



FESA 4360-600 Homeland Secur Law/Policy/Pract, Spring 2026, CRN: 23601  
Department of Management and Marketing, College of Business  
**Course Syllabus**

**Class Meeting Time and Place:** Online Asynchronous  
**Class Duration:** 01/20 – 05/12/2026  
**Instructor:** Michael Parsons, MS  
Office: Virtual  
Tel: (210) 413-4295 Cell  
E-Mail: michael.parsons@tamusa.edu.  
Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.  
**Course Website:** <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>  
**Office Hours:** Online Through Email and or Phone as requested.

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course will provide an overview of the laws governing the respective powers and responsibilities of the different branches of government (executive, legislative, and judiciary) at the federal, state, and local level as they relate to emergency administration, preparedness and response on matters affecting homeland security. Homeland security is an American umbrella term for "the concerted national effort to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards where American interests, aspirations, and ways of life can thrive to the national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. to terrorism, and minimize the damage from attacks that do occur. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the changes to emergency response policies and practices fire and emergency response personnel must have a sound understanding of the laws, policies and practices that govern the areas related to homeland security and emergency response. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing

**Course Objectives:**

In this course, students will analyze laws that guide and regulate all departments and agencies designated with emergency preparedness and response functions on matters affecting homeland security. The course will involve a comprehensive analysis of the missions, operations, techniques, and resources of agencies, departments, and units designated with emergency response and preparedness on events and incidents affecting homeland security. The course may involve an examination of prior case studies involving emergency management and response operations as they relate to homeland security incidents. The U.S. Constitution, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, U.S. Patriot Act, Nation Response

Framework, DHS Strategic Plan, FEMA Strategic Plan and other documents related to principles of law, national policy and strategy for homeland security will be examined to provide the framework and basis for defining the appropriate scope, purpose, and effective management concepts for various emergency response operations.

**Prerequisites:**

None- This class is intended for BAAS-FESA students. Others may attend with the approval of their respective school or department.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of Homeland Security
- The findings and recommendations of the 9-11 Commission  
The meaning and objectives of Homeland Security
- The principles of the national strategy for Homeland Security Policies and priorities related to emergency response and operations.
- The functions and operations of the 22 federal agencies that are a part of the Department of Homeland Security.
- An understanding of the role of the DHS in managing a Homeland Security event The Future of Homeland Security.

**AACSB Assessment:**

The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

**Required Materials:**

**Textbook: Homeland Security Law: Issues and Analysis 2nd Ed., Terrence P. Dwyer, ISBN 9798823329941;** This book can be obtained from the campus bookstore or your book retailer of choice.

- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes, solutions to problems, multimedia materials and other supplementary materials in Blackboard. All class communications will be through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times during the week.
- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week on the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.
- **Other Recommended / Reading Materials:** Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

**Course Requirements every student must fulfill to succeed in course:**

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.

2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will **not** be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that online and hybrid courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For online courses, students should keep current on class recordings, if not attending the live class (either in person or online).
8. For online asynchronous courses, there will be no online class sessions. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.
9. For online synchronous courses, there will be online class sessions as indicated. Students are expected to attend the online session at the given time. If a student is unable to attend a session, the instructor will make the recording of the session available for the student to view. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.

**Grading Policy:** The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%
Assignments/Quizzes/Mid-Term	50%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

This course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimal grade for satisfactory completion of this course.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

**Examinations:** There will be a comprehensive final exam. The assignments online represent your understanding of the readings and information presented in the Chapters. The assignments will consist of conceptual multiple-choice questions, problem solving questions, and short essay questions. The comprehensive final exam materials will come from lecture notes, the text, and class discussions and assignments. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class.

**Assignments:** There will be a research paper during the semester. The objective of the research is to analyze the use of the military in National Security and local policing activities. Details of the research paper will be provided later.

**Online Individual and Group Activities:** All assignments are posted on the course webpage. Each week, assignments will open and be available after 12:00AM Sunday and close after 11:59PM the following Saturday. If you have issues, please feel free to email me within the Blackboard message system or through Texas A&M- SA email as I check that every day.

**Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy:**

As a rule, make-up or late submissions will be accepted but will receive an automatic 15%-point deduction. Late submissions or make-up may be accepted/administered only in extra-ordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within a few days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam to receive exemption from the late penalty.

**Class conduct and civility code:** Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
2. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
3. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
4. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 48 hours during weekdays

**Class attendance and Participation:**

The class is delivered entirely online. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions and problem solving.

Active participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned. The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

***Spring 2026 FESA 4360 Homeland Secur Law/Policy/Pract Class Schedule***

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Chapter and Topic</b>
Week 1	Chapter 1 Homeland Security: An Overview
Week 2	Chapter 2 The Supremacy Clause and the General Police Powers of the States
Week 3	Chapter 3 Congress and the Courts
Week 4	Chapter 4 The Role of the Executive as Commander-in-Chief
Week 5	Chapter 5 Free Speech and the Right of Association: First Amendment
Week 6	Chapter 6 The Military Amendments: Second and Third Amendments
Week 7	Chapter 7 Searches and Surveillance: Fourth Amendment & Mid-Term
Week 8	Spring Break
Week 9	Chapter 8 Confiscation of Property, Interrogation, and Due Process: Fifth Amendment
Week 10	Chapter 9 Military Commissions, Right to Jury Trial, and Access to Counsel: Sixth Amendment

Week 11	Chapter 10 Habeas Corpus
Week 12	Chapter 11 Immigration, Border Security, and the Right to Travel
Week 13	Chapter 12 Detention and Rendition
Week 14	Chapter 13 Governmental Privileges and Immunity
Week 15	Chapter 14 Conscription and Governmental Emergency Powers
Final Exam Week	Final Exam

## Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources



# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

### **University Email Policy and Course Communications**

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

### **Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

### **Academic Learning Center**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled

students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784- 1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance. While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The [TELUS Student Support App](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

### Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

### Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

### Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an



appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

### **Meeting Basic Needs**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to [submit a CARE report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

### **Military Affairs**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

### **Religious Observances**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **The Six-Drop Rule**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu). Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

### **Pregnant/Parenting Students**

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to

instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784- 2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) or call (210) 784-2636.

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### **Students' Rights**

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### **Students' Responsibilities**

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

### Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

### Artificial Intelligence Policy

#### Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed them of their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

(Note: [There is guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT on the APA website.](#))



## **FESA Appendix A**

### **OTHER CLASS POLICIES:**

- Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules of common courtesy interacting in the class and online. Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in the lessons. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding ideas and presentations.
- The instructor will post lecture materials appropriate to the class on the Blackboard site.
- The course covers a lot of material, and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Your participation is highly encouraged in the discussion board portion, as it makes class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. I encourage you to ask questions, participate in online discussion and problem solving.
- There will be several opportunities for instructor and student interaction through chat sessions and virtual classroom sessions. Although these sessions are not mandatory, they help in the learning process. Students will be provided adequate notification of session dates.
- The provisions and information set forth in this schedule are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. I reserve the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule. All the changes will be announced through Blackboard Announcements, and you are responsible for the announcements made in this manner.