Ninety-nine percent of the countries of the world have a defensive, domestic security service and many also have an intelligence agency to collect foreign information, carry out industrial espionage or even to conduct “covert actions.” Understanding how this opaque world operates is essential to understanding much of what happens in the world of international relations and diplomacy. This course will look at the basic structures and underlying principles of these organizations, as well as explain the various techniques that many of those countries employ to carry out those assigned missions. We will look at some of the major players like China, Russia and England, down to certain regional powers such as Israel and Third World organizations like the security service of Ghana. We’ll look at classical HUMINT and SIGINT operations as well as the newer trends of cyber espionage and sabotage and the expansion of drone spying and warfare. We will also study in depth some of the more imaginative intelligence operations and military deceptions that have been performed by a number of major agencies, explore the individuals who had those creative ideas and take a quick look at the question of whether there are in fact methods to make people more creative than they naturally were at birth. The course is taught by a retired, 30-year veteran of the CIA.