

Name: Dr. Arne Kislenko

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Course title: Espionage in the 20th Century

Track: B-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 72 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 6

Course description

Hidden codes, special devices, fiendish villains, and top secrets: This is the world of James Bond, the CIA, the KGB, and the X-Files. Secret agents and spies have a special place in popular culture, but as alluring as the mythology may be, it does not answer important questions about the role espionage has played, and will continue to play, in international relations. This course examines the evolution of intelligence services throughout the twentieth century, with particular reference to the two world wars, technological changes, and the “Cold War” confrontation after 1945. In many respects the epicentre for espionage during these periods, the city of Berlin will provide a unique setting for our examination of one of the most fascinating and important dimensions of diplomatic history. Special attention in the course will be paid to the role that Germany and Berlin in particular played in the secret world of spies. The focus in the first part will be on British, German, and Russian intelligence, before we turn towards the development of services in the United States and the Soviet Union. The course will conclude with an examination of challenges intelligence services face today, and the future of spying in the post-Cold War world. In this regard, the events of September 11, 2001 and the “war on terrorism” will be discussed.

Student profile

Everyone is welcome to this course. It is ideal for students who have background in modern international relations history and supplements courses on the world wars, Cold War, or global politics/history. However, the course is designed for those without such training who have an interest in international relations. Students planning careers in intelligence, diplomacy, defence, or academia will also find this course beneficial.

Prerequisites

None is required, although some familiarity with 20th century history is desirable and will be useful.

Course Requirements

This course uses a lecture format with seminars, as well as excursions around Berlin. There is much to cover in a short period of time. Regular attendance will be essential to keep up with the volume of material and pace of the course. As participatory seminars make up a sizeable portion of the overall grade you will be expected to have completed all the readings, integrate them with lectures, and come ready to discuss the topics.

Grading

Seminar participation: 30%

One short essay: 30%

Final exam: 40%

Literature

Scholarly readings are an essential component of any course and this will be no different. All the seminars will involve articles or chapters from renowned academics in the field compiled into a reader which will be provided to each student. Lecturing material has been taken from a wide array of sources, including interviews in North America and Europe with academics, former and serving intelligence officers, and spy fiction writers. Material is also drawn from primary documents in the various government archives, secondary scholarship, and Dr. Kislenko's own experience serving in the law enforcement/intelligence community.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Tuesday, June 1, 2010	Introduction, evolution of intelligence services Espionage in World War I (military applications, bureaucratization and political implications, spy stories, impact of espionage, problems of intelligence etc.) World War I
Friday, June 4, 2010	Espionage in the Inter-War period (Soviet model, anti-Communist obsession in West, cut-backs vs. expansion, emergence of fascist threats, professionalization of services etc.) Espionage on the road to WWII
Tuesday, June 8, 2010	Seminar 1 on assigned readings World War II (Nazis and intelligence/security state, developments in Britain, USA, Soviet Union, intelligence and the war (Barbarossa and Pearl Harbor as case studies), intelligence failures and successes, spy stories etc.)
Friday, June 11, 2010	World War II Excursion 1 (Topography of Terror)
Tuesday, June 15, 2010	Seminar 2 on assigned readings World War II (Holocaust, partisans, atomic espionage etc.)
Friday, June 18, 2010	Excursion 2 (Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp)
Tuesday, June 22, 2010	Seminar 3 on assigned readings Beginning of the Cold War (early stages, expansion as attitudes change, development of the CIA, atomic spies etc.) Cold War (1950s and CIA operations in many quarters, military-industrial complex, New Looks and intelligence as "tool" of foreign policy etc.)
Friday, June 25, 2010	Cold War (many examples of American and Soviet espionage, expansion of services etc.) Excursion 3 (Stasi Museum)
Tuesday, June 29, 2010	Seminar 4 on assigned readings Cold War
Friday, July 2, 2010	Cold War Excursion 4 (Stasi Prison)
Tuesday, July 6, 2010	Seminar 5 on assigned readings Post-Cold War (9/11 and war on terrorism, other threats, institutions and ideas today etc.)
Friday, July 9, 2010	Final Exam and essay due Excursion 5 (Walking Tour)