

Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
PPHA 33430
Mondays 8:00 am – 10:50 am, Keller 0010

Congressman Mike Quigley

Spring 2025: Contemporary US intelligence II: US Threat Assessments – Domestic & International (PPHA 33430)

For questions about auditing or waitlisting this course for the Spring '25 quarter, please contact Marc Farinella at mfarinella@uchicago.edu

Background and Goals

This course examines the major threats facing the United States through the lens of the US Intelligence Community (IC), both domestically and internationally. Through a series of lectures and guest speakers, students will gain a deeper understanding of the most pressing and pertinent threats to US national security. From a domestic perspective, the course will address threats facing the homeland in regards to domestic terrorism, climate change, political polarization, political extremism and paralysis, and cybersecurity. From an international perspective, the course will address threats faced from our current adversaries, namely, China, North Korea, Russia, Iran, and other hostile states. Students will leave the course with a more thorough understanding of the current threats facing the homeland and how the US can best position itself to address those threats. Additionally, students will more fully comprehend the effects that current public policy has on the United States' ability to defend itself, both from domestic and international threats.

While this course is, in some regards, a continuation of topics addressed in Contemporary US Intelligence I, Contemporary US Intelligence I is not a prerequisite for this class. All students are encouraged to enroll.

This course is taught by Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5), a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Quigley is currently serving his fifth term 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.
- **Special Dates:**
 - Midterm: Monday, May 5, 2025

- o Final paper due: Monday, May 12, 2025
- **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. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Please refer to the “Student assignments” section below for more details about the attendance policy. If there are circumstances that arise that prohibit a student from attending class, please email the Teaching Assistant (TA).

Student assignments

- Major assignments with weighting:
 - o Midterm: 40% of grade
 - o Final Paper: 40% of grade
 - o Attendance & Participation: 20% of grade
 - There are 10 possible attendance points (10% of final grade). Students will earn 1 point for each week they are in attendance (except for week 9, where they will earn 2 points for being in attendance). Students are authorized 1 “excused” absence where they will still receive credit for attendance despite not being in class. In order for an absence to be considered “excused”, the student must email the TA prior to class beginning. No credit will be given if the student fails to contact the TA prior to the beginning of class (if the student fails to contact the TA by 07:59 am CST on the day of class, then they will not receive attendance credit). Students will not receive more than 1 excused absence for any reason.
 - Students can earn 10 participation points by engaging with speakers in class and/or engaging with Congressman Quigley during lectures (10% of final grade). Grades will be assigned using a holistic participation view (number of times spoken, quality of questions asked, etc.).

Readings, Topics, and Schedules

- Course Reading Material:
 - o Mark Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, 9th Edition (CQ Press, 2022)
 - o Additional reading materials will be distributed throughout the quarter in accordance with our guest speakers’ chosen topics of conversation.

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 (upwards) 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

Students can email the TA to set up individual office hours immediately after class on Monday mornings.

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 assistants

TA: TBD

Contact Email: TBD

Contact Phone: TBD

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Contact Email: TBD

Contact Phone: TBD

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

All students are expected to attend each class in person. Except for the select classes that may be held virtually (due to Congressional scheduling constraints), 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 honesty. 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. Over-reliance 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. Over-reliance on LLMs 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

***Before the first class, please read and be prepared to discuss:

1. [Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community - 2024](#)
2. [Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community - 2023](#)

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| Monday, March 24 | Class Introduction – Review of Intelligence Basics and the Intel 101 document; Overview of threats, both national and international, facing the U.S. in areas ranging from cybersecurity and terrorism to climate change |
| Monday, March 31 | <p>Is China an existential threat to the United States? An analytical look the state of US-China relations, the military balance, and the prospects for conflict over Taiwan</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Dennis Wilder, Former Director of China at the National Security Council and Special Assistant to the President & Director for East Asian Affairs</p> |
| Monday, April 7 | An Era of Global Insecurity: <i>Threats to the Homeland - Private Sector and Local Governments; Cybersecurity threats facing the U.S</i> |

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| | Guest Speaker: Bill Priestap, former Assistant Director of the FBI Counterintelligence Division |
| Monday, April 14 | Threats faced from Russia and its supporters Political polarization effects our domestic and international security Guest Speaker: Fiona Hill, former Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Russian Affairs on the National Security Council |
| Monday, April 21 | Security issues in the Middle East and the groups that operate there (ISIS, AQ, etc); Worldwide terrorism threats Guest Speaker: Former Deputy Director of CIA, and Twice Acting Director of CIA, Michael Morell |
| Monday, April 28 | Worldwide military threats as seen by the Intelligence Community Guest Speaker (Virtual): Michael Vickers, Former Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence |
| Monday, May 5 | Midterm |
| Monday, May 12 | Other ongoing threats faced by the United States: Climate Change, Immigration, and Other Global Hotspots (Central America, South America, and Africa) ***Final Paper Due*** |
| Monday, May 19 | Final Discussion: Review Papers and Tests, Final Questions, and Parting Thoughts |
| *As Needed | Remote Lecture(s) and/or Exam Review(s) |

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