POS 4407.0W60 The Intelligence Community
Fall 2023 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Name	**The Intelligence Community**
Course ID & Section	**POS 4407.0W60**
Credit Hours	**3 credit hours**
Semester/Year	**Fall 2023**
Class meeting time & location/mode	**Not applicable — class is online and asynchronous in Webcourses**

Instructor Contact

Instructor	**Dr. Joseph Paul Vasquez, III** **School of Politics, Security & International Affairs (SPSIA)**
Office	**102 Howard Philips Hall**
Office Hours	**Monday 12:30-3:00 PM; Wednesday 12:30-2:30 PM; and by appointment in person or over Zoom (https://ucf.zoom.us/j/3142725238)**
SPSIA Phone #	**(407) 823-2608**
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Graduate Teaching Assistant	Kelsie Dillard (Kelsie.Dillard@ucf.edu)

Course Description: To the extent that average American has thought about international relations and national security issues, there is probably a good chance that it has been with some regard to intelligence activities, since these kinds of matters are seemingly ubiquitous in American popular culture. In this class, we look beyond Hollywood's dashing heroes in tuxedos and their high-tech gizmos to try to understand the history, development and functions of the real U.S. intelligence community as well as the challenge that pose to a democratic form of government. We will also consider how the intelligence community in the U.S. has functioned in comparison with other national intelligence efforts across space and time.
Prerequisite: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or equivalent.

Required materials: Required materials for this course include the following textbook:

Mark M. Lowenthal. 2023. *Intelligence: From Secrets to Polity*. 9th Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage/CQ Press.

Course Objectives: In terms of substance, this course is designed to give students a better understanding of: 1) the historical development, structure and functions of the U.S. intelligence community; and 2) the relevance of intelligence activities to the larger study of international relations and political science. With regards to skill development, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity 3) to use databases for research purposes and 4) to improve their writing ability.

******Important Advice:** You should keep up with the module assignments as they come along. As you attempt to internalize the course content, you should keep up with the reading for each module and watching the assigned videos, as well as taking notes over them to help retain the information. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.**

Course Requirements: I will evaluate your performance in this class in accord with the table below.

A	B	C	D	E
Assignments	**% of Final Grade**	**Assignment average (add grades for each row & ÷ by the # of grades for this task)**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes & Information Literacy Tutorial	50			See the Course Schedule below
Midterm Exam	15			Oct. 16 12:01 AM-Oct. 17 11:59 PM
Course Paper 1	10			Oct. 1 11:59 PM
Course Paper 2	10			Nov. 19 11:59 PM
Final Exam	15			Dec. 5 12:01 AM-Dec. 6 11:59 PM
Total	100%	**Add Column D to estimate final grade →**		

If you have questions about your final course grade and want to double check the final course grade reported in Webcourses at the end of the semester, you can take the grades for particular assignments and plug them into the grade table above and do the calculations accordingly. If assignments are not yet completed and you are trying to estimate your current course grade during the semester, divide your total for column D by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed. For example, if you have done everything except the final exam, divide your total for column D by 70 since you have only completed the assignments equal to 70% of your course grade.

Assignments

Quizzes and Information Literacy Tutorial Assessment: Multiple choice quizzes may cover any materials covered in the modules. Those quizzes will open in Webcourses at **12:01 AM on the last Saturday** of each module and close at **11:59 PM on the last Sunday** of each module, according to the Course Schedule below. Take a quiz when you have sufficient command of the information because I intentionally do not allow a very long time to discourage cheating. Also, by midnight on Sunday, September 17th, you will also be expected to complete the Information Literacy Quiz about my lecture on avoiding plagiarism using Chicago Manual of Style, which will be counted as a separate quiz. That lecture and quiz should help to improve course paper grades above what they would be otherwise and help avoid instances of plagiarism. This assignment can be found from the Assignments tab for our class in Webcourses/Canvas.

Important Note: All faculty members are required by UCF to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you should complete a graded syllabus quiz that is ideally due by 11:59 on Friday, August 25th, or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and a possible delay in the disbursement of any financial aid. To do this task, go to the myUCF portal (https://my.ucf.edu) and select the Webcourses@UCF button on the left side of the screen. Log in with your NID and NID password and access the course from the Dashboard. From the course homepage, click on the Assignments tab to left, click on the Syllabus Quiz under the Quizzes banner, complete the quiz and submit it.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: These will be online, multiple-choice exams. The Final Exam, which will be cumulative, and it will be delivered over two days during the Exam Period. Students tend to do less well on their short paper than other assignments such as the exams so you should not only invest serious time and effort in crafting your papers, but also do the very best you can on other assignments such as the exams if you want high marks at the end of the semester. Warning: Do not assume that these exams will be easy simply because they will take the form of a multiple-choice exam.

Course papers: You will write **two** short course papers in response to two discussion prompts that will be released over the course of the semester. The first paper will be

about a topic related to intelligence collection, analysis, counterintelligence, or covert action, and the second paper will be about oversight and accountability, ethical or moral issues, or intelligence reform. The topics will not be released earlier to discourage collaborative cheating, and they are more like very glorified take-home essay exams than they are a full-blown term paper that requires original research beyond what is assigned for this class. Consult the Course Schedule below to see when the prompts will be released.

Papers should have a) a title page with your name and the word count for the main text only, b) be between 1,000-1,100 words in length, and c) cite relevant assigned course materials to support your analysis. While other academic sources can be used such as an academic journal article or book, you are not required to do so. Course materials (textbook, videos, etc.) and any other sources should be appropriately cited using Chicago Style when referring to either course concepts or facts that are not common knowledge. Include a references page at the end that is not included in your 1,000-1,100-word limit. Papers should use 12-point font, double-spacing and 1-inch margins with page numbers inserted in the document. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment.

When each discussion prompt is released, it will include a breakdown of how points will be allocated. Please note that mechanical elements of writing including, but not limited to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. are all important components of formal writing such as a college paper. Typically, most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing, so take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your work. Poor performance in this regard could lower your paper grade by as much as 20 points, so take steps to avoid this eventuality. Sound writing skills will help you not only when applying for jobs or further educational opportunities, but once you secure those opportunities. Also, please consult the section below on academic dishonesty for details on how to avoid plagiarism.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/No Extra Credit: Quizzes are due by dates outlined in the syllabus and may not be made-up unless they are missed for 1) a verifiable medical or funeral excuse, 2) a reason that is sufficiently verifiable, compelling significant, and unexpected, or 3) an officially UCF excused absence (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf), such as an excused religious holiday (https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf) or a military deployment. Students who are deployed active-duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact the instructor as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements. Also, you must notify me in advance if you intend to miss class for a religious observance and want latitude for completing assignments.

Make-up exams may be given without penalty in instances when students have a verifiable medical, funeral, official UCF excuse or a reason that is sufficiently verifiable, compelling significant, and unexpected. When no such excuse exists students will be

allowed to take exams late, but they will be penalized by 20 points "off-the-top." Missed quizzes may be made up for one of the aforementioned reasons, but they will not be made up otherwise. Once the deadline for a paper passes by more than two hours, late papers will only be accepted if there is a verifiable, compelling, significant, and unexpected reason or if a 20-point late penalty is imposed. Thus, you should think carefully about which topic you think you would do best on before you decide to pass up writing on a topic in favor of doing a later topic.

Grading Scale: Assignment grades will be recorded in Webcourses.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Communicating with the Instructor Online: This document was created to empower you to answer many questions on your own as responsible and maturing learners. If you have questions that are not answered by this document, do not hesitate to contact the instructor by email. Communicate online with the instructor using either his UCF email address (Paul.Vasquez@ucf.edu) or using the email feature within Webcourses rather than replying to postings under the Announcements tab, as he can respond to emails much more quickly. Check the class announcements in Webcourses several times each week for any changes or updates from Dr. Vasquez.

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Expectations: All Knights should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct (https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/). Relatedly, when it comes to assignments, **do not cheat.** It's much better to have a low assignment grade or even a low score on your transcript than an indicator of cheating. None of us can be smart about everything, but we can all choose to be

people who are honest and humble with integrity. Good employers want those kinds of people, even if their grades are a little lower because of it.

Students are prohibited from cheating by including, but not limited to: 1) attempting to use unauthorized materials for academic assignments; 2) presenting material obtained through the effort of someone other than the student for the student's assignment credit; 3) buying and selling course materials such as class notes or assigned work to other students; 4) falsifying or misrepresenting one's academic work; and 5) plagiarism including a) using another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own, b) submitting work for more than one class without the instructor's approval or c) use of tools related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). After hearing my lecture on proper citation practices using the Chicago Manual of Style, you should clearly understand my expectations of you with regards to correctly citing material. For more details on academic integrity matters, you are encouraged to consult UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* (https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/).

All UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so we must seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary, respond to academic misconduct. If I determine that there has been an instance of unambiguous academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern, report the violation to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and assign you a 0 grade for the associated assignment. At the end of the semester, a letter grade of Z, indicating academic dishonesty, will precede the letter grade earned. For more information about the Z grades and the process for appealing such a finding, please consult the following website: (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade). Particularly bad behavior in this regard could result in dismissal from UCF, if decided upon by higher authority.

Campus Safety and Title IX

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Also related to campus safety, Title IX (of the Education Amendments of 1972; AKA, Title IX) prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or

assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download, or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Trevor Colbourn Hall, Room 117/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

UCF Cares: During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit UCFCares.com if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services (Bldg. 27) to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the *Success Resources* tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website. The UWC is located in Trevor Colbourn Hall Room 109 with satellite Locations in the Main Library, Rosen Library, and online. They can be reached at 407-823-2197 or http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/

Important Dates:

Date	Event
Friday, Aug. 25, 11:59 P.M.	Drop/Add deadline
Friday, Oct. 27, 11:59 P.M.	Withdrawal deadline

Course Schedule

Topic	Assignments	open & close dates	open & close times
Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	Aug. 21 - Aug. 25 (or ASAP for late enrollees)	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM (or ASAP for late enrollees)
Module 1 Chapter 1: What is "Intelligence"? & Chapter 2: The Development of US Intelligence, approx. 33 pages	Quiz	Aug. 21 - Sep. 3	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
Module 2 Chapter 3: The US Intelligence Community & Chapter 4: The Intelligence Process, approx. 43 pages	Quiz Information Literacy Quiz	Sep. 4 - Sep. 17	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM

Module 3 Chapter 5: Collection & Collection Disciplines, approx. 60 pages ***JFK & The Crisis Crusader*. Films On Demand. 2007. Accessed August 18, 2020. https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=150523&xtid=205794.** **https://fod-infobase-com.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=205794** **45minutes**	Quiz Course Paper 1	Sep. 18 - Oct. 1 (prompt released 9/28; due on 10/1)	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
Module 4 Chapter 6: Analysis, approx. 43 pages Recommended, but not required: Retropod | Podcast. The Soviet officer who stopped World War III. Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/09/18/the-former-soviet-officer-who-trusted-his-gut-and-averted-a-global-nuclear-catastrophe/	Quiz	Oct. 2 - Oct. 15	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
	Midterm Exam	Oct. 16 - Oct. 17	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
Module 5 Chapter 7: Counterintelligence & Chapter 8: Covert Action, approx. 44 pages	Quiz	Oct. 16 – Oct. 22	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM

Module 6 Chapter 9: The Role of the Policy Maker & Chapter 10: Oversight & Accountability, approx. 60 pages *Cuban Missile Crisis: Three Men Go to War*. Films On Demand. 2012. Accessed August 18, 2020. https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=150523&xtid=151202. https://fod-infobase-com.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=151202&tScript=0 56 minutes	Quiz	Oct. 23 – Nov. 5	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
Module 7 Chapter 11: The Intelligence Agenda: Nation-States, Chapter 12: The Intelligence Agenda: Transnational Issues, approx. 66 pages Recommended, but not required: "Acid, Spies, & Secret Experiments." *Films On Demand*, Films Media Group, 2017, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=150523&xtid=160858. Accessed 18 Aug. 2020. https://fod-infobase-com.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=160858&tScript=0 124 mins	Quiz Course paper 2	Nov. 6 – Nov. 19 (prompt released 11/16; due on 11/19)	12:01 PM & 11:59 AM
Module 8 Chapter 13: Ethical & Moral Issues in Intelligence, Chapter 14: Intelligence Reform, approx. 41 pages	Quiz	Nov. 20 - Dec. 2	12:01 AM & 11:59 PM
	Final Exam	December 5 – December 6	12:01 AM - 11:59 PM

General procedures for each module

Activities/Assignments:

1. **Text:** Read and take notes over the assigned reading in each module.
2. **Online Materials:** Watch and take notes over the assigned videos.
3. **Quiz:** Go to the Assignments Tool and complete the quiz for each module between the last Saturday of the module and the Sunday when it closes. Take the quiz when you have sufficient command of the information because I intentionally do not allow a long time to discourage cheating.