

CRIM 310: Introduction to the Intelligence Community (Spring 2019)

Instructor:

- David Keith Bryars, dbryars@gmu.edu

Day, time and venue:

- Monday, 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m., Prince William Bull Run Hall 132
- January 28th-May 13th

Contact information:

- I communicate routinely with students via the George Mason University email system and Blackboard announcements. Please make sure your GMU email is working properly and check your account regularly. My University email address is dbryars@gmu.edu

Office hours and venue:

- I am available to meet with students by appointment. Generally, the best time for me is before or after class in the classroom.

Course description and objectives:

Course Description This course introduces the form, function, and general capabilities of the US Intelligence Community (IC) and the supporting role intelligence plays in achieving US national security objectives. This course covers a diverse range of topics: the history and purpose of the Intelligence Community, the intelligence cycle and various collection disciplines, the roles the various agencies play, an overview of intelligence analysis, and background on current national security and geopolitical situations from an IC vantage point. Special emphasis in this course is placed on developing the critical thinking and writing skills necessary to perform successfully as an intelligence professional.

Course Prerequisites: Strong analytical reasoning, research, writing, and oral communication skills.

Course and Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- describe the mission, structure, and functions of the US IC and its constituent agencies;
- detail the intelligence process and the role of the intelligence analyst;
- describe the importance of historical and present-day national security challenges, major intelligence failures, and their effect on the current Intelligence Community;
- understand and assess current events from an Intelligence Community point of view;
- discuss the major ethical and moral issues related to intelligence; and
- analyze and synthesize information, craft well-reasoned written analyses, and effectively communicate the assessment to an audience.

Course text:

- Lowenthal, Mark M., *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*. (Sixth Edition or later).
- Lowenthal chapter reading assignments supplement the course material taught in class and should be completed prior to class. I find that students who read Lowenthal alongside the class lectures tend to grasp and understand the material better and do better on the quizzes and tests.
- Additional readings not on the syllabus may be assigned by the instructor in the week before class.

Course requirements:

- Class participation (10% of final grade).
- Quizzes (20% of final grade)
- Mid term exam (25% of final grade)
- Intelligence assessment and/or briefing (20% of final grade)
- Final exam (25% of final grade)

Attendance and Participation

I want you to be successful and learn as much as possible. Both attendance and participation are an integral part of your grade. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class, but more importantly, attendance helps each student achieve success. There are 12 substantive course days in this class and your goal should be to participate at least once per class. The amount of participation is less important than reasoned, responsible, and quality participation. If you must miss a class, please let the professor know in advance. Emergencies and unforeseen illness happens, so everyone gets two missed class before absences will count against your grade and the same goes for participation. You will be responsible for the content delivered and handouts distributed for missed classes. Readings You will be assigned a number of readings each week. Reading guides will be distributed electronically in the week before each class. The expectation is that you will spend, on average, at least three hours outside of the classroom doing readings and research for each class. Thorough preparation each week will enable you to participate fully in class discussions. Preparation must include taking notes on the readings based on the reading guides, and coming to class prepared to discuss them. Additional readings not on the syllabus may be assigned by the instructor in the week before class.

I anticipate bringing in guest speakers (as available) from the Intel Community to supplement the reading and class discussion. I expect there to be a great deal of Q/A and class participation to enhance the understanding of intelligence from the speakers' "real world" experiences.

Intelligence Assessment Paper and Briefing

You will be assigned an intelligence assessment and briefing over the course of the semester that will ask you to conduct an assessment similar to what you might be asked to do within the Intelligence Community. More information about this assignment will be provided during the course.

- The exams are essay/short answer/multiple choice/T/F. You must use exam books and/or scantron. You must write legibly in either black or blue ink, (pencil for Scantron).
- I use a straight 90 – 100=A, 80 – 89=B, 70-- 79=C, 60 – 69=D, and 0 – 59=F grading scale, as follows:
 - 97 - 100= A+
 - 93 - 96 = A
 - 90 - 92 = A-
 - 87 - 89 = B+
 - 83 - 86 = B
 - 80 - 82 = B-
 - 77 - 79 = C+
 - 73 - 76 = C
 - 70 - 72 = C-
 - 60 - 69 = D
 - 0-59 = F

General:

- Attend class and be on time.
- You must come to class prepared because I expect you to participate in class discussions. This means doing the assigned readings and being familiar with current events.
- All work in this course is administered under the University's Honor Code, which requires all students to abide by the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See <honorcode.gmu.edu> for details.
- Computers and tablets may be used in class during lecture, outside of testing. Cell phones, voice or video recorders, etc., are prohibited during class.
- Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes each semester. These are available at the Registrar's website at <registrar@gmu.edu>.
- Students with disabilities, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources (ODR), 703- 993- 2474. Only the ODR can arrange these accommodations.

January 28

- The Syllabus
- Introductions
 - Overview: What is Intelligence?
 - The Intelligence Process
 - Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapters 1 and 2

February 4

- What's Wrong with U.S. Intelligence?
- What's Right with U.S. Intelligence?
 - The Intelligence Cycle
- Readings:
 - The Final Report of the 9- 11 Commission (executive summary), at www.fas.org
 - The Report of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (letter of transmittal and overview), at www.fas.org
 - Lowenthal, Chapters 3, 4, 14
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February 11

- What Do Policy-Makers Expect from Intelligence?
- Guest Speaker if available or Quiz
- Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapter 9
 - "Supporting US Foreign Policy in the Post-9/11 World", Haass, at www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence

February 18

- The Intelligence Agenda
- Guest Speaker or Quiz
- Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapters 11 and 12

February 25

- Guest Speaker or Quiz
- The Collection Disciplines
- Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapter 5

March 4

- The Collection Disciplines (continued)
- Midterm review
- Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapter 5

March 11-17 Spring Break

March 18

- Midterm exam

March 25

- Class Exercise/Briefing materials
- Analytic Methods and Techniques
- Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapter 6

April 1

- Analytic Methods and Techniques (continued)
- Video:

- “Secretary of State Powell before the UN Security Council on Iraqi WMD”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt5RZ6ukbNc&list=PL39C278161B63B6EB>

April 8

- Class Quiz
- Counterintelligence and Foreign Intelligence and Security Services
 - Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapters 7 and 15

April 15

- Covert Action
 - Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapter 8

April 22

- Intelligence Oversight, and Ethical and Moral Issues
 - Readings:
 - Lowenthal, Chapters 10 and 13

April 29

- History of U.S. Intelligence and Evaluating U.S. Intelligence
 - Readings:
 - Lowenthal Chapters 11 and 12

May 6

- Final Exam review

May 13

Final Exam