

# HIST 4399: American Intelligence Agencies During the Late Twentieth Century

## Introduction:

This course evaluates the actions of and the reactions to activities of a variety of American intelligence agencies during the last three decades of the twentieth century. Through this lens, historians grapple with the growing influence of intelligence agencies on both domestic and international events, which enables a more thorough understanding of the American past.

**Instructor:** Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

**Email:** mdotson@uttyler.edu

**Office:** CAS 117

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:00-10:00 *or* by appointment

## Note on emails:

If you reach out to me during the week, I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. If you contact me during the weekend *or* a scheduled university break, I will do my best to respond to you within 48 hours.

## Required Text:

Critchlow, Donald T. *The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2011.

## Course Objectives:

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the impact intelligence agencies had on the political and social themes in the United States during the late twentieth century
- Recognize and analyze the impact of the operations of various intelligence agencies within the United States during this era
- Outline the political narratives adopted by elected officials that influenced the expansion of intelligence agencies in the United States

## Expectations and Etiquette:

It is expected that everyone in this course, including the instructor, will maintain respect for one another. I encourage you to form your thoughts surrounding the course material, but please note that not everyone will share *all* of your sentiments. It is okay to disagree with someone, but it *will* be done respectfully and thoughtfully.

If the instructor determines that your behavior is inappropriate, you will be forwarded to the appropriate campus administrator and/or the campus police.

## Methods of Evaluation:

**Bi-Weekly Meetings (50%):** As this is an independent study, students will meet with the instructor every other week of the semester. During these meetings, students will discuss overarching themes within weekly reading assignments.

**Research Paper (50%):** Each student will select a topic that is relevant to our course. Research papers are due by **11:59 pm on Friday, November 21**. Papers must meet the following parameters:

- You **must** use at least five academic secondary sources. You are encouraged, but not required, to utilize primary sources in your research.
- Your paper **must** be formatted correctly in the Turabian/Chicago Style. Your paper should be double-spaced and written in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins.
- The final draft **must** be between ten and fifteen pages. Please note that your cover page, footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography do **not** count towards your overall page length.
- One letter grade will be deducted for **every** calendar day the paper is late.

### Grade Scale:

A:	≥ 89.5
B:	79.5 – 89.4
C:	69.5 – 79.4
D:	59.5 – 69.4
F:	59.4 ≤

### Key Dates\*:

August 25:	First Day of Class
September 1:	Labor Day/Campus Closed
October 17:	Midterm
November 3:	Last Day to Withdraw
November 21:	Research Papers Due
November 24-28:	Thanksgiving Break
December 8-12:	Final Exam Week

**\*See Canvas for a weekly description of class topics.**

**Note: At the end of the semester, final grades will not be rounded up.**

### Assignment and Exam Parameters:

Students are **not** allowed to take exams early unless they are traveling for a university-sponsored event. Students are **required** to arrange work, travel, and social events around all assigned due dates. If you fail to complete an assignment by the designated due date, a penalty of ten points/calendar day will be applied.

There are **no** make-up exams in this course. If you fail to complete an exam, you will **automatically** receive a zero grade. Unless otherwise noted, you are **not** allowed to use any resources (internet, textbook, notes, etc.) on exams. If the instructor determines you have violated this rule, you will **automatically** fail the exam. In the event this happens a second time, you will **automatically** fail the course.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) and This Course:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the

quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is **not** permitted at all.