

PO382-30 Vigilant State: Understanding Secret Intelligence

20/21

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Richard Aldrich

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In short, this module aims to introduce to the various debates that have characterised the use of secret service by the state in the international and domestic context. Although the terms 'espionage', 'intelligence' and 'secret service' are all central to the concerns of this module they have been deliberately avoided in the above module description given in the handbook. This is because this module aims to situate all these things in a broader governmental context, viewing them as aspects of international statecraft or as constitutional problems or as issues of civil rights. Accordingly, this module is as much about how policy-makers make use, or fail to make use, of intelligence, and how secret services might be regulated within a constitutional framework, as about the practice of secret service itself.

Module aims

The module aims to:

- develop an understanding of the origins and developments of intelligence services
- explore the main theoretical approaches to intelligence and surveillance
- offer an understanding of the issues surrounding intelligence failure

analyse key ethical and policy dilemmas and issues raised by CT intelligence
assess the contemporary debates about globalization and the future of intelligence

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TBC

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an appreciation of the historical context of intelligence
- critically discuss the characteristics of the accountability frameworks
- assess the strengths and weaknesses of the key theoretical debates governing the intelligence cycle
- critically analyse, both orally and in writing, the current issues facing national and regional approaches to intelligence

Indicative reading list

TBC

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

TBC

Study

Study time

| Type | Required |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Lectures | 22 sessions of 1 hour (7%) |
| Seminars | 20 sessions of 1 hour (7%) |
| Private study | 258 hours (86%) |
| Total | 300 hours |

Private study description

TBC

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group C1

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Written Assignment 3000 word essay | 50% | | Yes (extension) |
| Online Examination 1.5hr examination | 50% | | No |
| ~Platforms - AEP | | | |

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

TBC

[Past exam papers for PO382](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants

- UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
 - Year 2 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
 - Year 4 of L103 Economics with Study Abroad
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)