

CRIM 490: Intelligence Briefing, Interview & Interrogation
George Mason University SPRING 2024
Fridays - 10:30am-1:10pm in Peterson Hall Room 1105

CRIM 490 will be presented face-to-face in the classroom. Plan to meet each Friday from 10:30am-1:10pm. The course will be a combination of class discussions, group exercises, videos, lectures and guest speakers. Primarily the course is performance based focusing on intelligence related communication skills. You must be prepared to demonstrate and perform the communication skill sets related to briefing, interviewing, and interrogation during each class.

Professor and Contact:

Professor: Dr. Terry Gudaitis

Contact Info: tgudaiti@gmu.edu

In emergencies only: tgudaitis@mindstarsecurity.com

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:30pm – 4pm, Enterprise Hall 339

Or by appointment – Email me and we can meet on Zoom or via phone.

Joining the Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4688180957>

Password: gmucrim

Email/Blackboard and Communication:

Please check your Mason email. I may communicate with students through Mason email. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for information on how to use your account. In an emergency, if you need to use a different email address please notify me or set up forwarding to that address. I check my email frequently and it is the quickest way to reach me. Lecture notes from class will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will enable students to develop their applied interpersonal skills within a national security context. This course will focus on the BLUF style of intelligence briefing and how to obtain information effectively through various legal and ethical interview and interrogation methods, techniques and theories. Through in-class exercises and scenarios, the students will learn the advantages of effective verbal and non-verbal communication as well as ways to assess the verbal and non-verbal behaviors of others. These skills will help the students prepare for their real world cases in law enforcement and in the intelligence community. Each student will be required to perform the required skills in class. This class is a performance-based course. All grades are based on the demonstrated skills required for conducting intelligence briefings, collecting information from victim or witness interviews, and leading suspect/perpetrator interrogations.

Required Readings:

All required readings, videos, and homework/scenarios will be assigned in class and posted to Blackboard prior to the next class. You are expected to do the readings prior to each class as they introduce the concepts we will be performing/demonstrating in class activities each week.

Policies and Information

Disclaimer and Alert:

The materials we will be covering may contain information pertaining to terrorism, crime, and/or other related content, which can be disconcerting to some people. Please be advised about this material, as it can be challenging to brief and/or discuss.

The course is performance based, therefore a significant degree of feedback will be provided by the professor as well as your classmates. The feedback is designed to be objective, respectful, relevant, and important to honing your skills – but can be challenging to digest at times. If you feel you need to talk to someone, please contact the George Mason Counseling and Psychological Services at 703-993-2380 or online at caps.gmu.edu.

Course Format:

Class will be presented in a hybrid lecture/performance format. It is important that all students become actively involved with the class exercises. There will be also be relevant case studies (video and transcripts) for indepth discussion. Corresponding materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course or emailed to the students.

Course Policies:

Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is only permitted with advanced notice and with professor's permission. Videotaping/recording in any form is not permitted – Lectures/classes this semester will not be recorded or posted.

Honor Code:

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All students are expected to be familiar with this Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are prohibited. The use of artificial intelligence apps, such as ChatGPT, are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See <https://oai.gmu.edu/full-honor-code-document/> for more detailed information.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. If you need additional time for exams, please let me know and I will work with you to achieve a workable solution.

GMU Diversity:

Our Pledge to Diversity – GMU's goal is to build and sustain an inclusive campus community and to foster a welcoming climate that values and respects all members of the community. GMU sets a standard for principled behavior by its faculty, staff, and students and we follow a code of conduct that demands that the highest criteria be met. Our classroom will likewise have an environment where everyone can exchange a broad range of ideas and share a multitude of experiences and perspectives that sustains our commitment and builds a community in which everyone is heard and can thrive. See <https://diversity.gmu.edu/diversity> for more information.

Free Speech at the University & in the Classroom:

I encourage free speech and the freedom to express a wide range and diversity of thoughts and opinions. Learning can only occur through thorough, investigation, thought and assessing ideas from different perspectives. GMU has adopted the Chicago Principles of Free Expression—a commitment to free speech and expression widely regarded as the gold-standard for promoting academic learning. We may not agree on every issue, but everyone is expected to respect both popular and unpopular ideas. I invite the expression of all ideas, questions, and comments during class.

See <https://www.gmu.edu/about-mason/university-policy/free-speech-mason> for more information.

Attendance/Class Participation:

Students are responsible to attend class. Class attendance is mandatory and will impact your grade. An attendance log will be generated. In-class participation is important and adds to the learning environment. In the intelligence community, you are expected to be present, participate in meetings, and work with your colleagues – this class should mirror those expectations. Attendance/class participation will impact your final grade.

Privacy Policy:

Please respect the privacy of any students (and the professor or guest speaker) who may disclose personal information in the class. Please respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Emergencies and Closures:

Check Mason's homepage at www.gmu.edu or call GMU's closing line at 703-993-1000 to see if classes are cancelled for inclement weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>.

If I have to cancel class due to an emergency situation, I will attempt to email you ASAP at your GMU email address. I encourage you to check your GMU email the night before class or the morning of to ensure there have been no cancellations or changes.

Emergency Class(es) Online: If I need to hold a class virtually for any reason, we will do so via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/4688180957>

Zoom Password: gmucrim

Add/Drop Period and Spring 2024 Calendar:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes which is available from the Registrar's Website at registrar.gmu.edu. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

A full Spring 2024 calendar is available at: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2024/>

Grades & Assignments

Grading:

Your final grade will be calculated with five components as follows for a total of 100%:

1. Class Participation: 5% of the final grade – You are expected to participate in the practice briefings and scenarios during class. You will be put in the roles of briefer, interviewer and interrogator...and may be asked to assume the role of a victim or suspect.

Note Attendance - Missing more than 4 classes for any reason will automatically lower your final grade by a full grade (e.g., A to B or B- to C-). This is a full participation class.

2. Intelligence Briefing #1 (Informational): 20% of the final grade
3. Intelligence Briefing #2 (Influential): 20% of the final grade
4. Interview Scenario: 25% of the final grade
5. Interrogation Scenario: 30% of the final grade

Grading Scale:

A+ = 97 – 100
A = 93 – 96
A - = 90 – 92
B+ = 86 – 89
B = 82 – 85
B- = 80 – 81
C+ = 76 – 79
C = 72 – 75
C- = 70 – 71
D = 65 – 69
F = 64 and Below

Grading Criteria:

The criteria for each graded element will be provided and discussed during class and will also be posted to Blackboard.

- All of the graded elements of this course will be performance based to provide each student the opportunity to practice and demonstrate knowledge/skill in BLUF briefing and in interview/interrogation scenarios as they apply to Law Enforcement/Intelligence Community.
- The required components, theories, and methods will be discussed as well as practiced in class.
- Even if you are not assigned to perform your assignment (e.g., a briefing or a scenario), you are expected to be in class.

Final Exam – NOTE - there is no final exam in this course. The final exam date, however, will be used as a presentation date for the interrogation scenarios. You will need to be in person on the designated exam date which is May 3rd.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Assignments are due on the dates provided. A full grade penalty will be issued for any late assignment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do not “round-up” final grades. In order to be fair to everyone, I use the grade scale consistently. So if you end up with an 89.2 – that is a B+. I use the base number, not the decimal points as the determining factor for final grades.

IMPORTANT NOTE: While Blackboard will be used to turn in assignments, you will need to keep track of your grades during the semester.

Grade Calculator: <https://www.calculator.net/grade-calculator.html>

Course Schedule

The calendar below is the intended course schedule for each Friday. As the semester progresses and evolves, some of these dates and scheduled items may change due to weather closures, emergencies, guest speaker schedules, or other circumstances. Changes will be provided as necessary and as soon as possible. In addition to reading the posted articles, the classroom sessions will include lectures, case studies, applied intelligence exercises, scenarios, as well as a few guest speaker sessions with LE/IC experts.

CLASS #1 – Jan 19th

Introduction to the course - Goals, Objectives, and Expectations
The Basics: Importance of Communication Skills in context of Intelligence/LE
Introductions - Practice (impromptu) Briefings in Class

CLASS #2 – Jan 26th

Reading #1 - Intelligence Briefing
Reading #2 - BLUF Style Briefing
In Class: BLUF (Briefing Style); Applied Practice/Enhancing Your Skills

CLASS #3 – Feb 2nd

Briefing #1 – Informational/Operational Style Briefings (upload Intel Summary to BB)

CLASS #4 – Feb 9th

Reading #3 - The Influential Briefing
Reading #4 - Organizing an Influential Briefing
In Class: Getting Manpower, Resources and New Requirements
Persuasive or Influencing Briefing Techniques & Practice

CLASS #5 – Feb 16th

Briefing #2 – Influential Style Briefings (upload Intel Summary to BB)

CLASS #6 – Feb 23rd

Reading #5 - 1st Impressions: Interviewing and Interrogation
Reading # 6 - Interviewing Witnesses
In Class: Interview Styles – Self Assessment and 1st Impressions
Finding Your Brand and Approach

CLASS #7 – March 1st

Reading #7a - The FETI Interview
In Class: Interview Practice – Techniques/Psychology and Types
Working through Structured and Unstructured Interviews

MARCH 4th – 10th - SPRING BREAK!

CLASS #8 – March 15th

Reading #7b - Interviewing Traumatized Victims using FETI

In Class: Interview Practice – Techniques/Psychology and Types

CLASS #9 – March 22nd

Interview Scenarios (Group 1) – (upload written scenario to BB)

CLASS #10 – March 29th

Finish Interview Scenarios (Group 2) – (upload written scenario to BB)

Start Interviewing vs. Interrogation – Differences, Similarities, and Ethics

CLASS #11 – April 5th

Reading #8 – Interrogation: The REID Technique

Reading #9 – Fashioning Your Interrogation Style

In Class: Video/Transcript Interrogation Assessment & Discussion
(Rapport Building Scenario)

CLASS #12 – April 12th

Reading #10 – FBI Interrogator to Saddam

In Class: Discussion of Field Experience & Techniques

CLASS #13 – April 19th

Reading #11 – Your Interrogation Style: A Law Enforcement Perspective
Applied Interrogation Practice and Course Evaluations

CLASS #14 – April 26th

Interrogation Scenarios (Group 1) – (upload written scenario to BB)

CLASS #15 – May 3rd (official FINAL EXAM DAY) –

Finish Interrogation Scenarios (Group 2) – (upload written scenario to BB)

More Information –

<https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Spring-2024-Final-Exam-Schedule.pdf>