

Syllabus: Senior Seminar--"CIA: The Early Years" PSC 6900-002, Spring 2007

203 Vasey, 3:00-4:50 p.m. Wednesdays. Professor David M. Barrett, 262 St. Augustine Center. Phone: 610-519-4128. Office hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:00 and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30. E-mail: david.barrett@villanova.edu Webpage address, with information on my research/publications: <http://www14.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/>

Please feel free to telephone, email me, or stop by my office **any time**, whether or not it conforms to my official office hours. Unless I'm unusually busy, I'll talk to you then. I'm on campus almost every weekday, late-morning to early evening. Sometimes you can reach me Sunday evenings, too.

Seminar overview: A major purpose of this seminar is to explore the functioning of a very important bureaucracy, the Central Intelligence Agency, during the era of the Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy presidencies. The CIA was (and still is) powerful, important, and secretive, doing spying and other less colorful gathering of information (intelligence); also doing counterintelligence; shaping the creation of estimates for high-level policymakers to read; and carrying out covert action in other countries. CIA also sometimes engaged in activities within the United States that were arguably illegal. So we will learn some of the history of CIA in relation to two more-or-less democratic branches of government: the Congress and the Presidency. We will draw on academic disciplines of political science and history to better understand the role and powers of CIA in American government and politics, and its relationship to the wider society. Of course, we will study CIA's interaction with foreign governments and societies. Occasionally, we will discuss possible parallels between intelligence problems and controversies in the early Cold War era and those of today.

The heart of a seminar is discussion of readings, presentations, and attention to research and writing on the seminar topic. This will take up most of our time. However, I will do some brief lecturing to educate you on topics relevant to early Cold War U.S. intelligence history.

Please turn off cell phones and pagers upon entering the classroom. Hopefully it will never be necessary, but if you plan to leave a seminar meeting early, please inform me before the class begins.

Required reading:

- David M. Barrett, The CIA and Congress: The Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy
- Evan Thomas, The Very Best Men: Four Men Who Dared: The Early Years of the CIA
- Lawrence Freedman, Kennedy's Wars: Berlin, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam (select portions)
- Occasional articles in the *Washington Post* on contemporary intelligence topics.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined by your *participation* (25%), your *oral presentation* on an assigned topic (10%), your *quiz average* (25%), and your *research paper* (40%).

Starting January 24, there will be weekly quizzes covering the assigned readings for that seminar meeting; a quiz may include a question from brief lecturing I did the previous week.

Note the importance of participation in class discussions. (In order to get an "A" for participation, you should plan to attend and speak up at every meeting. No one who misses more
(over)

than two seminar meetings will receive a passing grade for participation.) I solicit your views on this very controversial topic of CIA! There is never a penalty for disagreeing with me, other authors, or anyone else.

I will distribute a separate memo regarding the student presentations and the research papers. The latter project will require that you delve fairly deeply into primary source material (e.g., government documents that can be accessed in Villanova's library and/or on-line). The paper should address some serious topic relating to CIA from 1947 through 1963. (I may place a limit—perhaps by way of a lottery--on how many seminar members may do papers on CIA in the Kennedy era, as I assume that most persons born in the 1980s know far more about JFK than they do about HST or DDE. There are plenty of fascinating CIA topics from the Truman and Eisenhower eras and, to be frank, I am unwilling to read 18 research papers on CIA during the Kennedy era.)

Schedule of seminar meetings, assigned readings, etc.:

January 17--Introduction to the course: pre-Cold War U.S. intelligence, the "Pearl Harbor effect", the beginning of the Cold War, the U.S. political environment.

24--R[eadings]: Barrett, pp. 1-81

31--R: Thomas, Introduction, ch. 1-4

February 7--R: Barrett, pp. 82-160. Presentations

14--R: Thomas, ch. 5-10. Presentations

21--R: Barrett, pp. 161-233. Presentations

28--R: Barrett, pp. 234-300. Presentations

[Spring Break]

March 14--R: Thomas, ch. 11-15. Presentations

21--R: Barrett, pp. 301-374. Presentations

28--R: Barrett, pp. 375-422. Presentations

April 4--R: Thomas, ch. 16-20. Presentations

11--R: Barrett, pp. 423-457, Afterword; Freedman, ch. 17-19. Presentations

18--R: Freedman, ch. 20-26. Presentations

25--R: Freedman, ch. 38-40; Thomas, ch. 21-22. Presentations [Last class! Wednesday May 2 follows a Friday class day schedule at Villanova.]

Grade Appendix

Numerical grade/Letter grade

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| 95-100 A | 78-80 C+ | Below 70 F |
| 90-94 A- | 75-77 C | |
| 88-89 B+ | 73-74 C- | |
| 84-87 B | 72 D+ | |
| 81-83 B- | 70-71 D | |