Teacher: Robert L. Deitz, rdeitz@gmu.edu (phone: (703) 993-3480)  
I am in my office (Rm 674 in Founders Hall) most week days. Drop ins are always welcome. To schedule an appointment, please phone or email.

Required text: Mark M. Lowenthal, Intelligence (any edition).

Required readings:

On the Web:


Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan (accessed at http://books.google.com/books?id=Q4nPYPeps6MC&printsec=frontcover&dq=hobbes+leviathan&source=bl&ots=_vXs0FqM06&sig=REcNL6e5z6eL3NrUE5UxXYydd8&hl=en&ei=fFDDS4G5J8T68AaYypjkCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CAoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false)


Course description

Foreign Intelligence in a Free Society: Most citizens of modern democratic societies distrust secretive and powerful entities. The U.S. intelligence community is both. This course will focus on the intersection of national security concerns and civil liberties. Looking at relevant literature from the disciplines of philosophy and political science, we will explore the conflict between the powers of the state and the liberties of the individual. We will then apply that structure to the U.S. foreign intelligence apparatus, discuss its authorities, limits, and oversight mechanisms, and then begin a case study into some current intelligence controversies. In addition to a mid-term and final exam, students will participate in a practicum, and identify an international event from the news and explain in an oral presentation how intelligence resources could assist the U.S. policymakers in addressing that event.

Learning outcomes

1. An understanding of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Community, its structure, authorities, limits, and oversight mechanisms.
2. An understanding of the conflict between the powers of the state and the liberties of the individual.

Evaluation

Student evaluations will be comprised of the following: Week Five mid-term: 30%; Week Fifteen final: 40%; Weeks Thirteen and Fourteen practica: 15%; class participation and news analysis: 15%

Schedule

Week One: Introduction. What this course is about. Brief history of U.S intel. Epistemological problems. How do you know what you know? Assignment: Book VII from Plato’s Republic (The Allegory of the Cave) (read up to and including the discussion of geometry, a little more than half way through the dialog); I Corinthians (13: 11, 12); Lowenthal, pp. 1-28.


Week Three: What are the rights of the people? Assignment: Hobbes, op. cit. (Chs. 9, 13, 14); J.S. Mill On Liberty (Chs.1, 2, 4).
Week Four: Competing Rights: when the needs of the state conflict with the rights of
the people. Assignment: Mill, op. cit. (Ch. 2); Schenk v. United States, 249 U.S. 47
(1919); The Steel Seizure Case, 343 U.S. 579 (1952) (Jackson, J., concurring opinion).

Week Five: Mid-term exam.


Week Nine: Authority and Constitutional Limits. What is the authority of the Executive
to conduct intelligence-gathering activities? What are the limits, if any, that the Congress
may place on the Executive? What are the rights of the people with respect to
intelligence gathering? Assignment: Articles I, II and the Fourth Amendment of the U.S.

Week Ten: Oversight of intel activities, by the Congress, the Executive Branch, by the
IG, and the press. Assignment: Lowenthal, Chapter 10. View a speech at: http://www.c-
spanvideo.org/program/id/167743.

Week 11: Ethical issues in the conduct of foreign intelligence. Assignment: Lowenthal,
Chapter 13.

Weeks Twelve and Thirteen: An intel practicum.

Week Fourteen: Grand Finale.

Final exam

**Academic Accommodation for a Disability**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see
me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic
accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.