

The University of Texas at El Paso
Intelligence & National Security Studies Courses
INSS 3302: Seminar in Intelligence & National Security
Summer 2023 – Online

Location: Online - Blackboard

Date/Time: Online in asynchronous format by week

Dates of Course: Summer 2023 (15 May 2023 – 02 July 2023) – 7 Weeks

Credit Hours – 3

Instructor: John Lash, PhD

Email: jelash@utep.edu

Phone: 814.659.4439

Office Hours: By appointment only

Communication Guidance:

Preferred method of communication with instructor is via UTEP email address (jelash@utep.edu); instructor will respond to student inquiries within 24-hours (usually within 12 hours). If a phone discussion is preferred / required, please email professor to schedule.

Synchronous Sessions:

There are two (2) optional synchronous sessions during this course. Subsequent to these sessions the instructor will post an announcement relative to any and all relevant topics / key items discussed during the session. *Please email the instructor prior to the meeting to confirm your attendance.*

(1) 05/29/23 at 7:30PM EST - Optional 30-minute session for course content questions

(2) 06/12/23 at 7:30PM EST – Optional 30-minute session for course content questions

Textbooks and Resources:

Gill, P., & Phythian, M. (2018). *Intelligence in an insecure world (3rd edition)*.

- You can get this from the UTEP bookstore.
- On Amazon you can rent this book in paperback for \$11.99 or buy used for \$20
- ISBN: 978-1509525201

Lowenthal, M. M. (2022). *Intelligence: From secrets to policy (9th edition)*.

- You can get this from the UTEP bookstore.
- On Amazon you can rent this in eBook form on Kindle for \$38
- ISBN: 978-1071806371

Additional Articles and Readings will be provided by the instructor in Blackboard

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines the scope and breadth of contemporary intelligence and national security issues. It serves as a professional overview of the field, detailing the structure and interrelationships of both private sector and government security bureaucracy.

Emphasis will also be placed on understanding the role of science in security matters.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the role and limits of intelligence in key aspects of national security policy-making
2. Evaluate the efficacy, legality and morality of intelligence activities
3. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between intelligence producers and consumers
4. Demonstrate understanding of the use and the limits of the concept of intelligence cycle
5. Demonstrate understanding of the reasons for intelligence failures and how lessons can be learnt from previous mistakes
6. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between intelligence and counter-intelligence
7. Recognize some of the key similarities and differences between intelligence in democratic and authoritarian states
8. Recognize and evaluate the challenges facing intelligence services in the contemporary world

Evaluation

The professor is responsible for assessing student performance and for issuing a final grade. If you meet normal expectations, you can expect to earn a course grade of B. If you exceed normal expectations, you will earn a higher grade; if you do not meet normal expectations, you will earn a lower grade.

Normal expectations include the following:

1. Being an active student who accepts responsibility for learning.
2. Being prepared for and attending all classes and serving as a leader to the learning process.
3. Completing all case analysis / presentations in an acceptable and timely manner.
4. Participating to a high degree in course learning activities in a meaningful and transformational manner.
5. Demonstrating an ability to integrate previous learning into the activities of this course and developing strategies to overcome identified areas of weakness where needed.
6. Conducting yourself in a manner commensurate with professional standards.
7. To share the responsibility of making our class a supportive, respectful, and safe environment for discussion and debate. To remember that our classroom is not a public venue. Postings on this site are private and to be shared only with me and other members of the class. Think of this as preparation for a career where you may be entrusted with classified national security documents.

Final Course Grade

Students are expected to complete all assignments in the course and to meet required deadlines for papers in order to receive course credit. **Late work will not be accepted.**

Grading: Grades will be determined on the basis of total points earned. The point distribution will be approximately as follows:

Weekly Discussion Boards (5)	50 pts
Exam 1	30 pts
Exam 2	<u>30 pts</u>
Total	110 pts

Your performance on the following will determine your final course grade:

Discussion Boards (50 Total Points): Total of 5 for the Course (See Course Calendar)

- ✓ Discussion Board Assignments for Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
- ✓ There will be 2 Discussion Board prompts for each of these weeks, each worth 5 points.

- Students will be required to respond to a discussion board prompt from the instructor.
- Initial student posts are due each **Wednesday** by 11:59PM EST.
 - **Example: Week 1 discussion board post is due by [05/17/23] at 11:59PM**
- Students are then required to comment on at least one other student's post. The post should be substantive and contribute to the discussion – due each **Sunday** by 11:59PM EST.
 - **Example: Week 1 discussion board reply is due by [05/21/23] at 11:59PM**

- **Guidelines:**
 - Please note that nowhere in this discussion or rubric do I specify how long I expect your responses to be. There's a reason for this. As aspiring (or actual) professionals, I want you to develop your own judgment. A single sentence or two will never be enough. Focus on conveying your message clearly and completely, with the information needed to convince or inform your reader. If you succeed in doing that, your word count simply won't matter.
 - Practice professional interactions. Professionals often disagree, but they use facts to make their arguments. The classroom—or the workplace—is no place for personal attacks, derogatory or vulgar language, or discriminatory language. Debate the ideas, not the person.

- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Discussion boards are worth 5 total points each, for a total of 50 course points.**
 - **Original Post = 2.5 Points and Reply Post (to classmate) = 2.5 Points**
 - To receive 4 or 5 points: The discussion board post is insightful, thoughtful, relevant, original, and well-developed. Connections are made between readings, course activities, prior experience and future expectations. The response targets the proper objectives / questions. The main entries for the week are the appropriate length and utilize proper sentence structure and grammar/spelling/punctuation. The responses are submitted on time. The entries show original thought and suggest evidence that all previous threads were read before the post was made.
 - To receive 2 or 3 points: Parts of the discussion board post are insightful, thoughtful, and well developed. Some connections are made between readings, class activities, prior experience and future expectations, but additional expansion or development

of ideas is needed. The entries show some relationship to objectives/questions but need considerable explanation and development. The entry shows original thought. There are spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.

- To receive 1 point: Little in the discussion board post is insightful, thoughtful, or well developed. Few connections are made between readings, class activities, prior experience and future expectations, and additional expansion or development of ideas is needed. The entry shows little relationship to objectives/questions and needs considerable explanation and development.
- To receive 0 points: Don't post at all or post late or don't reply to your classmates

Exam 1 - Midterm (30 Points): Week 4 of the Course (June 8 – 11 Testing Window)

- Content: 2 Short Answer, 20 Multiple Choice / True or False Questions

Exam 2 - Final (30 Points): Week 7 of the Course (June 28 – July 2 Testing Window)

- Content: 2 Short Answer, 20 Multiple Choice / True or False Questions

There will be two exams during the semester – each with 2-hour time limits. Each exam will include multiple choice and short-answer questions. Exam 2 will not be cumulative.

These exams are open book / open sources (think and use your “OSINT” skills). You can use any source you need to answer the questions within the 2-hour time limit. In the real-world, you will be tasked with finding answers to questions using all available resources within a specific timeframe (it is infrequent that you’ll have to make gut decisions based only on your ability to memorize or only things that you know). We have immense benefits in the intelligence world these days as it relates to technology and availability of information – so use it on these exams!

You are not allowed to collaborate with other students on exams.

You may take each exam at any time during the given windows:

- ✓ June 8 - 11 for the midterm – which is **Thursday 5:00PM to Sunday at 11:59PM**
- ✓ June 28 – July 2 for the final - which is **Wednesday 5:00PM to Sunday at 11:59PM**

If you know in advance that you cannot take an exam during its scheduled time period, you must contact me well before the exam. If you miss an exam due to an emergency on the day of the exam, you must contact me as soon as possible. I will require documentation supporting your excuse for missing the exam to determine whether you will be given a makeup exam.

You will have 2 hours to finish the exam once you begin. Information covered on the exams will be taken from both the assigned readings and material posted on our Blackboard shell. Not all the information in the book will be covered in the class.

Attendance Policy:

Because this is an online course, attendance is determined by class participation online. Students must be prepared, participate in online individual/group discussions, and complete the course modules in order to understand and incorporate the rhetorical strategies and processes used to complete the projects.

As this is an online asynchronous course; students are responsible for completing all work assigned. The instructor reserves the right to adjust a student’s final grade based on a pattern of class absences regardless of any other scores.

Professional Conduct: In business, your actions will determine how others judge your professionalism. In this class, students are expected to act in a professional manner. The instructor reserves the right to reduce the participation grade for unprofessional conduct.

Percentage Grading Scale:

93-100	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
59 or below	F

Drop Policy

To drop this class, please contact the [Registrar’s Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact me. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#)

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit

any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Technology Backup Plan: Students should develop a personalized backup plan in the event of computer or internet failure at any point during the course. Students should be familiar with the campus computer lab / library resources with internet connections and necessary applications; including printers, scanners, and other tools to finish your work. Keep all contact information for your instructor in an easily accessible place and print out the syllabus so that you have a hard copy available. Students should consider the benefits of saving assignments and associated course documents in the cloud for accessibility.

INSS 3302 Course Calendar

Within Blackboard every week there are learning modules where I have provided weekly readings, videos, and reference material for you to review; please ensure that you review all material every week.

Week	Topic	Assignments
Week 1: [5/15 - 5/21]	Week 1: Intelligence Module 1 – What is Intelligence Module 2 – Intelligence Studies	Turn In: Syllabus Agreement Discussion Board 1 (5 Points) Discussion Board 2 (5 Points)
Week 2: [5/22 - 5/28]	Week 2: Intelligence Module 3 – Intelligence Collection Module 4 – Intelligence Analysis	Discussion Board 3 (5 Points) Discussion Board 4 (5 Points)
Week 3: [5/29 - 6/04]	Week 3: Intelligence Module 5 – Intelligence & Policymakers Module 6 – Intelligence Failures	Discussion Board 5 (5 Points) Discussion Board 6 (5 Points)
Week 4: [6/05 - 6/11]	Week 4: Intelligence Exam 1	Exam 1: Midterm (30 Points)
Week 5: [6/12 - 6/18]	Week 5: Intelligence Module 7 – Covert Action Module 8 – Counterintelligence & Security Module 9 – Intelligence to Counter Terror	Discussion Board 7 (5 Points) Discussion Board 8 (5 Points)
Week 6: [6/19 - 6/25]	Week 6: Intelligence Module 10 – Intelligence Ethics & Accountability Module 11 – Preparing for the Future	Discussion Board 9 (5 Points) Discussion Board 10 (5 Points)
Week 7: [6/26 - 7/02]	Week 7: Intelligence Exam 2	Exam 2: Final (30 Points)

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change or modify any provision of this course syllabus – including the time, order and content of the course schedule.

Student Contract

I, _____ (print name), acknowledge that I have read and understand the syllabus for ***INSS 3302 Seminar in Intelligence and National Security*** and I agree to abide by all course policies, procedures, and schedules therein. I agree to abide by the academic integrity policy of The University of Texas at El Paso. I will refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty. The work I submit is my own without unauthorized aid *of any kind*.

I understand that the instructor reserves the right to make any modifications to this syllabus as necessary to facilitate the instruction of this course. I agree to take responsibility for my learning and the evaluation outcome in this course.

Student signature: _____
Date: _____