NISS 5301 – Research and Writing in National Security and Intelligence
Fall Semester 2020
Department of Government, SFASU
Course Meeting Times: Online
Course Location: Online
Instructor: Dr. Steven E. Galatas
Office Location: Liberal Arts North #134
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: (936) 468-2003
E-mail: galatasse@sfasu.edu

Course Description:
“This course focuses on the skills necessary to produce and read intelligence reports. It will include traditional attention to the scientific method and basic strategies of research and writing. This course further examines strategies related to collecting, disseminating, and reading intelligence briefs.”

Program Learning Outcome:
The following program learning outcomes are addressed in this course
- The student will demonstrate mastery of intelligence research skills
- The student will execute well-develop written intelligence report
- The student will demonstrate mastery of oral communication skills

Student Learning Outcome:
By the end of the course, you will be able to
- Explain the role of analysis in the intelligence cycle, including challenges inherent in conducting intelligence analysis.
- Practice a variety of techniques associated with accurate of intelligence analysis.
- Explore the psychological aspects of intelligence analysis and how they influence intelligence analysis.
- Evaluate the methodologies associated with intelligence analysis.

Texts:
Grades:

Grades for this course are derived from the following sources:

- Introductory Activity: 5%
- Participation: 20%
- Homework Assignment: 40%
- Intelligence Assessment: 35%
- TOTAL: 100%

Letter grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

- A: 90.0% to 100.0%
- B: 80.0% to 89.9%
- C: 70.0% to 79.9%
- D: 60.0% to 69.9%
- F: 0.0% to 59.9%

Grades are not curved or adjusted at the end of the term. Extra credit work is not permitted.

Introductory Activity:

After watching the introductory video about your professor, you will introduce yourself to me and to the rest of the class through a video post to a discussion board in Brightspace by D2L. In this post, you should address the following questions. Your video should be about five (5) minutes in length.

Your video should be modeled on the video provided by your instructor. You should highlight your background, education, and outside interests. You should also discuss your reasons for taking this course and pursuing a Master’s degree, as well as career goals and aspirations.

This activity will help me and your co-learners in the class get to know you a bit better. Your video post is due in the appropriate location in Brightspace by D2L by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, August 27. To record your video, you may use ZOOM or you may set up a free account from several other vendors like Screencast-o-matic (www.screencast-o-matic.com). However, you record your video, make sure that you save the video in an .mp4 format for viewing in Brightspace by D2L. The introductory activity is worth ten (10) percent of your final grade.

In addition, you must post responses to your fellow students’ videos by no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 28.

The introductory activity is worth five (5) percent of your grade for this course.

Participation

Your participation grade will be based upon discussion of the course readings online via the course’s website on Brightspace by D2L. For each discussion board, you will be expected to start your own thread viewing some aspect of the week’s readings. This posting will be due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday of the week that the post is due. You will also be expected to contribute to the threads of other students in the class. These responses are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday of the week the post is due. Your grade for participation will be assigned based upon the quality, accuracy, and depths of your comments.

Collectively, participation is worth twenty (20) percent of your grade.
**Homework Assignments**

You will complete a series of homework assignments associated with the methodologies of research in intelligence and national security research and with the products that analysts working in national security and intelligence are expected to produce. You will complete eight (8) of these assignments throughout the semester.

These assignments will be grades based upon accuracy of your responses as well as the clarity of your language, preciseness of your language, and the grammar and syntax of your response.

Collectively assignments are worth forty (40) percent of your grade.

**Intelligence Assessment**

You will produce an intelligence assessment of a national security or intelligence issue in American foreign policy. For this assignment, you should assume that your target audience is the president, the national security advisor, and other key leaders of the national security community in the U.S.

You will select a topic. Your topic is due on **October 2 at 11:59 p.m.**

You will produce a well-researched briefing paper. This paper should outline the major issue, history of the issue, methodology or methodologies used, conclusions, and policy prescriptions. An executive summary, no longer an one page of bullet points, should outline the paper. The paper should be well-written and researched, using appropriate language and terminology, and professional tone. In addition, your paper should contain proper citations and references. The paper is due no later than **11:59 p.m. on December 7,**

You will produce a video presentation of your findings from your written intelligence assessment in a fifteen (15) minute presentation. You will be assessed on the content, structure, and delivery of your oral briefing. Your briefing must include visual elements to depict your key findings. This assignment is worth twenty (20) percent of your grade. Your video presentation is due no later than **11:59 p.m. on December 9.**

You will review the other students’ intelligence videos. You will post a peer review of the oral presentation to the discussion board associated with the intelligence briefings by no later than **11:59 p.m. on December 11.**

**Technical Support:**

For D2L technical support, contact student support at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail.

For general computer support (not related to D2L), contact the Technical Support Center (TSC) at 936-468-HELP (4357) or at helpdesk@sfasu.edu.

To learn more about using D2L, visit SFA ONLINE at http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu, where you’ll find written instructions and video tutorials.
SFA Policy 5.4

In compliance with SFA Policy 5.4, you are expected to spend 450 minutes each week engaged in class-related activities. These activities include reading and reviewing material from your assigned readings, as well as reviewing notes from readings, working on class assignments, and engaging in research related to your papers.

Student Academic Dishonesty:

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2020), section on “Student Academic Dishonesty.”

“Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty:

Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf. All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policies and procedures in the SFASU Policy Manual and other sources of policy. The consequences for academic dishonesty may range from a score of zero (0) on the assignment to an “F” for the course. For details, students should refer to the SFA Policy Manual (2020) or the University’s General Bulletin, 2019 – 2020 section entitled “Academic Integrity” and other sources of University policy.

Withheld Grades:

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2020), “Course Grades Policy.” (Policy 5.5)

“At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.”
Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Acceptable Student Behavior:
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Attendance:
Because this class is delivered through an online platform, there is no required attendance. Instead, you are expected to engage in logging onto the course management software, Brightspace by D2L, to complete modules and assignments based upon the schedule listed in the Course Calendar.

In addition, note the following course policies:

- This is an online course, so you will be required to engage in self-study and self-reminders as to when assignments are due and what is required of you. A due date timeline in addition to the syllabus is posted in the getting started section, and I will post announcements when necessary.
- We will maintain regular contact throughout the semester through D2L email.
- Late assignments are not accepted. Having another exam or paper due that week is not an exceptional circumstance.
- The open exchange of ideas will be respected by all students. Respectful discussion is required. While you are allowed to express your opinions during the discussions remember that other students may have different opinions and have the right to have and express those opinions. Personal attacks are not allowed as they do not promote civilized debate.
- While you may encounter technological issues such as problems uploading assignments to Brightspace by D2L or technological problems, these issues are not valid excuses for submitting work after the deadlines listed in this syllabus. You should complete your assignments in a timely fashion so that if you encounter a printer problem, etc. you have sufficient time to overcome the problem before the deadline for submitting work.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 24</td>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>• Read Get Started module content, including syllabus and Semester Calendar.</td>
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<td>• Submit Introductory Activity by August 27, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Submit responses to other students’ introductions by August 28 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of August 31</td>
<td>What is Research in Intelligence Studies?</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Prunckun (2019), Chapters 1 – 3</td>
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<td>• Submit Discussion Board #1 by September 2 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Submit responses to other students’ posts by September 4 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of September 7</td>
<td>What are Sources of Research in Intelligence Studies?</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Prunckun (2019), Chapters 4 – 5</td>
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<td>• Homework Assignment #1 due by September 11 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of September 14</td>
<td>Method of Research I</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Prunckun (2019), Chapters 6 – 7</td>
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<td>• Submit Discussion Board #2 by September 16 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Submit responses to other students’ posts by September 18 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of September 21</td>
<td>Methods of Research II</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Prunckun (2019), Chapters 8 – 9</td>
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<td>• Homework Assignment #2 due by September 25 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of September 28</td>
<td>Methods of Research III</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Prunckun (2019), Chapters 10 – 11</td>
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<td>• Homework Assignment #3 due by October 2 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Final Project Topic Due by October 2 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of October 5</td>
<td>Writing Overview I</td>
<td>• Read module content.</td>
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<td>• Read Major (2014), Chapter 1 – 3</td>
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<td>• Homework Assignment #4 due by October 9 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week of</td>
<td>Writing Overview II</td>
<td>Week of</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
<td>• Read module content. • Read Major (2014), Chapters 4 – 7 • Submit Discussion Board #3 by October 14 at 11:59 p.m. • Submit responses to other students’ posts by October 16 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td>October 19</td>
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<td>Week of</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>• No assignments</td>
<td>Final Projects:</td>
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<td>Week of</td>
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<td>Execution</td>
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<td>November 30</td>
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<td>Final Projects:</td>
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<td>Week of</td>
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<td>Submission</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
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