NISS 5397.500 – Special Topics: Law and Ethics in Intelligence

Summer Semester 2023

Professor: Dr. Julie Harrelson-Stephens
Office: 135 Liberal Arts North
Office Hours: 9:00 – 10:00 Monday & Wednesday on ZOOM

E-mail: the best place to email me is in the Brightspace email. If you have an emergency and (particularly) if it is the weekend, feel free to also email me at harrelsoj@sfasu.edu.

I will be available to meet with you via ZOOM during Monday and Wednesday office hours. If you need to meet at another time, I am happy to arrange it. I will make every effort to answer your emails within 48 hours.

Please Note: The syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor. Notification of changes will be made through Brightspace.

Course Description

This course will focus on the legal and ethical implications of intelligence. The first part of the course examines some of the legal underpinnings of the US intelligence community (IC). The second half of the course asks some of the larger ethical and moral questions related to the US IC. There are no easy answers. You should consciously attempt to explore the validity of both sides of the dilemmas we discuss. We end the course with a look at leaks in the IC and the politicization that results. The student is expected to spend at least ten hours a week completing the readings, associated assignments, and semester research paper.

Course Goals

Program Learning Outcomes

The student will understand the complex ethical and legal considerations related to intelligence

Course Objectives (Student Learning Outcomes)

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the legal constraints of intelligence work
2. Assess the ethical dilemmas related to intelligence
3. Explain the threat posed by politicization of the IC

Course Materials

Required Text:

There are no texts required for this course.

Required Technology: This course will be delivered through the university’s Learning Management System (LMS), Brightspace. Each student is required to have access to a computer with internet
capabilities in order to access the course. Each student is also required to have a working, university (sfasu.edu) email account.

As a student of Stephen F. Austin State University, you have free access to this course’s Brightspace site. You will need to access the course regularly throughout the semester. Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Brightspace, unless otherwise instructed. Some assignments may require audio or video files. Students must have a working computer microphone or the ability to add audio to files on their computer to complete these assignments.

Technical Support

If at any point during the course you experience technical difficulties in Brightspace, please let your instructor know immediately.

You will also need to contact the SFASU Brightspace Support Team by email (d2l@sfasu.edu) or phone (936.468.1919) for technical help.

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular attendance is required in this course. In the rare instance something unforeseen prevents you from completing your work, the NISS program allows for submission of late work, only if the student has contacted the professor in advance. In this class, late work will be permitted in extraordinary circumstances, and only if the student contacts the professor in advance. Routinely submitting assignments late is not acceptable.

Students are expected to log-in to the course regularly. At a minimum, that means that students are expected to log-in to the course at least two times a semester.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Please ensure that all work you post or submit is your original work, and that any material belonging to others is properly cited according to the APSA Style Manual for Political Science.

Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. 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; and/or;
- helping or attempting to help another 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; and/or,
• incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

For additional information about academic dishonesty, please read and abide by the complete university policy at SFASU Academic Dishonesty Policy. Anyone who cheats in this class will receive an F for their grade.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6**

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 (936.468.3004) 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. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to SFASU Disability Services.

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

SFA Counseling Service  
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)  
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic  
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)  
Human Services, Room 202  
936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**

Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S  
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Ethics, part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection Paper #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection Paper #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Torture Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July 3 Assassination
Reflection Paper #4


July 10 Leaks
Discussion


July 17 and July 24 Work on Research Papers Due August 1st.