, but we would also like to maintain the option to substitute BSST399T: Special Topics in Terrorism Studies: Teaching Terrorism for students who are offered the opportunity to serve as undergraduate teaching assistants for BSST courses. BSST399T similarly asks teaching assistants to reflect critically on their experiences working with START faculty members and other stakeholders and to consider their ongoing professional development.

Change 4: Two Points of Entry into the Program

Through the curricular changes delineated above, we will be able to reduce much of the formal course sequencing previously required to complete the program. As a result, completion of the program will be more flexible and will no longer require entry in the fall of a student’s sophomore or junior year. In order to also increase accessibility to the program and leverage this increased flexibility, we wish to add a second application period to the minor program. Two points of entry to the program—an application review in both fall and spring semesters—will allow transfer students and students with advanced standing to have increased access to necessary coursework in their limited time remaining on campus.
Implementing Changes to the Current Program

Current Students (Students admitted prior to Fall 2016)

Students currently in the Global Terrorism Minor will be transitioned to the new curriculum this fall as an exception to existing program structure. They will complete BSST338V\(^1\) and BSST386 in place of BSST332, which we chose not to offer this year, after we determined we would like to phase it out. For these students, we will offer administrative exceptions to substitute BSST338V and BSST386 for BSST 332 in the program requirements. Should scheduling conflicts arise, they will be addressed appropriately at an individual level to ensure program completion of current students.

Current Applicants (Students admitted in Fall 2016 and beyond)

Students currently applying to the Global Terrorism Minor will be admitted in the first fall application period (Fall 2017) and will be the first cohort under the new curriculum. In order to communicate the changes to the program, students will attend a program orientation where questions can be addressed by the program's academic advisor. As a part of orientation, students will receive a revised Minor Handbook with all program details. Further, all students will meet with the Minor's academic advisor to review their coursework for the Minor and their Four-Year Plan for graduation.

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\(^1\) VPAC recently approved BSST335 for permanent listing. The same course is currently scheduled as BSST338V for Fall 2016. Moving forward, BSST335 will be scheduled instead of BSST338V.