**CRIM: 310-004: Introduction to the Intelligence Community**

**Spring 2021**

Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10 pm

**Instructor and Contact:**

Instructor: James R. Van de Velde

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Phone: 760 992 4969 -- cell

Office hours: by appointment via Zoom, email, or phone call

**Email and Communication:** Please check your email daily. I communicate regularly with students through email. I check my email daily and it is always the quickest and best way to reach me. You may call or text anytime.

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the structure, function, and operations of the US Intelligence Community (IC) through discussion of its component agencies and their functions. The course maintains a strong focus on basic skills possessed by personnel who choose careers in this important sector: research, analytic thinking, and writing to present findings and recommendations as the core communications medium used by the various agencies that comprise the IC. The course covers aspects of traditional national security intelligence, military intelligence, and intelligence used in federal law enforcement. The course focuses on intelligence and security issues, the functions of the intelligence world including intelligence collection; espionage; counterintelligence; development and execution of covert operations; and uses of intelligence in national security decision-making. The course also covers such issues as legal authorities and boundaries, and ethical challenges that intelligence professionals have faced and are likely to face in the future. In this course, students will learn about the roles and history of intelligence and will gain a better understanding for the use of intelligence to carry out national security and foreign policy objectives. “Intelligence collection” is the process by which an intelligence system acquires data, and presupposes a system that captures, identifies, and prioritizes customer intelligence requirements. Collection, which must continuously produce clear and accurate data for successful all-source analysis, is organized into five major disciplines: open source intelligence (OSINT), human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), and measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT). This course will provide students with a solid grounding in the functions, activities, history, and organization of intelligence as conducted by the government of the United States. Students taking this course will learn the vocabulary and basic grammar of intelligence as practiced in the United States. Students will develop a familiarity with the various kinds of intelligence activities, organizations, and concepts.

**Required Textbooks:**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy.* (8th ed., 2019).
* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*. Washington DC: Sage, 2016

**Course Outline:**

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| **Session 1: January 27** | Introduction and Overview |
| **Session 2: February 3** | Overview to US Intelligence and the US Intelligence Community |
| **Session 3: February 10** | Intelligence Analysis – Current Intelligence, Estimates, Warning/Writing in the CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence Style |
| **Session 4: February 17** | Human Intelligence (HUMINT) |
| **Session 5: February 24** | Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) |
| **Session 6: March 3** | Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)  ***Short Intelligence Analysis Memo due Friday March 5*** |
| **March 8-12** | **Spring Break!** |
| **Session 7: March 17** | Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT) |
| **Session 8: March 24** | Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)  ***Mid Term Exam Due Friday, March 24*** |
| **Session 9: March 31** | Covert Action |
| **Session 10: April 7** | Counterintelligence |
| **Session 11: April 14** | When Intelligence is Wrong |
| **Session 12: April 21** | Spies and Lies: Secrets, Ethics, and Democracy |
| **Session 13: April 28** | Intelligence, Transnational Issues, and Terrorism and Course Review |
| **Friday May 7:** | ***Final Paper/Final Exam Due*** |

**Instructor**: James Van de Velde, Ph.D., Lieutenant Commander in the US Naval Intelligence Reserves (retired), and a Lead Associate for the consulting firm, Booz Allen Hamilton. He currently consults to the J5, Strategy, Plans and Doctrine, for US Cyber Command. He has over 30 years of experience in academia, intelligence collection and analysis, political, counter terrorism and proliferation analysis and national security affairs. He is a former White House Appointee in the US Department of State for nuclear weapons arms control under President George H. W. Bush, a Lecturer and Residential College Dean at Yale University, and a career Foreign Service Officer for the US State Department of State. From 2004-2005, Dr. Van de Velde served as a Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State, where he worked in the Office of the Coordinator for Counter Terrorism. In 2002, he completed a voluntary assignment with J2 Intelligence, Joint Staff, Pentagon, as an analyst for chemical weapons transfers. In 2003, he completed a voluntary year of military mobilization as senior intelligence analyst in the Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological Weapons Branch of the Joint Task Force for Combating Terrorism, Defense Intelligence Agency. From 2010-2013, Dr. Van de Velde consulted with US Special Operations Command on WMD-Terrorism. In 2017, Dr. Van de Velde served on the intelligence staff for Operation Resolute Support, Kabul Afghanistan, as a mobilized intelligence reservist.

Dr. Van de Velde is an Associate Member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and has held fellowships at the Center for International Security and Arms Control at Stanford University and the US-Japan Program at Harvard University. Dr. Van de Velde received his B.A. from Yale University in 1982 and his Ph.D. in National Security Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1988. He is Adjunct Faculty at Johns Hopkins University, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Global Security Studies as well as with the Security Studies Program, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. He is a former Associate Professor at the National Intelligence University.

***Glossary of Commonly Used Terms (via U.S. National Intelligence: An Overview; ODNI, 2013)****:*

* **Access**: The means, ability, or permission to approach, enter, or use a resource.
* **All-Source Intelligence**: Intelligence information derived from several or all of the intelligence disciplines, including SIGINT, HUMINT, MASINT, OSINT, and GEOINT.
* **Analysis**: The process by which information is transformed into intelligence; a systematic examination of information to identify significant facts, make judgments, and draw conclusions.
* **Collection**: The identification, location, and recording and storing of information – typically from an original source and using both human and technological means – for input into the Intelligence Cycle for the purpose of meeting a defined tactical or strategic intelligence goal.
* **Intelligence Cycle**: The steps through which information is converted into intelligence and made available to users. The cycle typically includes six steps: planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, dissemination, and evaluation.
* **Raw Intelligence**: Colloquial term meaning collected intelligence information not yet processed into finished intelligence.

***The Five Major Intelligence Collection Disciplines (the “INTs”):***

* **Human Intelligence (HUMINT):** information – either orally or via documentation – that is provided directly by a human source. It is the only type of intelligence for which collectors speak directly to the sources of information, control the topic of discussion, and direct the source’s activities. Human sources can obtain access to information that is not obtainable any other way.
* **Signals Intelligence (SIGINT):** intelligence gathered from data transmissions, including Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), and Foreign Instrumentation Signals Intelligence (FSINT). SIGINT includes both raw data and the analysis of that data to produce intelligence.
* **Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT):** intelligence gathered from the exploitation and analysis of imagery intelligence (IMINT), and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the earth.
* **Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (MASINT):**  intelligence produced through quantitative and qualitative analysis of the physical attributes of targets and events to characterize and identify those targets and events.
* **Open Source Intelligence:** intelligence produced from publicly available information that is collected, exploited, and disseminated in a timely manner to an appropriate audience for the purpose of addressing a specific intelligence requirement.

**Course Format:** Class will mainly be presented in lecture format but allow much class participation. Questions from the reading and current events will be presented for discussion. Supporting and additional reading materials not covered in this syllabus will be posted from time to time on Blackboard throughout the course or emailed to students. The course midterm will be a traditional examination and a term paper will be substituted for the final exam. Regular class attendance is expected.

**Course Policies:** Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is discouraged and only permitted with advanced notice and with the professor’s permission. Videotaping in any form is not permitted. Laptops, iPads & Tablets are permitted but must only be used for note taking, though cognitive science tells us that students learn best by taking notes by hand. Phones should not be used during class. Overall, please be respectful of your peers and instructor and do not engage in activities unrelated to class during class time.

**Attendance:** Students are responsible to attend class. Class attendance is mandatory and will affect your grade. Attendance will be taken during each class.

**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. See **honorcode.gmu.edu** for more detailed information.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a covered 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.

**Add/Drop Period and Spring 2021 Calendar:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in class. Scheduled adjustments should be madeby the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes which is available from the Registrar’s Website at **registrar.gmu.edu**. After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from the class requires the approval of the Dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures, which also contains ALL key dates for the Spring semester.

**Course Requirements:** Course deliverables are designed to ensure students possess a firm understanding of the key terms and concepts related to each discipline, can deconstruct and apply these concepts to current intelligence issues reflected in classified reporting, and can approach these issues in a critical, objective, and academically rigorous manner. Learning outcomes are evaluated through written assignments, oral presentations, and class participation. Students are responsible for reading assigned material before class in order to facilitate substantive and meaningful discussion during the class period.

**Short Intelligence Analysis (paper) (20 points):** You are required to submit a 1200-word (maximum) Intelligence Analysis, single-spaced, in Times 12 point font, with one inch margins (justified) with a line space between paragraphs, written in the CIA ‘Directorate of Intelligence Style’ (the DI Style will be taught in class) on any intelligence issue you wish. Please confirm suitability of the topic and issue with the instructor beforehand. The paper must include as its first page a short list (2-4 bullets) of “Key Judgments” -- your theses, which lists your findings in advance of the analytical body. The paper must be footnoted wherever necessary. Please use footnotes in Times 10 point font, not endnotes. The paper will test your ability to be convincing, to highlight important research and to write precisely. Papers shorter than the limits may be stronger than those that meet the page limits. Every decision maker, whether in law enforcement, government, or the corporate sector, needs quality information to make the best decision. Typically, in the Intelligence Community, findings and recommendations take the form of memoranda supporting analyzed data and a rationale for a specific course of action (or inaction). Intelligence professionals should be able to prepare briefing memos on a variety of topics. The memo is designed to provide information clearly, quickly, and effectively about an assigned topic (**due Friday, March 5, 2021, close of business – i.e., midnight**).

**Mid Term Exam (30 points):** Students will be assigned short essay questions testing their familiarity with the INTs and practical applications thereof. This exam will test students’ understanding of collection systems and techniques and is focused on the abilities and limitations of OSINT, HUMINT, SIGINT, GEOINT, and MASINT to satisfy national intelligence requirements. The midterm exam will be open book and will use a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay, but will be limited in time (***take home; week of March 22***).

**Final Exam or Final Paper (40 points):** Students have the option of taking a final exam or submit a final Intelligence Analysis paper of no more than 3000 words maximum) (same format requirements as for the Short Intelligence Analysis. The final exam, like the Mid Term Exam, will be open book and will test students’ understanding of collection systems and techniques and will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay (***due or given Friday May 7, 2021***).

**Class Participation and Attendance (10 points):** Because the academic experience is richer when everyone benefits from the unique experiences and perspectives of their peers, student engagement is critical. Participation is more than just attending the classes: it includes preparing and engaging substantively in class discussion. Students who are prepared and engaged will do well in this category. Most importantly, this means completing all required readings prior to each session and coming to class prepared to discuss the material.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be calculated as the sum of four components (below):

Intelligence Analysis Memo 20 points

Midterm 30 points

Final (Exam or Term Paper) 40 points

Class Participation 10 points

Total: 100 points

GMU 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

**Privacy Policy**: Please respect the privacy of any students (and the instructor) who may disclose personal information in class. That has a lot to do with the sensitive of the intelligence topic and its relationship to US national security. Please respect everyone’s right to choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information on any subject.

**Class Sessions:**

**Spy Movies to Watch Throughout the Semester:**

* Red Sparrow
* Bridge of Spies
* Body of Lies
* Argo
* Imitation Game
* Breach
* No Way Out
* Enemy of the State
* Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
* Three Days of the Condor
* Zero Dark Thirty
* Spy Game
* Munich
* Hunt for Red October
* The Falcon and the Snowman
* Unthinkable

**Session 1: January 27: Introduction and Overview**

**Session 2: February 3: Overview to US Intelligence and the US Intelligence Community**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapters 1, 2 and 3
* *US Intelligence Overview* (handout by instructor)
* Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group *Intelligence Guide for First Responders* (handout by instructor)
* *An Overview of the United States Intelligence Community for the 111th Congress* (handout by instructor)
* CIA historical overview

<https://fas.org/irp/cia/ciahist.htm>;

* Summary of the National Security Act of 1947

<https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2008-featured-story-archive/national-security-act-of-1947.html>

* “Early History of the NSA”

<https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/news-features/declassified-documents/cryptologic-spectrum/early_history_nsa.pdf>

America's intelligence community, explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFIG6k4B3zg>

* What Does the Intelligence Community Do? (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTGd1t8Ro84>

* FBI vs CIA - How Do They Compare? (8 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vebNxWGotC8>

**Session 3. February 10: Intelligence Analysis – Current Intelligence, Estimates, Warning/Writing in the CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence Style**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapters 4, 6
* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 7
* CIA Analytic Guide, “Research Findings,” Analytic Culture in the U.S. Intelligence Community, pp. 3-32.

<https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/lps64831/CIA%201929667132.pdf>

* CIA Director William Colby, “Secrecy in an Open Society”

<https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/news-features/declassified-documents/cryptologic-spectrum/Security_in_an_Open_Society.pdf>

* A Classic Case of Deception: CIA Goes Hollywood

<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/winter99-00/art1.html>

**Session 4: February 17: Human Intelligence (HUMINT)**

* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 3
* See the Language of Espionage, Spy Museum:

<https://www.spymuseum.org/education-programs/spy-resources/language-of-espionage/#F>

* Henry Crumpton, “Recruiting” (handout by instructor)
* Barry G. Royden, “Tolkachev, A Worth Successor to Penkovsky,” *Studies in Intelligence*, Vol. 47 (2003), No. 3. (handout by instructor)
* Jonathan Lord, “Undercover Under Threat,” *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, 2015, pp. 666-691.
* What Do Targeting Officers Do? (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0DuzVs7knI>

* What do Collection Management Officers do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uscwlPoDv0>

* What do Staff Operations Officers do? (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snwU-8TmhiM>

* 7 things the CIA looks for when recruiting people (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLth0DBXOEg>

* HUMINT vs. Counterintelligence - Diving Into the Disciplines (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0O1HK5KoFY>

* Human Intelligence (HUMINT) (8 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VbEN-7uH2A>

**Session 5: February 24: Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)**

* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 4
* Matthew Aid, “The National Security Agency and the Cold War.” Intelligence and National Security, September 2001; pp. 27-66. (handout by instructor)
* Courtney Weinbaum, et al. *SIGINT for Anyone: The Growing Availability of Signals Intelligence in the Public Domain*, PE-273-OSD, Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2017
* What is SIGINT (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdJQo__vY8U>

* We Are The NRO: Signals Intelligence (3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o9b_3kYVh4>

* BAE Systems' SIGINT capabilities (3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsAAo7h9FL0>

* NSA Overview (3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnjLjIbeu8s>

* 6 things you may not have known about the NSA (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZwVPmVb7IU>

**Session 6: March 3: Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)**

* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 2
* Sir David Omand, “Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT)” in R. Dover et al. (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Security, Risk and Intelligence*, 2017, pp. 355-371. (handout by instructor)
* *Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) 2oolKit On The Go* (handout by instructor)
* OSINT - Open Source Intelligence Overview (6 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSXBa5RehYk>

**March 8-12: No Class – Spring Break!**

**Session 7: March 17: Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT)**

* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 6
* *Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT) A Primer*, Defense Intelligence Agency, March 2021. (handout by instructor)
* Measurement and signature intelligence | Wikipedia audio article (34 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbVOpkSWG8M>

**Session 8: March 24: Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)**

* Robert M. Clark and Mark M. Lowenthal, *The Five Disciplines of Intelligence Collection*, Chapter 5
* Advent of NGA (handout by instructor)
* The Power of GEOINT (6 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXL6nK58VB0>

* NGA Explains: What is Geospatial Intelligence? (Episode 1) (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8keqUuxT6Y>

* U.S. Air Force: Geospatial Intelligence (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pYlwPjWCas>

* NGA Mission video - Extended version (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZz5HBALMqE>

* What is GEOINT? (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NObWabQJiRs>

**Session 9: March 31: Covert Action**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapter 8

**Session 10: April 7: Counterintelligence**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapter 7

**Session 11: April 14: When Intelligence is Wrong/Confirmation Bias**

* Robert Jervis, “Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq,” *The Journal of Strategic Studies,* Vol. 29, No. 1, 3–52, February 2006 (handout by instructor)

**Session 12: April 21: Spies and Lies: Secrets, Ethics, and Democracy**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapter 13
* Covert Action, Loss of Life, and the Prohibition on Assassinations (1976-1996) <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB431/docs/intell_ebb_001.PDF>

**Session 13: April 28: Intelligence, Transnational Issues, and Terrorism and Course Review**

* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapter 12
* The 9/11 Commission Report, chapter 8, “The System Was Blinking Red” <http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/911/report/911Report_Ch8.pdf>
* Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, chapter 9

**Friday, May 7: Final Exam; Term Paper Due**