Fall 2023: Contemporary US Intelligence (PPHA 33420)

Information about this course

Background and Goals
The course examines the U.S. Intelligence Community and its role in national security. It will analyze the intelligence cycle including planning and direction, collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. It will also focus on topics such as warning and surprise, denial and deception, covert action, oversight and the role of policy makers, civil liberties, ethics and accountability and intelligence reform. It will also compare the organization and activities of foreign intelligence agencies with the U.S. model. Many of these topics will be analyzed through the context of current events including post-Trump intelligence reform efforts, intelligence/counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the classified documents issue. The course will also feature high ranking current and former intelligence officials as guest speakers. No prior study of intelligence issues is required.

This course is taught by Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5), a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Quigley served four terms on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which oversees the activities of the U.S. intelligence community.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites to taking this course.

Relationship to other programs
This course is not part of any Harris certificate programs.
How this class will work

- **Logistics:** This class will meet in-person on Mondays from 8:00 am – 10:50 am. Since the quarter starts on a Tuesday, the first meeting will not be until week two of the quarter. To make up for the missed class Congressman Quigley will conduct, at a time TBD, one live remote lecture, which will be recorded and posted online for later viewing by those who cannot attend. Please see the class schedule below.

- **Special Dates:**
  - Midterm: Monday, November 13, 2023
  - Final paper due: Monday, November 20, 2023

- **Canvas Usage:** All course correspondence will be handled via Canvas. Canvas will be used for material dissemination, class communication, course scheduling, and assignment submission.

- **Class Content:** class time will be used primarily for lectures and instruction by Congressman Quigley, class discussion, and presentations from guest speakers. Please see the schedule below for a list of this year’s guest speakers.

- **Attendance Policy:** students are expected to attend every class in-person. If there are circumstances that arise that prohibit a student from attending class, please email the Teaching Assistant (TA), Alex Littell.
  - Missing more than one class without consent of the instructor will result in a one-level grade penalty. For example, if a student receives an A in the course but misses two classes without consent of the instructor, their grade will be dropped to an A-. If they miss three classes without consent of the instructor, their grade will be dropped to a B+, etc.

**Student assignments**

- Major assignments with weighting:
  - Midterm: 40% of grade
  - Final Paper: 40% of grade
  - Participation: 20% of grade
o Attendance: while attendance is not additive to a student’s grade, it can decrease a student’s grade in accordance with the “Attendance Policy” above.

Readings, Topics, and Schedules

● Course Reading Material:
  o Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, Chapter 13 on “Using Spies” (Available Online)
  o Old Testament, *The Book of Numbers*, Chapter 13 (all) and Chapter 14 (verses 1-8, 26, 30-38) (Available Online)

Grading Policies and Procedures

● All assignments for this course are to be completed individually. There are no group assignments.
● Assignments that are submitted late without consent of the instructor will be penalized accordingly.
● Course grades will follow the Harris Core Courses curve (12.5% A, 25% A-, 25% B+, 25% B, 12.5% B- or below). Congressman Quigley reserves the right to slightly modify the grade distribution based on student performance.
● To take the course Pass/Fail, students must obtain written consent from Congressman Quigley. Email the TA if this applies to you.

Instructor Office Hours

The TA will hold weekly office hours on Mondays from 12:00 pm to 01:00 pm in room 3060 of the Keller Center. Students can email the TA to set up additional time outside of normal office hours, if required.
Congressman Quigley is available for student appointments. Please email the TA with any requests to meet with the Congressman outside of normal class time.

**Teaching assistant(s)**

TA: Alex Littell  
Contact Email: alittel0@chicagobooth.edu  
Contact Phone: 440-785-5983

**Teaching and learning in person, dual-modality, and/or remote environments**

All students are expected to attend each class in person. Except for the one video recorded class intended to compensate for the missed first-week class, lectures will not be provided virtually and will not be recorded.

**General Resources Available to Students**

- [Harris Academic Support Programs and Handbook](#)  
- [Student Wellness](#)  
- [University Learning Resources](#)

**Harris School and University of Chicago Policies**

- [Harris School Policies](#)  
- [University General Policies](#)  
- [University Academic Policies](#)  
- Policies on audio and video recordings and deletion.

**Academic Integrity**

All University of Chicago students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honest. Among other things, this means that students shall not represent another’s work as their own, use un-allowed materials during exams, or otherwise gain unfair academic advantage. All students suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Harris Dean of Students for investigation and
adjudication. The disciplinary process can result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University. I, Congressman Quigley, will impose a grade penalty of 0 for students who have committed academic dishonesty. The Harris School of Public Policy and the University of Chicago policies that outline these expectations are linked above.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage**

A. Course Policy:
   a. AI cannot be used to compose any content for submittable assignments.
   b. AI can be used to conduct research for course assignments, but the information taken from an AI source must be properly cited.

B. Responsible Use of AI:
   a. Students take full responsibility for the accuracy of AI-generated content.
   b. Students should review and edit any generated content to avoid inaccuracies, biased outputs, or misinterpretations. Overreliance on AI content, without proper attribution, may lead to unintentional plagiarism, as LLM models have been accused of plagiarism. Students must exercise caution to ensure their contributions are appropriately credited.
   c. Overreliance on LLM models may limit students’ accumulation of skills and understanding of the material, so it is advised that students conduct their own research before using AI.

**Course Schedule**

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<th><strong>Monday, October 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>Class Introduction</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowenthal, Ch. 1-4</td>
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<td>Old Testament Readings</td>
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<td>Sun Tzu, Ch. 13</td>
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<td>Intel 101 Handout</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 9</td>
<td>Collection and Analysis, Covert Action</td>
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<td>Morell, Ch. 1-14</td>
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<td>Lowenthal, Ch. 5-6, 8</td>
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<td>Monday, October 16</td>
<td>Human Intelligence Collection, the Art of Recruiting Spies and Stealing Secrets</td>
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<td>Handout</td>
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<td>Monday, October 23</td>
<td>Managing the CIA Under President Trump</td>
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<td>Monday, October 30</td>
<td>Counterintelligence, Intelligence Community Under the Trump and Biden Administrations, and Lessons From Mar-a-Lago</td>
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<td>Lowenthal, Ch. 8</td>
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<td>Monday, November 6</td>
<td>Military Intelligence, Covert Action Links Between the CIA and the Military</td>
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<td>Lowenthal, Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Handout</td>
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<td>Monday, November 13</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Monday, November 20</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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<td>Lowenthal, Ch. 11, 12, 15</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, November 27</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lowenthal, Ch. 9, 10</td>
<td><strong>Relationship Between Intel and Policy Makers</strong></td>
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<td><em>Virtual Lecture, Date TBD&lt;br&gt;Lowenthal, Ch. 13-14&lt;br&gt;Handout</em></td>
<td><strong>The Evolution of Surveillance Law, Reform, and Ethics</strong>&lt;br&gt;Guest Speaker: Glenn Gerstell, Former General Counsel, National Security Agency</td>
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* Due to the fact that the class is held on Mondays and the quarter begins on Tuesday, September 26, we will have one make-up lecture on a date TBD. The lecture will be given live via Zoom; it will also be recorded and made available online for later viewing.

**Congressman Quigley reserves the right to adjust this schedule based on the availability of the course’s guest speakers.**