This course will explore the organization and functions of the U.S. Intelligence Community, its interaction with national security policymakers, key issues about its workings, and the challenges it faces in defining its future role. It will also look at some of the key intelligence missions, such as strategic warning, counterterrorism, counter proliferation, and counterinsurgency. The events of 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq have focused new attention on national intelligence, including the most significant reorganization of the community since the National Security Act of 1947. The course will highlight some of the major debates about the role, practices, and problems of national intelligence. Lectures are important and will include a discussion period in each session. One paper will be required at the end of the semester.

Required Texts

The following required text is available on the web:


All other readings are posted on Stellar. Many of them are from two books that are recommended readings:


Online Intel Resources

The Literature of Intelligence: A Bibliography of Materials, with Essays, Reviews, and Comments, compiled by J. Ransom Clark of Muskingum College, is an exhaustive online compendium of intelligence literature divided by author and topic. This bibliography can be found at http://intellit.muskingum.edu/index.html.

The CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence publishes unclassified articles and conference proceedings at www.cia.gov/csi.
The Federation of American Scientists (www.fas.org/irp) and the National Security Archive (www.gwu.edu/nsarchiv) also maintain useful websites on intelligence topics.

Two useful intelligence journals are *Intelligence and National Strategy* and the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*.

Daily media articles on current intelligence topics are posted by the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies at www.cicentre.com.

**Week 1 (Feb 9): Introduction**

This session provides a brief overview of the course. After introducing some key concepts and definitions, it looks at the relationship between political science and the study of intelligence.


**Week 2 (Feb 16): Origins and Functions of the Intelligence Community**

This session will examine the origins of the intelligence community (IC) and its current functions and processes. It will also introduce elements of the intelligence reform debate, such as centralization vs. decentralization and the need for a strong Director of National Intelligence (DNI).


Week 3 (Feb 23):  Intelligence Structure and Budget

This session will examine in some detail the current structure and budget of the IC, as well as the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, the subsequent Intelligence Reform Act of 2004, and the assessment of the WMD Commission. It will address the issue of whether the DNI has enough power over the intelligence budget.


Week 4 (Mar 2):  Technical Collection and Open Source

This session will discuss the various collection functions and the relative merits of technical collection, especially Sigint and Imint, including various proposals for change. It will also look at the use of open source material and discuss classification issues. Finally, it will address the debate about if there is too much technical collection and not enough human intelligence, as well and the value of open source information.

Goodman, Glenn W. “Space-based Surveillance” and “Unclassified Space Eyes” in George and Kline, chaps 10-11, pp 147-158.

Macartney, John D. “How Should We Explain MASINT” in George and Kline, chap 13, pp 169-180.


Week 5 (Mar 9): Human Collection and Counterintelligence

This session will discuss the need for Humint to wage war on terrorism and to support nonproliferation of WMD, as well as the need for strong counterintelligence efforts. The problems of Humint will be discussed, including the Plame controversy.


Olson, James M. “The Ten Commandments of Counterintelligence” in George and Kline, chap 18, pp. 251-258.


Week 6 (Mar 16): Analysis

This session will examine how the community interacts in theory and practice, the different types of intelligence, especially current and estimative, and the difference between puzzles and mysteries. It will also look at the role of the National Intelligence Council in producing joint products and the issue of dissent, with the Iraq WMD estimate as a case study.


**Week 7 (Mar 23): Intelligence and National Policy**

This session considers the relationship between policymakers and their intelligence advisers, the issue of politicization, and why intelligence is sometimes used and sometimes ignored.


**Week 8 (Apr 6): Surprise Attack and Strategic Warning**

This session will examine the role of strategic warning. It will discuss different approaches to warning and the problem of credibility. It will examine the current warning process, how warning priorities are determined, the difference between capabilities and intentions, and the role of denial and deception. Can surprise be avoided or is it a permanent feature of the practice of intelligence? Various case studies will be discussed, including the Indian nuclear test and 9/11, along with the debate about policy successes and warning failures.


**Week 9 (Apr 13): Military Intelligence and Counterinsurgency**

This session focuses on the use of intelligence for military support. It looks the new role of support for military operations the CIA assumed after Desert Storm and the nasacent competition for intelligence assets between the national intelligence agencies and DOD in waging the war on terrorism. There is special focus on the problems in Iraq.


**Week 10 (Apr 20): Covert Action**

This session examines the most controversial of CIA intelligence role, including past secret attempts to overthrow governments and assassinate foreign leaders. It will focus on the use of covert action to wage the war on terrorism, including rendition and secret prisons.


Week 11 (Apr 27): Counterterrorism and Homeland Security

The focus in this session will be on the role of intelligence in counterterrorism and the requirements for both tactical and strategic analysis. It will also examine the role of centers in the intelligence community, especially the Counterterrorism Center. Finally it will look at the historical separation between domestic and foreign intelligence, the different roles of intelligence and law enforcement, and what this means for the future.

Berkowitz, Bruce, “Intelligence and the War on Terrorism,” Orbis, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 2002), pp. 289-3000.

Week 12 (May 4): WMD and Nonproliferation

This session will examine the role of intelligence in support of counter-proliferation and the special problems of denial and deception. It will focus on countries of key proliferation concern, including North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya, and the growing threat of acquisition of WMD by terrorist groups.


Summary of Duelfer Report

**Week 13 (May 11): Intelligence and Democracy**

This session will address various issues related to intelligence oversight and accountability, the problems of secrecy in an open society, and ethical and moral questions about fundamental values.


**Week 14 (May 12): Overview: Intelligence Reform and Future Threats**

This session will review the main lessons of the course and speculate on the future of intelligence.