American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

INTL 649:
Case Studies in Foreign Cyber Threats
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: None

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Instructor Information

Instructor: Your Name
Email: Please use the Messages Tool as your primary means of communicating with me and you colleagues in the course.
Phone: Add your phone number
Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: Your APUS email address

Course Description (Catalog)

INTL649: Case Studies in Foreign Cyber Threats (3 credit hours). This course explores the challenges that define cyberspace and the development of cyber policies that deal with the cyber environment. Additionally, the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Government are explored to understand some of the challenges in dealing with cyber issues. Three case studies are also explored to analyze key issues that define cyberspace. Lastly, the course concludes with identifying and discussing some of the future challenges associated with cyberspace.
STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Scope
INTL 649 establishes the theoretical basis of analyzing cyberspace issues by exploring some of the key drivers that define the environment. In addition, the course takes this theoretical basis and explores how the U.S. Government is postured to meet these cyberspace issues in terms of policy development and organizational design. This course then focuses on four case studies to identify key national security issues to frame future cyberspace and cybersecurity considerations. Lastly, the course concludes with exploring some of the key drivers that will define cyberspace for decades to come.

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

- **CO-1:** Analyze the underlying challenges associated with cyberspace.
- **CO-2:** Analyze the evolution of cyberspace policy and evaluate some of the implications for future cyberspace issues.
- **CO-3:** Examine U.S. Government Cyber Policy and analyze their implications for dealing with cyberspace issues.
- **CO-4:** Evaluate cyber-related case studies to assess implications for U.S. and future cyberspace issues.
- **CO-5:** Examine future cyberspace policy issues and challenges.

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
Required Course Textbooks

There are no required textbooks. Specific readings and materials will be addressed in the individual weekly assignments. The following book is recommended:

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Other Required Readings

- Peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, 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.

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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 two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas. (Assignment Length: Main Posts are at least 500 word minimum with a 250 word minimum response to at least two classmates).

Cyber White Paper – 25 percent

This is an opportunity for the student to identify a key cyber-related issue and to develop a white paper that takes a specific stance at resolving the issue. Students will identify and summarize the key points of the issue up front, develop the issue’s background and identify key problems, identify solutions and wrap-up the issue by concluding with key facts. A thorough treatment of the topic using peer-reviewed, scholarly resources is expected. Turabian format is mandatory with in text citations and a properly formatted Title and Reference page, double-spaced Times New Roman 12 font. (Assignment Length: 3-4 pages). This assignment is due at the end of Week 3.

Case Study Research Proposal – 25 percent

The components of this assignment support the Case Study submitted at the end of class. Students will develop a research question, a purpose statement, and identify a theoretical framework and research design used answer the research question. Turabian format is mandatory with in text citations and a properly formatted Title and Reference page, double-spaced Times New Roman 12 font. (Assignment Length: 4-5 pages). This assignment is due at the end of Week 5.

Case Study Analysis – 30 percent

Based on the Cyber Research Proposal, students will conduct a case study analysis of their selected event or case. (Assignment Length: 18-20 pages). Turabian format is mandatory with in
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text citations and a properly formatted Title and Reference page, double-spaced Times New Roman 12 font. This assignment is due at the end of Week 7.
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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyber White Paper</td>
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<tr>
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8 – Week Course Outline

**Week 1: The Challenge of Cyberspace.**

Learning Outcomes: Describe the key challenges found in cyberspace and some of the implications for the future.

**Assignments:** Complete Introductory and Week 1 forum posts.

**Required Readings:**


**Week 2: The Evolution of U.S. Cyberspace Policy.**

Learning Outcomes: Describe the importance of cyber policy and its function within the U.S. Government and the Intelligence Community.

**Assignments:** Complete Week 2 forum post.

**Required Readings:**


**Week 3: U.S. Government Roles and Responsibilities in Cyberspace.**

Learning Outcomes: Outline and describe the key mission and roles of various U.S. Government organizations and agencies as it relates to cyberspace.

**Assignments:** Complete Week 3 forum post.

**Required Readings:**


**Week 4: US and Foreign Perspectives of Threat Analysis and Policy Practices.**

Learning Outcomes: Assess the different perspectives on intelligence analysis between US and its foreign counterparts. (See course objective 3)

**Assignments:** Complete week 4 forum posts.

**Required Readings:**

Fukuyama (2007), *Blindside*, Chapters 1-5

Clark (2012), *Intelligence Analysis*, Chapter 13

Criminal Intelligence Service Canada. 2007. “Integrated Threat Assessment Methodology.”
Ottawa, Ontario. 1-29


**Recommended Optional Reading:**


**Week 5: Dealing with the Unknown, the Uncertain, and the Counter-Intuitive.**

Learning Outcomes: Analyze the gaps in threat analysis that occur at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. (See course objective 3)

**Assignments:** Complete week 5 forum posts.

**Required Readings:**

Fingar (2011), *Reducing Uncertainty*, Chapter 4, “Using Intelligence to Anticipate Opportunities and Shape the Future”


George & Bruce (2008), *Analyzing Intelligence*, Chapters 8, 10, 11


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Recommended Optional Reading:

George & Bruce (2008), Analyzing Intelligence, Chapter 12, “The Missing Link: The Analyst-Collector Relationship.”


NIC’s 2008 study Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World


Week 6: Impact of Crisis on Analysis, Accountability, and Decision-Making.

Learning Outcomes: Evaluate the tools used in intelligence analysis and their associated pitfalls. (See course objective 4)

Assignments: Complete week 6 forum posts, case study research paper due.

Required Readings:

George & Bruce (2008), Analyzing Intelligence, Chapter 13
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Recommended Optional Reading:


**Week 7: Forecasting and the Changing Environment.**

Learning Outcomes: *Assess threat analysis forecasting methods.* (See course objective 4)

**Assignments:** Complete week 7 forum posts, and submit case study research paper.

**Required Readings:**

Fukuyama (2007), *Blindside*, Chapters 6-11


George & Bruce (2008), *Analyzing Intelligence*, Chapters 14-18


**Recommended Optional Reading:**

Clark (2012), *Intelligence Analysis*, Chapters 15, and Appendix I.

**Week 8: The Future of Analysis and Decision Making.**

Learning Outcomes: Describe some of the key challenges and future implications of cyberspace.

**Assignments:** Complete Week 8 forum posts and finalize and submit your Case Study Analysis.

**Required Readings:**


**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](#)
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**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. A Late Penalty of 5% per day will be assessed for late work. 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.

**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: ;-), : ), 😊

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**Online Library**

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.
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- **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.

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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**

The following are excellent peer-reviewed journals that students and professionals should regularly read to keep current in their fields.

*Journal of Intelligence Studies*

*International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*

*Intelligence and National Security*

*International Security*

*Political Psychology*

*Advanced in Political Psychology*
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