While the CIA, FBI and other national security organizations have been much in the news over the past decade because of the great emphasis on counterterrorism efforts, intelligence has played an important role in American and world history since the American Revolution of 1776.

This course will begin with a look at the traditional and little studied role of intelligence during wartime and peacetime throughout the history of America’s foreign policy, both successes and failures. We will also look at how England, Germany, Japan and the Soviet Union/Russia made use of intelligence during key events of the 20th century, especially in the contest between West and East during the Cold War struggle in the Third World. We will then compare those intelligence priorities and methodologies to the post September 11, 2001 world and see how the U.S. and other major intelligence powers had to shift their tactics and emphasis to counter non-state terrorist threats. During the Cold War, the threat of massive retaliation against a nation that attacked another served as a deterrent to most, but when the attacker today may be only a handful of people motivated by religious, political or even ecological reasons and willing to be suicide martyrs, this is no longer a practical strategy. The changed threat requires a greater emphasis on Human Intelligence (HUMINT) and we will examine how a real intelligence officer goes about recruiting another person to become a spy. We will look at current civil liberty issues in democracies as the line between foreign and domestic intelligence activities has blurred in order to counter terrorist and cyber threats that have no distinction of borders. And we will finish with a look at how intelligence collection priorities are changing today to deal with growing cyber threats, Chinese industrial espionage and the resurgence of Russian intelligence efforts.

While the course is best suited for Liberal Arts students with an interest in the history and politics of America, there are no prerequisites and it is open to students of all majors who would like to learn something about the real world of international espionage, its role in important world events and current threats to American national security. (However, freshmen MUST obtain permission from the professor to register, so as to ensure that they have a good background in American and world affairs.) The course is taught by a retired 30-year veteran of the CIA. The class meets jointly with GV-321.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There will be a midterm worth 30 percent of the total grade and a final worth 40 percent because it will cover material for the entire course. There will be two short quizzes, to be given at random times, each worth 5 percent and there is a research paper of 12-15 pages (20 percent of grade) due from the honors students on some aspect of national security, past or present. I will grade on a straight numerical basis, not a bell curve. Honors students are also required to meet with me three times in my office, to discuss the research paper and other aspects of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
For the President’s Eyes Only, Christopher Andrew (paperback)

The Dream Merchant of Lisbon, Gene Coyle (paperback and Kindle-version available)