

## Topics: US Intelligence, PSC 8000-001

Course Syllabus, Fall 2010, Villanova University, Wednesdays, 7:30–9:30 p.m., 110 St. Augustine Center, Prof. David M. Barrett, 262 St. Augustine; phone: 610-519-412; email: [david.barrett@villanova.edu](mailto:david.barrett@villanova.edu) My webpage: [www.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/](http://www.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/) Office hours: 1-2:00 Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 Wednesdays, or by appointment, or stop by, or call any time. I am away from my office teaching from 3:45-7:30p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. I'm in my office most other days until 6 p.m., sometimes much later, and on some Sunday evenings. You can also usually catch me in the Bartley dining area from about 4:25 until 4:55, as I'm between classes there.) You are genuinely welcome to see me or call me without an appointment. (But I will seem distracted if you try to meet with me in the hour or so before I teach; at other times, I should be able to give you my full attention.)

Course overview: In the last twenty years, the world has gone through many changes, including the end of the Cold War and the USSR. Contrary to the hopes of many, world peace has not prevailed since the 1990s began. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 dashed the hope that Americans could stop thinking about “national security.” Iraq war policies and other recent controversies have led many Americans to wonder if the CIA and other intelligence agencies are doing any good at all for the nation. These and other events of the past nine years have, however, ended a period when many persons thought that spending on, and attention to, intelligence activities could be reduced.

This course aims to make you fluent in a topic that is largely unknown to most American citizens, including most scholars and journalists: the functioning of the U.S. intelligence system, the challenges it faces, the failures and successes it has had, and the difficulties of reforming it.

The course will be a hybrid of brief lectures by the professor, presentations by students, and—especially--discussions of the readings. The brief lectures will focus on topics relating to intelligence, plus some theories of politics and policymaking.

Each student will be graded for his/her (1) class **participation** [25% of the course grade]; (2) a **presentation** to the class [10% of the course grade] (based, if you wish, on the reading you are doing for your research paper or on any topic relevant and suitable to the course); (3) the **research paper** [which will count for 40% of the grade]; and (4) weekly **quizzes** on the readings, mostly, but occasionally about the previous week's brief lecture [25% of your course grade]. There is no final exam in this course.

I urge you to be at all class meetings, since we meet only once a week. Absences will result in a lower course grade.

Required reading: Assigned chapters in all books require close reading and re-reading. We will read (1) Michael Turner, Why Secret Intelligence Fails (Revised edition, 2006); (2) David M. Barrett, The CIA and Congress: The Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy; (3) Amy Zegart, Spying Blind: The CIA, the FBI, and the Origins of 9/11; (4) Richard Betts, Enemies of Intelligence: Knowledge and Power in American National Security; (5) Gary Berntsen, Jawbreaker: The Attack on bin Laden and al-Qaeda. These books are available at the bookstore. (Some are available inexpensively from on-line booksellers.) We will also read an article or two most weeks in the Washington Post (at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>) weekly, and possibly other articles posted on the Web. A brief, but free registration is required to make regular use of the Posts's web site.

A separate memorandum to the class will elaborate guidelines for the presentation and the research paper.

### Schedule of readings:

August 25—First class meeting.

September 1—Turner, Preface, ch. 1-2; Barrett, Introduction, ch. 1-5.

8—Turner, ch. 3, 5, 6; Barrett, ch. 6-9, 12.

15—Turner, ch. 7-9; Barrett, ch. 13-14, 16-20.

22—Turner, ch. 10-11; Barrett, ch. 23, 25-30, 32.

29—Barrett, ch. 34-40; Zegart, ch. 1.

October 7—Barrett, ch. 41-43; Zegart, ch. 2-3.

### **[Fall Break]**

20—Zegart, ch. 4-6.

27—Zegart, ch. 7-8; Berntsen, ch. 1-2.

November 3—Betts, Preface (but you may skip the part where he is thanking friends), ch. 1-3; Berntsen, ch. 3-4.

10—Betts, ch. 4-6; Berntsen, ch. 5-6.

17—Betts, ch. 7-8; Berntsen, ch. 7-9.

### **[Thanksgiving Break]**

December 1—Berntsen, ch. 10-14.

8—Berntsen, ch. 15-21.