American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
INTL 653 Deception, Propaganda, Disinformation
3 Credit Hours
8 Weeks
Prerequisite: None

Instructor Information

Instructor: APUS Faculty

Course Description (Catalog)

This course provides an overview of deceptive techniques. These techniques are often referred to as deception, propaganda, misinformation, disinformation and dirty tricks. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to and will analyze the use of deception in various contexts. These deceptive techniques are illustrated with a series of historical and current case studies.

Course Scope

This course of study will take the student through various deceptive techniques in different contexts. Students are expected to come to the discussion Forums fully prepared to discuss the weekly readings and provide insight and analysis on weekly topics. Readings from the syllabi (other than books) and weekly lesson notes are found in weekly Lessons. There will also be a final exam, which will test students' ability to master the course objectives.

Course Objectives

Learning Objectives:

LO-1: Define the concept of deception and its applications in different contexts

LO-2: Analyze the psychological basis necessary for success in using deceptive techniques

LO-3: Assess how different deceptive techniques are used through the analysis of a variety of case studies

LO-4: Evaluate historical case studies and their applicability to current or future operations

Course Delivery Method

This masters-level course will offer the student a highly interactive virtual classroom.

Discussion Forum assignments are based on the analysis of course materials. The student is expected to fully participate in discussions, interact with the instructor and other students, and complete reading assignments. All should be completed in a timely manner. The forum posts are expected to be 1,500 words (+/- 10 percent).

Course Materials

Alexander, Matthew. 2008. *How to break a terrorist*. New York: Free Press.

Bennett, Michael and Edward Waltz. 2007. *Counterdeception principles and applications for national security.* (this is an e-book)

Cialdini, Robert. 2009. *Influence science and practice*. Boston: Pearson.

Jowett, Garth and Victoria O'Donnell. 2006. *Readings in propaganda and persuasion*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (Chapter one is available in the Lesson Folder.)

Mastors, Elena. 2010. *Breaking al-Qaeda. Psychological and operational techniques.*

Rankin, Nicholas. 2009. *A genius for deception*: New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional materials are posted in the lesson folders in the electronic classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

GRADE INSTRUMENTS:	Points	% of Final Grade
Forum Classroom Participation	700 (100 per week)	70%
Final Exam	300	30%

For more detailed grading guidelines see the grading rubric uploaded into your week one lesson packet.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. Students adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Arial 11 or 12-point font or Times New Roman styles.
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.
- Main forum posts will be approximately 1,500 words unless otherwise indicated.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Forums) must follow the Chicago Style guidelines. Students should refer to the APUS On-Line Library Chicago/Turabian Style Manuals for the correct citation method.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date no later than Sunday 11:59 EST unless otherwise indicated. The course should be completed according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and will result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

Course Outline

8 Week Course

Week	Topic(s)	Learning Objective(s)	Assignment(s)
1	Introduction to Deceptive Techniques	• LO-1 • LO-3	• Bennett and Waltz, Chapter 1 and 2 • Jowett and O'Donnell, Chapter 1 • Lesson Notes • Forum
2	Psychological Views of Deception	• LO-2 • LO-3	• Bennett and Waltz, Chapters 3 and 6 • Cialdini, Influence Science and Practice • Lesson Notes • Forum

3	Cold War Cases	- LO-3 - LO-4 - LO-5	- Ferreira, The CIA and Jacobo Arbenz - Sheffy, Overcoming Strategic Weakness - Hansen, Soviet Deception in the Cuban Missile Crisis - Grabo, Soviet Deception in the Czechoslovak Crisis - Lesson Notes - Forum
4	Terrorism	- LO-3 - LO-4 - LO-5	- Alexander, How to Break a Terrorist - Lesson Notes - Discussion Boards - Forum
5	Terrorism	- LO-3 - LO-4 - LO-5	- Mastors, Breaking al-Qaeda - Lesson Notes - Forum
6	World War I	- LO-3 - LO-4	- Rankin, A Genius for Deception (Part 1) - Lesson Notes - Forum
7	World War II	- LO-1 - LO-3 - LO-4	- Rankin, A Genius of Deception (Part 2) - Hanyok, Blinded by the Rising Sun

			• Lesson Notes
			• Forum
8	Assessment	• LO-1 • LO-2 • LO-3 • LO-4	• Final Exam • Forum

Library Guide

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)
The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:
☐Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
☐Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name. If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu