

**SEMINAR IN INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY  
INSS 3302, CRN #27902  
ONLINE COURSE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
SPRING, 2023**

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**II. TEXTBOOK**

Gill, P., & Phythian, M. (2012). *Intelligence in an insecure world (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*. Polity Press: Malden, MA. ISBN: 978-1509525201

Lowenthal, M. M. (2016). *Intelligence: From secrets to policy (7<sup>th</sup> edition)*. CQ Press: Los Angeles, CA. ISBN: 978-1506342566

Additional reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

**III. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze the role and limits of intelligence in key aspects of national security policy-making
- B. Evaluate the efficacy, legality and mortality of intelligence activities
- C. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between intelligence producers and consumers
- D. Demonstrate understanding of the use and the limits of the concept of intelligence cycle
- E. Demonstrate understanding of the reasons for intelligence failures and how lessons can be learnt from previous mistakes
- F. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between intelligence and counter-intelligence
- G. Recognize some of the key similarities and differences between intelligence in democratic and authoritarian states
- H. Recognize and evaluate the challenges facing intelligence services in the contemporary world

#### IV. COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Exams (50% of your grade)

There will be two exams throughout the semester. Each exam includes multiple choice and short-answer questions. Exam 2 will not be cumulative. You may take the exam at any time during a specified 24-hour period (**March 5<sup>th</sup>** for Exam 1 and **May 10<sup>th</sup>** for Exam 2). If you cannot take the exam during that time for a foreseeable reason, 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 may 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 the book and class discussions. All the information in the book will not be covered in the class. You are responsible for reading and knowing the book material. Additionally, all the information covered in class will not be in the book. The scores on all exams will be adjusted so that the average score is 75% of the maximum possible points. There are links to the exams on the Navigation pane to the left of the screen. There is also a link to Exam 1 under "Week 7" and a link to Exam 2 under "Week 16". ***You are not allowed to collaborate with other students on exams. You are also not allowed to quote from the readings or lectures in your exam answers.***

##### B. Group Presentation (20% of your grade)

You will be required to develop a multi-media presentation (for example, in Powerpoint or Presi) in small groups of 4-6 students. The presentations will be posted during Week 15 (due by **May 5<sup>th</sup>** at midnight). You will be required to choose from one of several research questions that I have provided. Under "Course Overview-Orientation" click on "Sign up for groups". This will allow you to review each research question and decide which one interests you. You must sign up for a group by **January 29<sup>th</sup>**. Those who have not signed up for a group by this time will be assigned a group.

Please see the grading rubric posted on the "Research Proposal" link on Blackboard and the Research Proposal handout, which specifies exactly what is expected from you regarding the written proposal and presentation. Failure to turn in the presentation on time will result in a

2% deduction from your grade for every day that it is late.

Additionally, your group must complete the Team Contract by **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Furthermore, your team must also complete a progress report by **March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Individual students must evaluate their team members' performance and participation by **May 7<sup>th</sup>**. This assessment will make up 25% of your individual grade. Failure to complete these tasks will result in a 1% deduction from your Group Presentation grade for each day that each task is late.

Group presentations must include information from independent research and class material in presentations. Click on "Group Presentations" on the Navigation pane or go to "Group Presentations" under "Week 15" to view the grading rubric for this presentation (also click on "Guidelines for Group Presentations" to see some helpful tips in creating effective presentations). Presentations must be submitted via this link. Only one group member is required to upload the presentation. ***Presentations must include an audio narration.*** All students must provide at least one insightful comment about each group's presentation by **May 7<sup>th</sup>** at midnight.

#### C. Exercises (20% of your grade)

For several topics, I have included interactive exercises that you must complete either in groups or individually. Each exercise has several components. Make sure to thoroughly read all instructions before beginning the exercise. These exercises typically include a debriefing component, in which you must respond to debriefing questions about the exercise. Because some of these exercises require you to work in a group (your group is the one with which you will be developing the group presentation), it is important that all group members do their part. If you have trouble with one or more members of your group, please inform me as soon as possible. All exercises are due by **Sunday** at midnight. Late submissions will ***not be graded*** and a grade of "0" will be assigned.

#### D. Discussion Answers (10% of your grade)

For some topics, you will be required to respond to at a discussion question. In each week's module in which there is a discussion question, there is a link to the forum for the discussion question. Students must create a new thread in the forum; you will be unable to see other students' answers until you create your own thread. Students posting empty threads before answering the question will receive a grade of "0". You can also access the forum by clicking "Discussion Board" on the Navigation pane. All posts must be made by **Sunday** at midnight. Late submissions will not be graded.

Answers will be graded according to the following criteria: 1) how well does the answer demonstrate critical thinking; 2) does the student incorporate course material and/or current

events into the answer; and 3) does the student provide an accurate and thorough answer? ***You are not allowed to quote from the readings or lectures in your discussion questions or answers.*** Students who do so will receive a grade of “0”. The two lowest Exercise or Discussion Question grades will be dropped from your final grade.

#### **VI. GRADING SCALE AT THE END**

A = 90 – 100%  
B = 80 – 89%  
C = 70 – 79%  
D = 60 – 69%  
F = below 60%

NOTE: Final grades are a weighted average of assignment and exam grades. Final grades are not curved.

#### **VII. TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS**

For all technological, hardware, software problems, lost files, and/or questions with Blackboard, as well as difficulties you are having during an exam, contact Technology Support Help Desk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tech support is set up to specifically address technical questions and problems about Blackboard.

Professors are not technical support staff.

Phone: E-mail: Website: In Person:

915.747.4357 or toll free: 1-877-382-0491

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

UTEP Library, Room 300

Please regularly refer to Blackboard for links, documents, announcements, and calendar changes. You are responsible for being up-to-date on all class information that is posted on Blackboard.

#### **CHECK YOUR TECHNOLOGY**

- A. Computer with a reliable internet connection. Mobile devices are not reliable to access exams and use the discussion board.
- B. Blackboard (BB) Learning Management System. The entire course is run through UTEP’s BB system, so students must activate and use their BB accounts regularly. Always log in using your UTEP name and password, and never as a “guest” (the guest option will kick you out after 15-20 minutes, which is problematic when taking a test because you will not be able to finish your test). All students are responsible for

regularly logging in and checking for posted announcements, submitting assignments, participating in discussion boards, and taking tests through BB. Contact UTEP tech support for any questions or concerns regarding navigating in BB or learning how to do something in BB.

- C. Browser Information (See the left side of the menu on the main BB page for hardware, software, and browser checks) Firefox seems to consistently work the best, but other supported Browsers include Chrome, Safari, and Internet Explorer. Be sure to “Allow pop-ups” for Blackboard Clear your browser cache
- D. Verify that you have the most updated version of “Java” <http://java.com>.
- E. All word documents should be saved with a “docx” extension identifying it as a Microsoft Word file or compatible with MS Word, Windows Media Player, Quick Time, Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash Player

#### VIII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

If a student is suspected of cheating on the exams through collaboration with other students, the instructor will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral of the student to the Office of Student Conduct. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the instructor will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral of the student to the Office of Student Conduct.

Academic dishonesty or cheating is simply unethical and not acceptable under any circumstances. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves “stealing” the words and thoughts of others. It is a very serious academic violation and cannot be tolerated. The most common form of plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper or other assignment without giving credit to the source of that information or wording. **Plagiarism also includes the direct copying of a source verbatim (word for word) and incorporating that copied material into the student’s paper or assignment without first paraphrasing with proper referencing or placing the copied text into a direct quotation, again with appropriate footnotes or citations.** Students must use their own words when not using direct quotes. Direct quotes should be used sparingly and only when appropriate to provide examples, evidence, or illustrate specific points. **Students cannot simply “cut and paste” wording or text from source material to artificially “construct” their papers, essays, and other assignments. This practice is also considered plagiarism, even if references are done properly.**

Likewise, students must not submit work under their name that they did not do themselves. Students also may not submit work for this course that they produced for another course. If students are found to be cheating in any capacity including plagiarism and collusion, they will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Cases of academic dishonesty will be

sent to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for adjudication and possible sanctions. Possible penalties for academic dishonesty include a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension, and even expulsion from the university. Students are responsible for understanding their specific obligations to maintain academic integrity at all times. Please refer to the following link for further information on UTEP's policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>.

#### **IX. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

If students have a disability that requires an accommodation, they may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 747-5148.

#### **X. UTEP COURSE DROP POLICY**

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, students are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- A. Students who drop a course before the "official census date," the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn't count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- B. Dropping a course after the official census date, but before the "course drop date" will generate a "W" in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a "W" does not lower your GPA. However, a "W" counts against your 6-drop limit.
- C. If the course is dropped after the "course drop date" or if the student just stops participating, taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
- D. UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of too many times the student fails to submit assignments, discussion questions, or because of disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP student email account. A "W" or an "F" will be issued. A "W" for these reasons counts against the 6-drop limit.

#### **XI. STUDENT CONDUCT**

Because seminar classes involve extensive discussion and debate, it is especially important that all students attend to the appropriateness of their comments. You must be respectful of other students and of all opinions. All communication should be free of vulgar, offensive, and/or discriminatory language. While it is appropriate to share your opinion on particular issues, your opinion should be presented as such (not as a fact) and should be supported by valid, factual

arguments. You may also provide constructive criticism of other opinions. Constructive criticism is provided respectfully and professionally, criticizing the merit of the arguments or the veracity of the facts not the person.

Students should ensure that all emailed communication is written using appropriate etiquette. Please use a salutation (for example, “Dear Dr. Duke”, or “Hello Dr. Duke”), a clear and thorough communication of your question or concern, and a closing (for example, “Thanks, Bill Martinez” or “Sincerely, Angel Gomez”). Make sure to proofread your emails for grammar, spelling, and clear meaning. Also, please be sure to indicate the course title or number in your email.

**CLASS CALENDAR\***

**Week #1 (January 17 - 22)**

**What is intelligence?**

Gill & Pythian "What is intelligence?"

Lowenthal "What is intelligence?"

Exercise: Research an Intelligence Agency

**Due January 22**

**Week #2 (January 23 – 29)**

**Intelligence studies: Origins, sources, and methods**

Gill & Pythian "How do we understand intelligence?"

Exercise: Source credibility

**Due January 29**

Group sign up

**Due January 29**

**Week #3 (January 30 - February 5)**

**The disciplines of intelligence collection**

Gill & Pythian "How do they gather information?"

Lowenthal "Collection and the collection disciplines"

Discussion Question

**Due February 5**

Group Contract

**Due February 5**

**Week #4 (February 6 - 12)**

**Intelligence analysis**

Gill & Pythian "How is information turned into intelligence?"

Lowenthal "Analysis"

Exercise: Analysis of Competing Hypotheses

**Due February 12**



**Week #5 (February 13 - 19)**

**The intelligence-policy nexus**

Gill & Pythian "What do they do with intelligence?"

Lowenthal "The role of the policymaker"

Discussion Question

**Due February 19**

**Week #6 (February 20 – 26)**

**Intelligence failure**

Gill & Pythian "Why does intelligence fail?"

Discussion Question

**Due February 26**

**Week #7 (February 27 – March 5)**

**Exam 1 (March 5)**

**Week #8 (March 6 - 12)**

**Covert action**

Lowenthal "Covert action"

Exercise: Covert action

**Due March 12**

**Spring Break (March 13 – 19)**

**Week #9 (March 20 – 26)**

**Counterintelligence and security**

Lowenthal "Counterintelligence"

Discussion Question

**Due March 26**

Group Progress Report

**Due March 26**

**Week #10 (March 27 – April 2)**

**Intelligence to counter terror**

Sims, J. (2007). Intelligence to counter terror: The importance of all-source fusion. Intelligence and National Security, 22, 38-56.

Pillar, P.R. (2004). Counterterrorism after Al Qaeda. *The Washington Quarterly*, 27, 101-113.

Aid, M.M. (2003). All glory is fleeting: Sigint and the fight against international terrorism.

*Intelligence and National Security*, 18, 72-120.

Exercise: Counterterrorism policy

**Due April 2**

### **Week #11 (April 3 – 9)**

#### **Intelligence ethics and accountability**

Gill & Pythian “Can intelligence be democratic?”

Lowenthal “Oversight and accountability” and “Ethical and moral issues in intelligence”

Discussion Question

**Due April 9**

### **Week #12 (April 10 - 16)**

#### **Intelligence in authoritarian states**

Andrew, C., & Elkner, J. (2003). Stalin and foreign intelligence. *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, 4, 69-94.

Golkar, S. (2012). Organization of the oppressed or organization of the oppressing: Analysing the role of the Basij militia of Iran. *Politics, Religion, and Ideology*, 13, 455-471.

Exercise: Analysis of authoritarian regime

**Due April 16**

### **Week #13 (April 17 – 23)**

#### **Intelligence in the 21st century**

Lowenthal "The intelligence agenda: Transnational issues"

Discussion Question

**Due April 23**

### **Week #14 (April 24 - 30)**

**No class: Prepare for group presentations**

### **Week 15 (May 1 – 7)**

Group Presentations

**Due May 5**

Comments on Group Presentations

**Due May 7**

Evaluation of Group Members

**Due May 7**

**Week 16 (May 8 – 12)**

**Exam 2 (May 10)**

\*This calendar is subject to change.