NISS-5199-Comprehensive Exam

Dr. Spencer L Willardson

Spring 2024

Instructor | Office | Email | Office Hours
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Dr. Willardson | Liberal Arts North 136 | Spencer.Willardson@sfasu.edu | By Appointment

Course Description

This course comprises of the preparation for and taking of a comprehensive exam reflecting the student’s cumulative course work. The exam tests each student’s mastery of the course objectives through a 4 hour exam consisting of four questions. The purpose of the course is to give students the opportunity to review previous material, to practice answering the types of questions that will be asked on the exam, and to administer and evaluate the exam.

Program Learning Outcomes

This course addresses the following NISS program learning Outcomes:

1. Theoretical Application - Apply theories of intelligence collection and policy analysis
2. Policy Evaluation: Students will be able to differentiate current challenges confronting US national security and evaluate disparate policy option.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to do the following:

1. Demonstrate student mastery of program-level objectives.
2. Prepare the student for potential employment exams within the IC and security communities.

Course Expectations

Students will conduct themselves professionally. They will do so by:

- Preparing independently for the exam by reviewing all readings from previous courses.
- Taking practice exams (by question) in weeks 3-6 to prepare for exam.
• Arranging for a proctor or setting a time to take the exam according to the NISS Comprehensive Exam Policy.

Students can expect Professor Willardson to do the following:

• Be prepared to answer questions and help with any assignment during office hours (which includes appointments via videoconference or in-person).
• Be an example of what is expected from professionals and academics in terms of knowledge and professionalism.
• Encourage students to do their best work.
• Provide timely feedback on practice exam questions.

**Required Text(s)**

All texts from previous courses.

**Grading**

The course will be graded as follows:

See NISS Comprehensive Exams Policy for details on how the exam will be graded.
## Course Schedule

All module practice questions are due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday evening. All times in course are Central Time (US).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>18 Jan</td>
<td>Intro and Preparation</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>Practice Question I</td>
<td>Practice Questions</td>
<td>4 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5 Feb</td>
<td>Practice Question II</td>
<td>Practice Questions</td>
<td>11 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>Practice Question III</td>
<td>Practice Questions</td>
<td>18 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Practice Question IV</td>
<td>Practice Questions</td>
<td>25 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td><strong>Proctored Exam</strong></td>
<td>5 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>15 Apr</td>
<td>Notification</td>
<td>Oral Exam Scheduled</td>
<td>18-20 Apr</td>
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Subject to Change

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\(^1\text{Subject to Change}\)
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