

**CRIM 490: Advanced Intelligence Analysis**  
**Spring 2024**  
**George Mason University, Engineering 1103**  
**Tuesdays – 4:30pm – 7:10pm**

**This semester, CRIM 490 will be presented as a face-to-face, in-person course. The course will be a combination of class discussions, group analytics, data assessment, and presentations. All course materials (lecture slides, readings, assignments, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard or on a simulated “intelligence server.”**

**Professor and Contact:**

Professor: Dr. Terry Gudaitis

Contact Info: [tgudaiti@gmu.edu](mailto:tgudaiti@gmu.edu) and in emergencies only: [tgudaitis@mindstarsecurity.com](mailto: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.**

Join the Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/4688180957> ; Password: gmucrim

**Email/Blackboard and Communication:**

Please check your Mason email for announcements. I will communicate regularly with students through Mason email and via Blackboard. 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. Each set of lecture notes/slides, course readings, and data sets will be posted to Blackboard.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to expand on and use the key analytical techniques learned in CRIM 312. These analysis techniques will be applied to “real data” used by entry-level and senior analysts in the Intelligence community. Throughout this course students will use methods of intelligence analysis including threat analysis and predictive analysis to answer provided requirements. The class will be using drone footage, overhead imagery, HUMINT reports and other sourced data in databases. Students will prepare their intelligence findings in the form of briefing slides, finished reports and verbal briefings. Several types of projects will be required and conducted concurrently – including individual and analyst team projects. We will try to mimic the day to day work of an intelligence analyst in the intelligence community juggling multiple projects – Dr. G will be your Intelligence Unit Chief.

**Required Textbook: No book. Any Weekly Readings will be posted to Blackboard Assignments.**

**Disclaimer and Alert:**

The materials we will be covering may contain information pertaining to terrorism, crime, and/or other potentially disturbing content, which can be disconcerting to some. Please be advised about this material, as it can be difficult/upsetting to analyze. 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](http://caps.gmu.edu).

## **Policies and Information**

### **Course Format:**

Class will mainly be presented as class participation exercises including relevant case studies and data sets that we will analyze in class. We will be working in analyst teams – and individually. Corresponding materials will be posted on data servers and Blackboard throughout the course and/or emailed to the students. We will be “working” each class as analysts would on the actual job – so bring your laptops and tablets.

### **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 or anything else, 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 our academic 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 where everyone is respected, 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 in class. 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 the highest level of academic learning. We may not agree on every issue, but everyone is expected to respect both popular and unpopular ideas. The best intelligence analysts analyze competing data and use academic rigor to consider multiple outcomes and alternatives. 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. We will operate as if we are in a SCIF.

**Emergencies and Closures:**

Check Mason's homepage at [www.gmu.edu](http://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 and post announcements on Blackboard. 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](http://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 six assignments as follows for a total of 100%:

1. Project #1: Individual Analyst Crime Project – Active Shooter (Small data set) = 10%
2. Project #2: Analyst Team Project – Worldwide Incidents & Atrocities = 20%
3. Project #3: Individual Analyst Counter-Intelligence Project (China's Investments) = 15%
4. Project #4: Individual Analyst (Topic of Your Interest) - All semester: 20%
5. Project #5: Analyst Team Project – Weapons Trafficking – All semester: 20%
6. Project #6 – Individual Analyst – Unit Chief's Weekly Briefing (UCB) – All semester – 15%

**NOTE:** Attendance/Participation: Missing more than 3 classes will lower your final grade by ½ grade (e.g., A to A- or B- to C+)...Missing more than 4 classes will lower your final grade by a full grade. You are expected to go to class.

### Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Total Points
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

## Descriptions and Due Dates for Projects

### **Project #1 – Individual Project – Crime (Active Shooter Data) 10%**

This first project will be conducted using a set provided to you. You can certainly supplement this data with additional research. Project 1 will be focused on the incidents of active shooters in the US. You will have 2 weeks to complete the project and you will be turning in a report in intelligence briefing (PowerPoint) format. DUE JANUARY 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Project #2 – Team Project – Worldwide Incidents & Atrocities - 20%**

This third project is an individual project focusing on non-combatant atrocities committed OCONUS. You will be analyzing data provided to you. This dataset that describes the deliberate killing of non-combatant civilians in the context of a wider political conflict. You can certainly supplement this data with additional research. You will have until mid-semester to complete the project and will be turning in a finished intelligence report. DUE MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Project #3 – Individual Analyst Project – CounterIntelligence - China Investment in US 15%**

This second project will be worked on by your analysis team and will be using a “big data” set that will be provided. You must use a simple database containing relevant information, analyze the provided information based on the requirements. You and your team will also be responsible for researching additional information and ongoing current information relevant to the topic and requirements. You will have 7-8 weeks to complete the analyses and your team will turn in a finished intelligence report. The finished intelligence report format will be provided. DUE MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Project #4 – Individual Analyst Project (Topic of Your Interest) - All semester: 20%**

This fifth report will be a project of your choice. You will be turning in a topic by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes and will turn in the final intelligence product on the last day of class at the end of the semester. A set of requirements will be provided to you, but you will be responsible for collecting the intelligence (using at least 3 different “INTs”), doing the analysis, and writing the final finished intelligence report. DUE APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Project #5 – Analyst Team Project - Weapons Trafficking – All semester: 20%**

This fourth project will be worked on by your analysis team (different than the team from project #2). You will be analyzing data requested by you and your team...and provided to you. Your team’s objectives will be outlined in the requirements documents. This project will run all semester long. You and your team will be receiving a new batch of intelligence each week for 10 weeks and then you will have 2 weeks to complete a finished intelligence report; including operational recommendations and predictions. You will also be preparing & presenting a team briefing for the class. DUE APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Project #6 – Individual Analyst Unit Chief’s Weekly Briefing (UCB) – All semester: 15%**

This sixth report will be an on-going weekly assignment all semester – think PDB or President’s Daily Briefing – but in this case, it is your Unit Chief’s Weekly Briefing or the UCB. You will be taking turns giving the Chief her weekly briefing – delivering a verbal briefing of current intelligence events and turning in a 2 page corresponding intelligence report. Each student will do one UCB per the semester. The schedule will be posted on Blackboard along with a sample briefing intel report.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Assignments are due on the dates provided. A full grade penalty will be issued for any late assignment. Intelligence analysts and their reports are not late!

**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>

## **CRIM 490 Advanced Intelligence Analysis Course Schedule**

The calendar below is the intended course schedule. As the semester progresses and evolves, some of these dates and scheduled items may change due to unforeseen events, technical glitches, guest speaker schedules, emergencies, or other circumstances. Changes will be provided in class as necessary and as soon as possible. In addition to reviewing the data sets, the classroom sessions will include lectures, case studies, applied intelligence examples, scenarios, class discussions, and analyst team meetings. The goal is to mimic the real work environment of an intelligence analyst.

JAN 16 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions and Introduction to the course - Goals, Objectives, and Expectations In Class: Review of a Dozen Techniques Getting Started and Requirements on Project #1 Logistics – Assignment of Teams (Project 2, and Project 5) & UCB Schedule
JAN 23 <sup>rd</sup>	In Class: Requirements for Projects 2, 3 & 5 Tech Briefings on Databases and Drones – “Intelligence Tech Team” Meet with Project 5 Teams (Discuss Report 1) Present UCB
JAN 30 <sup>th</sup>	In Class: Topics Discussion, Data, and More Data – Get requirements for all projects Doing Simultaneous Projects – Time Management Work on Requirements / Red Teaming Plan for Project #5 Present UCB

### **PROJECT #1 DUE – Upload to Blackboard Assignments by Midnight Project #4 Individual Topics Due to Dr. G**

FEB 6 <sup>th</sup>	In Class: Get started on Project #2 Meet with your Project 2 Teams Meet with your Project 5 Teams Present UCB
FEB 13 <sup>th</sup>	In Class: Get Started on Individual Project #3 – Counter-Intelligence Meet with Project 2 Teams Meet with Project 5 Teams Present UCB
FEB 20 <sup>th</sup>	In Class: Focus on Project 2 database progress and new incidents Meet with Project 2 Teams Meet with Project 5 Teams Present UCB

FEB 27<sup>th</sup>      In Class: Concentrate on your own personal projects (Project 4)  
Touch base with Project 2 Teams  
Touch base with Project 5 Teams  
Present UCB

**PROJECT #2 – Database Check in**

**SPRING BREAK – MARCH 4<sup>th</sup> through MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>**

MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>      In Class: Last questions on Project #3  
Review Analysis Techniques – Take a Breath  
Meet with Project 2 Teams  
Meet with Project 5 Team  
Present UCB

**PROJECT #3 DUE Upload to Blackboard by Midnight**

MARCH 19<sup>th</sup>      In Class: Guest Speaker  
In class exercise  
Meet with Project 2 Teams  
Meet with Project 5 Team (Provide Report 8)  
Present UCB

MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>      In Class: Review Requirements for Teams and Individual Projects - #2 Due next week!  
Touch base with Project 2 Teams  
Touch base with Project 5 Team  
Present UCB

MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>      In Class – Last questions on Project #2  
Meet with Project 2 Teams  
Meet with Project 5 Team  
Present UCB

**PROJECT #2 DUE – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight**

APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>      In Class: Guest Speaker  
Meet with Project 5 Team (Pulling your briefing and intel report together)  
Present UCB

APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>      Work in Project groups  
Project #4 Due  
Present UCB

**PROJECT #4 DUE – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight**

APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>      Individual Work/Analysis Day – Finishing touches on your final projects!  
Last UCB!

APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>      Team Briefing Day on Project #5!!!  
You will be briefing the “Director of National Security” in addition to your Unit Chief!

**PROJECT #5 DUE – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight**

NO FINAL EXAM!

More Information –

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