

**CRIM 312-001: Intelligence Analysis Techniques
Fall 2023
George Mason University, Innovation Hall, Room 209
Fridays – 10:30am – 1:30pm**

This semester, CRIM 312 will be presented as a face-to-face, in-person course. The course will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, group exercises, videos, and guest speakers. All course materials (lecture slides, readings, assignments, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard.

Professor and Contact:

Professor: Dr. Terry Gudaitis

Contact Info: tgudaiti@gmu.edu

In emergencies only: tgudaitis@mindstarsecurity.com

**Office hours: Wednesdays, Noon – 1pm, 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 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 introduce the key analytical techniques used by entry-level and senior analysts in the Intelligence community. Throughout this course students will learn several methods of intelligence analysis including social network analysis, decision trees, assessment of crime data, Venn analysis, Gantt charts, open source intelligence collection/analysis, and predictive analysis. Students will learn how to transform raw information into critical finished intelligence used to understand problems and issues. Students will prepare their intelligence findings in the form of briefing slides. Several types of projects will be required – including individual and analyst team projects.

Required Textbook: No book. Required 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.

Policies and Information

Course Format:

Class will mainly be presented in lecture format and in person. There will be class participation exercises as well as relevant case studies and data sets that we will analyze in class. Corresponding materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course or emailed to the students. The posted materials on Blackboard may not necessarily be identical to those presented in class.

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 share a multitude of experiences and perspectives. Our classroom should build a community in which 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.

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 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 Fall 2023 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 Fall 2023 calendar is available at: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/fall-2023/>

Grades & Assignments

Grading:

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

1. Project #1: Crime Data Analysis = 15%
2. Project #2: Intelligence Analyst Team Project = 15%
3. Exam #1 - Midterm: 20%
4. Project #3: Threat/Risk Intelligence Analysis Project: 25%
5. Exam #2 – Final Exam: 25%

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: Assignments & Exams

Exams (Midterm = 20%; Final = 25%):

The midterm and final exams will be administered in class and will consist of a combination of a few multiple choice & fill-in-the-blanks. The majority of the exams will be scenarios or data sets in which you will implement various intelligence analysis techniques. Instructions will be provided prior to the exams.

Make-up exams will only be given under exceptional, unavoidable circumstances with proper documentation. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP. Taking an exam late may result in a full grade penalty.

- Midterm Date: Friday, October 6th - 10:30am – 1:10 pm
- Final Exam Date: Friday, December 8th - 10:30am – 1:15pm

First 2 Projects (15% each):

There will be 2 assigned analysis projects which are smaller in scale. Details and structured data methodologies used in these projects will be covered in class. Projects will be handed in electronically and properly classified (Unclassified – FCUO).

- Project #1 – Crime Analysis (15% of your grade)
DUE: Friday, September 22nd – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight
- Project #2 – Intelligence Analysis Team (15% of your grade)
DUE: Friday, October 27th – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight

Project #3 - Threat/Risk Intelligence Analysis Project (25%):

You will collect relevant intelligence on a target from various open sources and create an intelligence risk assessment. The threat/risk assessment will include: 1) any and all information collected on this target (including visuals); 2) the analytic method(s) used to assess the data; 3) predictive analysis; and, 4) a developed approach technique. A full criteria will be provided in class.

References used for intelligence collection as well as the analytic methodologies used should be from various sources, including but not limited to textbooks, academic journals, professional journals, and web based materials. All hard copy and online sources need to be properly cited in APA style within the paper and in a reference list. Projects will be handed in electronically and properly classified (Unclassified – FCUO).

DUE: Friday, November 17th – Upload to Blackboard by Midnight.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Assignments and exams 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>

CRIM 312 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 chapter information, the classroom sessions will include lectures, case studies, applied intelligence examples, scenarios, and class discussions.

- FRI AUG 25 Introductions and Introduction to the course - Goals, Objectives, and Expectations
Lecture: The Analyst's Job
Thematic and Content Analysis and Analysis Exercise
- FRI SEPT 1 Reading #1 – Critical Thinking, Reading #2 – Gantt Charts and
Reading #3 – The ABC Technique
Lecture: Chronologies and Applying ABC Analysis
Analyzing Crime Data and Review of Mini-Project #1 Criteria
- FRI SEPT 8 Reading #4 – Crusius Manifesto; Reading #5– Social Network Analysis and
Reading #6 – SNA Handbook & Toolkit
Lecture: Using Social Network Analysis and SNA Exercise
- FRI SEPT 15 Reading #7 – Decision Trees and Reading #8 – Drawing Decision Trees
Lecture: The Application of Decision Trees in Intel Analysis
Decision tree analysis exercise
- FRI SEPT 22 Reading #9 – CIA Officer, What I Learned
Lecture – The application of Red Teams in intelligence analysis

Project #1 Due – Upload to Blackboard Assignments by Midnight

- FRI SEPT 29 Reading #10 - ACH & Red Teams and Reading #11 - Intelligence Analysis with ACH
Lecture - Analysis of Competing Hypotheses (ACH)
ACH Exercise
Midterm Review
- FRI OCT 6 **MIDTERM in class (10:30am – 1:10pm)**
- FRI OCT 13 Reading #12 – Country Study on China & Espionage
Lecture: Country Assessments and Understanding Culture
Criteria for Project #2

FRI OCT 20 Reading #13 – ODNI Threat Assessment
Lecture: Evaluating Threats, Risks, and Vulnerabilities
Criteria for Project #3

FRI OCT 27 No New Readings, Finish Project #2, Review All Intel Analysis Techniques
Review CTAF & TRAF Frameworks
Analysis, Gathering Data, and Scoping for Project #3
In Class Case Study

Project #2 Due – Upload to Blackboard Assignments by Midnight

FRI NOV 3 Reading #14 – Cyber Crime and Cyber Intelligence
Lecture: Cyber Threats and Criminal Investigation/Analysis
Intelligence Led Policing

FRI NOV 10 Reading #15a - Venn Diagrams – The How To
Reading #15b – Venn Diagram Worksheet
Lecture: Lecture: Creating Venn Diagrams
In Class Exercise – Results of Venn Diagrams

FRI NOV 17 Reading #16 – The Future and Dark Data
Reading #17 – Basics About Artificial Intelligence
Lecture: The Future of Intelligence Analysis and Ethics

Project #3 Due - Upload to Blackboard Assignments by Midnight

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24th

FRI DEC 1 LAST DAY of CRIM 312
Meta-Analysis and Meta-Analysis Exercise
Review for the Final Exam

FRI DEC 8th **FINAL EXAM in class, 10:30am – 1:15pm**

More Information –

<https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Fall-2023-Final-Exam-Schedule.pdf>