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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

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Course Description (Catalog)

INTL616 (3 credit hours)

This course examines issues of ethics, morality, and legal principles in the context of Intelligence. It begins with an in-depth critical analysis of the primary ethical philosophies, the Just War Doctrine, and overarching legal doctrines as they apply to contemporary U.S. Intelligence. Students will research the moral, psychological, and legal issues pertaining to topics such as Enhanced Interrogations, Clandestine Operations, Surveillance of US Citizens and Cyber Monitoring, Collateral Damage and Targeting Civilians, Military Decision Making, and Strategic Manipulation of Information. The course concludes with an evaluation of an issue within the intelligence community related ethical-moral and legal choices.

Table of Contents
This course focuses on developing ones foundational knowledge on ethics within the field of intelligence. In this course we will assess classical ideas and theories specific to ethics and discuss how they may apply to the field of intelligence. The course will review a wide range of topics that have relevant ethical considerations specific to the field of intelligence.

**Course Objectives**

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Examine the foundations of ethics and how they relate to topics specific to the field of intelligence

CO-2: Assess the merits of ethical and moral philosophy for intelligence operations

CO-3: Analyze the ethical challenges faced by decision makers as they relate to issues within the field of intelligence.

CO-4: Apply legal and ethics concepts to the study of intelligence operations

CO-5: Synthesize the literature relevant to an ethical issue within intelligence.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

**Course Resources**
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**Required Course Textbooks**

The *required* text for this course is:


- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

**Required Readings**

- External websites and other assigned readings are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

**Evaluation Procedures**

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

**Discussion Forums – 20 percent**

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 at least classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, depth, and the quality of original ideas.

**Literature Reviews x 3 – 80 percent**

One fundamental skillset at this level is being able to synthesize vast amounts of literature into a small space. In this course you will work on mastering this skill by completing three literature reviews specific to a topic covered within the course.
8 – Week Course Outline

**Week 1: The Basis of Ethics and Just War Doctrine**

**Learning Objectives:** CO-1

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week.

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Optional Readings and Resources**


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Omand, Sir David, and Mark Phythian. 2013. "Ethics and Intelligence: A Debate." The International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence 26, no. 1


**Week 2: Legal Foundation and Oversight**
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**Learning Objectives:** CO-2; CO-4

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week.

**Required Readings:**

The Constitution of the United States.


**Recommended Optional Readings and Resources**

Manjikian, Mary. 2015. ”But My Hands Are Clean: The Ethics of Intelligence Sharing and the Problem of Complicity.” *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*. 28, no. 4: 692-709.


**Week 3: Enhanced Interrogations**

**Learning Objectives:** CO-3; CO-4; CO-5

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week. Literature Review #1 Due.
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Required Readings:


Recommended Optional Readings and Resources


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Week 4: Clandestine Operations (Lethal Targeting)

Learning Objectives: CO-3; CO-4

Assignments: Complete all forums for the week.

Required Readings:

Executive Order 12333--United States Intelligence Activities. 1981. (December 4). 46 FR 59941, 3 CFR. (5 pages)


Recommended Optional Readings and Resources


**Week 5: Surveillance of US Citizens and Cyber Monitoring**

**Learning Objectives:** CO-3; CO-4; CO-5

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week. Literature Review #2 Due.


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**Required Readings:**


*Recommended Optional Readings*


Week 6: Military Decision Making, Collateral Damage, and Targeting Civilians

Learning Objectives: CO-3; CO-4

Assignments: Complete all forums for the week.

Required Readings:


Recommended Optional Readings and Resources


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**Week 7: Tools of Deception, Lying, Moral Choices, and Private Life Issues**

**Learning Objectives:** CO-3

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week.

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Optional Readings and Resources**


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**Week 8: Review**

**Learning Objectives:** CO-3; CO-4; CO-5

**Assignments:** Complete all forums for the week. Literature Review #3 Due.

**Required Readings:** None.

**Policies**

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

**Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.


**Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I fully understand you must manage
competing demands on your time. However, it is unfair to allow students to turn in late assignments when their peers in the class are working diligently to get assignments in on time. So, unless there are emergency circumstances, grades for late assignments will be reduced by 10% in accordance with the AMU policy.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), 😊

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our
professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- **Electronic Books**: You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals**: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following 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 is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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**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.

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**Selected Bibliography**

Please include a selected bibliography in correct Turabian format, 5-6 sources.