NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Department of History

Spring 2017
MW 3:30 – 4:45 pm
12 Waverly, L120

Intelligence and National Security Policy-Making
UPADM-GP 430/ HIST –UA 93 (2)

Professor Timothy Naftali
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30pm or by appointment
Puck 3009

Course Requirements

1) Two 1-page (300 word) response papers (15% x 2): 30%
2) In-class policy simulation exercise: 10%
3) One 5-page Paper (Intelligence and a Decision): 30%
4) Final examination: 30%

Course Policies

1. Response Paper guidelines

Each response paper will be strictly based on the assigned reading. The instructor will provide the prompt at least a week in advance and the paper will be due before the class where the relevant issue will be discussed.
2. Policy Simulation Exercise

The students will engage in a roleplaying exercise where, as members of the National Security Council, they will debate a specific policy issue. The class will be divided with part of the class participating in the exercise and the rest of the class working with the instructor in asking questions of the “national security council.”

3. Final Paper

The students will be required to write a five-page, double-spaced paper analyzing the role of intelligence in a major US national security decision in the modern era. Several weeks before the due date, the instructor will distribute guidelines for the paper. The students should meet with the instructor to discuss their topic.

4. Moses Center for Students with Disabilities

If you are student with a disability who is requesting accommodations, please contact New York University’s Moses Center for Students with Disabilities. You must be registered with CSD to receive accommodations. Information about the Moses Center can be found at www.nyu.edu/csd. The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the second floor.

5. Religious holidays

NYU’s policy is to accommodate students’ observances of religious holidays. In order to receive accommodation, you must notify the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester of any planned absences related to religious observance. Further details on NYU’s policies may be found at:
http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html

6. Academic honesty

Intellectual integrity is the university’s most fundamental commitment. Plagiarism of any kind will be penalized to the fullest possible extent, without warning or exception.

The most common causes of plagiarism are not deliberate dishonesty, but stress and uncertainty. You are encouraged to begin assignments well in advance of the deadline, and to check with the instructor if you have any questions. Whenever you draw upon somebody else’s words or ideas to make a point, give them credit in a note. If you have questions about documentation requirements, don’t guess – just ask.

For further details on university policy, strictly adhered to in this class, see: http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity

Course Materials

All books with an asterisk have been ordered to the NYU Bookstore on Broadway and their purchase is recommended. Materials found on the course website are indicated by an +.

* = NYU Bookstore
+ = Course Website
® = On Bobst Reserve
Week One: Introduction

January 23: Introduction to the IC
January 25: Intelligence and Elections

Required Reading:


Week 2 (January 30 / February 1): What is Intelligence? I

a) HUMINT
b) SIGINT
Required Reading:


Patrick Beesley, ULTRA and the Battle of the Atlantic: A British View (Declassified 2010).

Week 3 (February 6 / 8): What is Intelligence? II

a) RECONNAISSANCE
b) DECEPTION (Active Measures)

Required Reading:


Michael Howard, Strategic Deception in the Second World War (1990), pp. 89-93. +
Week 4 (February 13 / 15): What is Intelligence? III

a) COVERT ACTION
b) ANALYSIS AND WARNING

Required Reading:


CIA, “Alert Memoranda—The Track Record,” [no date, declassified 2014]. +


Week 5 (February 20 / 22): What is Intelligence? IV

a) Presidents’ Day Holiday
b) Counterintelligence

Required Reading:

Week 6 (February 27 / March 1): The Consumers

Feb. 27: The President
March 1: The Congress

Required Reading:


Week 7 (March 6 / 8): Historical Case Study 1: Guatemala, 1954

a) Intervention
b) The Consequences

Required Reading:

Richard Bissell, 89-93. +


Week 8 (March 13-17): SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (March 20 / 22): Historical Case Study 2: Cuban Missile Crisis

Required Reading:

Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1968), 23-56; 79-110. *®


Week Ten (March 27 / 29): Historical Case Study 3: Vietnam

Required Reading:


Week 11 (April 3 / 5): Historical Case Study 4: Nuclear Proliferation

   a) Israel
   b) India/Iran

Required Reading:


Week 12 (April 10 / 12): Historical Case Study 5: Gaddafi, Terrorism and Benghazi

a) Libya, 1985-86
b) Libya, 2012

Required Reading:

A Selection of Materials from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. +


CIA, DI, “Qadhafi’s Political Position Since the Airstrike,” July 17, 1986 (Date of Declassification not marked). +


Michael Morell, The Great War of Our Time: The CIA’s Fight Against Terrorism—from al Qa’ida to ISIS (2015), TK.

Week 13 (April 17 / 19): Predicting Monsters

a) Hitler  
b) Saddam Hussein

Required Reading:

Richard Helms, pp. 18-26. +

Winston Churchill, Great Contemporaries [Handout].


George Tenet, *At The Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA* (2007), 301-358. +

Week 14 (April 24 / 26): Cyber War

Required Reading:

Shane Harris, *War* (2014), 3-102; 139-152; 171-197. *@

Week 15 (May 1 / 3): Secrecy v. Privacy

May 1: Martin Luther King

May 3: Snowden and Prism


Edward O. Guthman and Jeffrey Shulman, ed., *Robert Kennedy: In His Own Words*, pp. 139-147. +

Selection from NYU Tamiment Interview [conducted by Timothy Naftali] with Hunter Pitts “Jack” O’Dell, July 2015.


Week 16: Summing Up