

DRAFT – subject to change

The History of Modern Intelligence
HIS343Y – Summer Abroad 2022

Prof. Timothy Andrews Sayle

General Course Description

How has intelligence shaped international relations in the 20th century? HIS343 explores the rise of modern intelligence over the long 20th century, from Anglo-Russian competition before World War I through to the post-9/11 era. Students will study the contribution of intelligence services to victories and defeats in war, and their role in times of peace. The course will also examine the relationship between intelligence services and their society. What do we really know about espionage – and how do we know what we know?

This is an intensive class. Students will read primary source accounts of intelligence operations and examine and compare notable intelligence analyses from a range of global primary sources, students will work with original intelligence materials to gain an introduction into the history of modern intelligence. Because this course will be taught in England, we give extra attention to British intelligence. We will take field trips to a number of important historical sites.

Course Content and Assignments:

This is an intensive course: it compresses a full-year “Y” level course in to just 16 class days. The key to your success will be to remain organized, complete the required readings, and attend every class (note that attendance is required). If you can do this, you will be well placed to succeed.

The field of modern intelligence is enormous: In order to make sure we touch on the key elements of this history, I have had to leave lots out. It is my hope that this course will provide you with the background information to understand how intelligence shaped 20th century history, but also the skills and tools to pursue the field in more detail if you wish.

The course is challenging, but it is not designed to be unnecessarily difficult. The assignments are meant to allow you to reflect on what you have read. I expect you to manage your reading and participation, but I will do everything I can to support you and I want you to succeed. There should be no surprises along the way, so be sure to ask questions in class or contact me if you feel confused or lost at any point.

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Grade breakdown:

20% Participation.

Attendance in seminars is mandatory, but attendance does not constitute participation. Participation includes active and accurate discussion, as well as other tasks from time to time. This might include presenting information individually or as part of a group. You will have time to prepare any informal presentations in class – this will not require time outside of class. We will discuss on the first day.

10% “What is intelligence?” paper. (250 words maximum.)

This is not a research paper -- all evidence will be drawn from the first week’s assigned readings. Details will be discussed in the first class.

30% Two short response papers (500 words maximum).

Each week in Week Two, Week Three, and Week Four, I will pose several prompts or questions. They will include options to find and or discuss primary documents, or otherwise reflect on an aspect of intelligence history we have read about. In any two of the three weeks, you will answer one prompt of your choice. In other words, you will write two response papers, each no longer than 500 words, and each worth 15%.

40% Final Reflection.

The reflection will build on the course content and should not require extra time spent studying – the preparation for this reflection will be accomplished by your course reading and your participation and attendance in class.

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Course Outline and Reading List

WEEK ONE

Day 1: What is intelligence?

Day 2 – Intelligence to the 20th Century

Day 3 – Origins of Modern Intelligence

Day 4 – FIELD TRIP: Imperial War Museum and HMS Belfast

WEEK TWO

Day 5 – Intelligence and the First World War

Day 6 – Intelligence in the Interwar Period

Day 7 – Second World War Intelligence Failures

Day 8 – FIELD TRIP: Bletchley Park

WEEK THREE

Day 9 – British Intelligence in the Second World War

Day 10 – Signals Intelligence Successes in the Second World War

Day 11 – Endgame

Day 12 – FIELD TRIP: Cabinet War Rooms

WEEK FOUR

Day 13 – FIELD TRIP: Imperial War Museum Duxford

Day 14 – Covert Operations and Cold War Spygame

Day 15 – The “Global War on Terror”

Day 16 – Final Assessment