

HISTORY 4821G
Spy vs. Spy
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm, Winter Term
Course combines in-person and synchronous online activities.
Details will be announced on OWL.
Location: TBA

Instructor: Professor William J. Turkel
Office Hours: TBA
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2267
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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (ie., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable) / asynchronously (eg., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience) [delete as necessary]. The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:

An introduction to close reading and the techniques of structured intelligence analysis. Working individually and in groups, students will analyze a series of historical case studies from the 20th and 21st centuries. Topics include espionage, cyber war, terrorism, organized crime, homeland security, counterintelligence and decision support.

This course teaches the utility of evidence-based, qualitative analysis in settings where decisions must be made collaboratively under uncertain or adversarial conditions.

Prerequisite(s):

1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

In the second half of the 20th century, a series of highly public failures forced intelligence agencies to evaluate methods that until that time had mostly relied on the unconscious, intuitive judgements of individual analysts and subject-matter experts. Over the same period, psychologists, computer scientists and later behavioural economists showed that human cognition is susceptible to a wide variety of biases. In other words, when thinking quickly we take shortcuts that make our reasoning error-prone, and it is often hard for us to recognize those errors. Structured analytic techniques are designed to slow down our thinking and make it public, so that others may critique and build on it.

In this course, the historian's traditional method of close reading is combined with the structured analytic techniques that now form the core methodology of intelligence analysis. Working individually and in teams, students will learn to analyze case studies that are complex and ambiguous, and often full of unknowns. This is excellent training not only for a career in history, but in law, politics, business, the social sciences, the military, law enforcement and a variety of other fields.

Expected Preparation

You will be given a short collection of readings and exercises to do before each scheduled meeting. It is crucial that you take this requirement seriously, read the materials carefully and do the exercises. Since teamwork is an essential component of this class (and your grade), students who are not prepared for class will not only be letting themselves down, but some of their classmates, too.

Participation and Professionalism

You are required to participate in each scheduled meeting. *Failure to participate in more than two meetings without prior approval or a note from your academic counsellor will result in a failing grade.* Since you will be working closely with others using teleconferencing and shared online documents as well as in person, it is important to be respectful, to share your own ideas and to listen carefully to the ideas of others.

Teamwork and Peer Evaluation

Each scheduled meeting you will be randomly assigned to a team of about 7 people for that day's activities. Grades for team activities will be shared by all members of the team. At the end of each team activity you will submit a very brief peer evaluation for the members of your team. I will use these assessments, in conjunction with my own, to determine your individual contribution to team assignments.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students will

- Be aware of a range of biases and heuristics that interfere with sound reasoning
- Be familiar with some techniques for effectively conducting teamwork online and in person
- Be familiar with a wide variety of techniques to externalize and critique thought processes and to qualitatively deal with unknown data

- Have some knowledge of significant recent episodes in the history of security intelligence and foreign intelligence

Course Materials:

There is one required text for this course.

Beebe, Sarah Miller & Randolph H. Pherson. *Cases in Intelligence Analysis: Structured Analytic Techniques in Action*, 2nd ed. Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2015.

You will also be required to use software provided by the university:

- To participate in class and team meetings you will need to install and log in to Zoom
<https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>
- You will need access to Microsoft Office tools (especially Word, PowerPoint and Excel). These are available through your Office 365 account
https://wts.uwo.ca/office_365/index.html
- Class sessions and graded assignments will also require teamwork that will be conducted through MS Teams
https://wts.uwo.ca/microsoft_teams/index.html

All other course materials will be provided electronically on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

There will be five assignments, worth 20% each, spread uniformly throughout the term. Each assignment has an individual portion, a team portion, and a portion that combines my assessment of in-class work with peer assessments of the student's contribution to team performance.

Each assignment has a suggested due date and, a week later, a zero date. If you hand in your assignment before the zero date, you will receive full credit for your work. After the zero date, it will be worth nothing.

Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to Academic Counseling as soon as possible.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- **BRIEFING 01: POISONING**
Read before class: Ch. 1 “Who Poisoned Karinna Moskalenko?”
Techniques introduced: Structured Brainstorming; Starbursting; Premortem Analysis; Structured Self-Critique
Workload: Assignment 01 handed out.
- **BRIEFING 02: SPY**
Read before class: Ch. 4 “Is Wen Ho Lee a Spy?”
Techniques introduced: Deception Detection; Force Field Analysis
Workload: Assignment 01 due.
- **BRIEFING 03: OUTBREAK**
Read before class: Ch. 9 “Death in the Southwest”
Techniques introduced: Multiple Hypothesis Generation; Analysis of Competing Hypotheses; Key Assumptions Check
Workload: Assignment 01 zero date, Assignment 02 handed out.
- **BRIEFING 04: SNIPER**
Read before class: Ch. 11 “The DC Sniper”
Techniques introduced: Classic Quadrant Crunching
Workload: Assignment 02 due.
- **BRIEFING 05: HOMELAND**
Read before class: Ch. 12 “Colombia’s FARC Attacks the US Homeland”
Techniques introduced: Multiple Scenarios Generation; Indicators; Red Hat Analysis
Workload: Assignment 02 zero date, Assignment 03 handed out.
- **BRIEFING 06: BOMBER**
Read before class: Ch. 10 “The Atlanta Olympics Bombing”
Techniques introduced: Pros-Cons-Faults-and-Fixes
Workload: Assignment 03 due.
- **BRIEFING 07: POLITICS**
Read before class: Ch. 15 “Iranian Meddling in Bahrain”
Techniques introduced: Morphological Analysis
Workload: Assignment 03 zero date, Assignment 04 handed out.
- **BRIEFING 08: TERRORISTS**
Read before class: Ch. 13 “Understanding Revolutionary Organization 17 November”
Techniques introduced: Foresight Quadrant Crunching; What If? Analysis
Workload: Assignment 04 due.
- **BRIEFING 09: TALIBAN**
Read before class: Ch. 6 “The Road to Tarin Kowt”
Techniques introduced: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
Workload: Assignment 04 zero date, Assignment 05 handed out.

- **BRIEFING 10: PROPAGANDA**

Read before class: Ch. 5 “Jousting with Cuba over Radio Marti”

Techniques introduced: Quadrant Hypothesis Generation

Workload: Assignment 05 due.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness