

Topics in American Government: U. S. Intelligence (PSC 2875-100) Syllabus

Spring 2007, 6:00-7:15 p.m., Mon./Wed., 2010 Bartley, Prof. David M. Barrett, Office: 262 St. Augustine, Phone (610) 519-4128. E-mail: david.barrett@villanova.edu Regarding my research/ publications, see my webpage at www14.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/

Office hours: 1:30-3:00 Mondays and 11:00-12:00 Wednesdays, but you are welcome to phone or stop by my office any time, any day; unless I'm unusually busy, I'll talk to you then. I am in my office almost all weekdays, late morning through early evening. Often, I'm there Sunday afternoons or evenings. Do feel free to talk to me about any aspect of the course, about politics, or anything else on your mind.

Goals of this course: that you become familiar with the ways that the U.S. government has addressed intelligence issues, primarily in the post-Cold War and post September 11th timeframes, and that you learn how to use essential political science theories to make sense of intelligence policies.

Required reading: The amount of reading in this course is considerable. It includes: (1) Joyce Kaufman, *A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy* (2) James Bamford, *A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies* (3) Senator Bob Graham, *Intelligence Matters: The CIA, the FBI, Saudi Arabia, and the Failure of America's War on Terror* (4) Michael Turner, *Why Secret Intelligence Fails* (5) Robert Baer, *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism* and (6) One or two articles each week from the *Washington Post* website at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>. Usually on Mondays, I will announce assigned readings from the newspaper to be read for the following Wednesday's quiz. If you miss this announcement, it is your responsibility to find out what has been assigned. There is no charge or registration involved in accessing the *Post's* website. I suggest you print assigned articles, so that you may study them.

Course Grading: Quizzes on the assigned readings are usually given Wednesdays (see schedule below). You are responsible for readings listed for that day, plus any readings since the previous quiz. (Note that this course emphasizes close reading--be prepared to read and re-read the assigned chapters and to take substantial notes on your readings.) The grade for a missed quiz is 0. (If you give evidence of an important reason for having missed the quiz, then I may allow you to do a 4 page make-up paper.) Because I give quizzes in every course I teach, I do not give make-up quizzes!

Each student will do a 6-8 minute **presentation** to the class on one of the topics I have chosen (but you are welcome to suggest a topic to me that you would like to do). I will elaborate guidelines for the presentations in a separate memo.

The **final examination** will cover readings and lectures. Note also that most lectures are not specifically about the readings for that particular day. Some topics show up in lectures, some in readings, some in both. Makeup final exams are not given, except when there is an official university-recognized conflict with another final exam, or written proof of hospitalization of the student, or a death in the immediate family.

Regarding your **participation** in class discussions, note that attendance affects the participation grade; if you miss more than two classes, it will not be possible to earn an "A" for participation. The easy way to earn an "A" for participation is to attend all classes, and frequently offer informed reactions to and/or informed questions about the readings and otherwise take part in discussions. I strongly encourage your questions and comments in class on the lecture/reading topics.

The average of your quiz grades will count for 40% of your course grade. The final examination will count for 30% of your course grade. Your presentation to our class will contribute **10%** to your course grade. **20%** of your course grade will be the score I assign for your participation in class discussions. (At the end of the semester, I will average all your numerical grades to determine the overall course grade. For how that numerical grade translates into a letter grade, see the end of the syllabus.)

Please remember to turn off cell phones and pagers in class. If, in some rare case, you plan to leave class before it is finished, it is a matter of common courtesy to inform me of this before class!

Schedule of book readings and quizzes:

January 17: None.

22: Kaufman, ch. 1-2.

24: Kaufman, ch. 3. *Quiz # 1.*

29: Kaufman, ch. 4-5.

31: Turner, ch. 1-2. *Quiz # 2.*

February 5: Turner, ch. 3-5

7: Turner, ch. 6-8. *Quiz # 3.*

12: Turner, ch. 9-11.

14: Baer, ch. 1-3. *Quiz # 4.*

19: Baer, ch. 4-7.

21: Baer, ch. 8-13. *Quiz # 5.*

26: Baer, ch. 14-18.

28: Baer, ch. 19-21, Epilogue, Afterword. *Quiz # 6.*

[Spring break]

March 12: Graham, Introduction, ch. 1-5.

14: Graham, ch. 6-9. *Quiz # 7.*

19: Graham, ch. 10-13.

21: Graham, ch. 14-16. *Quiz # 8.*

26: Graham, ch. 17-19, Conclusion, Appendix.

28: Bamford, ch. 1. *Quiz # 9.*

April 2: Bamford, ch. 2-3.

4: Bamford, ch. 4. *Quiz # 10.*

9: **No class: Conclusion of Easter Break**

11: Bamford, ch. 5-7. *Quiz # 11.*

16: Bamford, ch. 8.

18: Bamford, ch. 9-10. *Quiz # 12.*

23: Bamford, ch. 11.

25: Bamford, ch. 12. *Quiz # 13.*

30: Bamford, ch. 13.

May 2: Bamford, ch. 14. *Quiz # 14.*

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY MAY 7, 7:00 P.M.

Grade Appendix

Numerical grade/Letter grade

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