CRIM 312 - 003: Intelligence Analysis Techniques (Fall 2019)

*Instructor*:

* Eugene P. Tadie, Ph.D.

*Day, time and venue*:

* Thursday, 7:20 – 10 pm, Enterprise Hall 276.

Contact information:

* I communicate routinely with students via the George Mason University email system. Please make sure your GMU email is working properly and remember to check your account regularly. My University email address is <etadie1@gmu.edu>. I will provide an emergency telephone number during our first class.

*Office hours and venue*:

* I am an adjunct and am not on campus during regular business hours. Therefore, I meet students by appointment. Generally, I do this at Northern Neck Starbucks before class. If that won’t work, then we will seek alternatives.

*Course description and objectives*:

* This course introduces students to key assumptions and techniques of intelligence analysis used throughout the Intelligence Community and, to a lesser extent, law enforcement.
* The objective of this course is to familiarize students with advanced analytic techniques, their uses and abuses, and their relevance to intelligence customers.

*Course texts*:

* None.

*Course requirements*:

* *Three exams* (each worth 1/3 of the ﬁnal grade).
  + - *The exams are essay*. They are administered in class. They are not cumulative. You must use exam books. You must write legibly in either black or blue ink.
* I use a straight (i.e., no “curve”) 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
* Note: *There is no ﬁnal exam in this course.*
* Attendance: *If you miss class, you must present evidence of illness or other hardship to be excused; one-half letter grade will be deducted if you accumulate more than two unexcused absences.*

*General*:

* Take this course seriously. It will be demanding of your time and commitment. You have a responsibility to those – the taxpayers of the state of Virginia, your family, yourself – who are paying for your college education.
* Attend class and be punctual.
* Be civil. You will be dismissed if you disrupt class.
* You must come to class prepared because I expect you to participate in class discussions. This means doing any assigned readings and being familiar with current events.
* There is *no extra credit* in this course.
* There are no “do-overs” in this course.
* *Make-up exams will be administered on a case-by-case basis and only with a valid excuse; they will be harder than the original exam.*
* 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. *All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee and pursued vigorously*. See <honorcode.gmu.edu> for details.
* *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 accommodations for students with disabilities*.
* *No electronic devices of any kind – computers, tablets, book readers, cell phones, voice recorders, etc. – may be used in class.*
* If you cannot read, write and speak English at the university level, you may want to consider dropping this course.

*Schedule of topics, readings and exams:*

August 29

The Syllabus

* + Readings:
    - None.

September 5

Introduction and Overview: What is Intelligence Analysis?

Cognition: Thinking about Thinking: Biases

* + Readings:
    - “Thinking, Fast and Slow” (book review), Studies in Intelligence, Vol. 56, No. 2 (Extracts, June 2012).

September 12

SAT Overview

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

September 19

Evidence, Argument and Assumption

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

September 26

First exam

October 3

Decomposition and Visualization

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

October 10

Cause and Effect; Deductive and Inductive Thinking

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

October 17

Analysis of Competing Hypotheses

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

October 24

Contrarian Techniques

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

October 31

Second Exam

November 7

Idea Generation

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

November 14

Collaboration and Conflict: Pros and Cons

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

November 21

New Directions in SATs

* + Readings:
    - TBD.

November 28

Thanksgiving – NO CLASS

December 5

* Third Exam