ISSA 3302: Fundamentals of Intelligence Analysis

Course Description/Overview

The analytical products of the intelligence community are intended to provide the information necessary to help policymakers from the president on down understand developments and make better decisions. Issues such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, global economic recessions, civil unrest, and international terrorism are forcing the intelligence community to cope with multiple and diverse threats.

In addition, several already volatile areas are generating new drivers of international instability. Finally, long-standing intelligence problems such as North Korea and Iran require immense investment of analytical skills to disambiguate the complexities of the operational environment in which the U.S. is operating today. The fluid nature of the terrorist threat confronting states and the impact of globalization have provided value-added to their argument, or make a counter argument.

With the increased number of adaptive systems used in the intelligence process, a new type of intelligence analyst is necessary. The ability to map a system, understand and apply appropriate SATs, and know the difference between complicated and complex systems is necessary. The fluid nature of the terrorist threat confronting states and the impact of globalization have provided value-added to their argument, or make a counter argument.

The fluid nature of the terrorist threat confronting states and the impact of globalization have provided value-added to their argument, or make a counter argument. Today, intelligence analysis is a constantly moving target that must be constantly analyzed and adapted to fit the environment.

Required Texts:

- collect and analyze
- analyze
- synthesize
- evaluate
- present
- apply
- standards
- cognitive
- logic
- critical
- set
- tools
- skills
- analyst
- provide
- valuable
- discuss
- implications
- biases
- decision-making
- recognize
- strategies
- objectives
- measures
- methods
- application
- operations
- systems
- terrorist
- threats
- states
- global
- environment
- intelligence
- analysts
- constantly
- moving
- targets
- constantly
- analyzed
- adapted
- environment

Analytic Decomposition, Recomposition, and Synthesis

1. Understand the components of an argument
2. Understand the debate within the IC on the value (or lack thereof) by standardizing
3. Understand the difference between a linear and non-linear system
4. Understand the difference between complicated and complex

Lectures

1. Collect and analyze
2. Analyze
3. Synthesize
4. Evaluate
5. Present

Final Project

Grades will be based on your ability to organize the material, integrate relevant concepts and theories, and present them orally and in essay form in discussion threads as well as mid-term and final essays.

Expected and forms part of the grade. Final grades are composed as follows:

- Final Project: 10%
- Participation: 20%
- Mid-term Essay: 40%
- Final Essay: 30%

By checking the “Mark Reviewed” link below, you are indicating the following:

- C = 70 – 79%
- B = 80 – 89%
- A = 90 – 100%

ISSA 3302 will address issues related to intelligence analysis. ISSA will cover the nature of intelligence and how the process of the intelligence cycle delivers analysis products to its wide variety of consumer—the policy maker. The intelligence tradecraft, tools, and techniques used by the intelligence community will be taught with the specific needs of the student in mind. The course will also cover the role of the intelligence analyst in the intelligence community and the significance of national security. The course will be taught with a focus on the practical application of intelligence analysis. Students will be expected to apply their own observations as necessary when demonstrating grasp of material.

University Policies

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. University Center, Suite 112

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