

ISSA 6399 Thesis Preparation in Intelligence, Security Studies, and Analysis

Course Description

This course is a research seminar in which students will develop skills in locating, extracting, evaluating and synthesizing information acquired from their prior courses, in order to prepare a thesis proposal. Students will prepare a thesis proposal and prepare to write a publishable, article-length thesis based on independent research. Students may also be expected to supplement their research with other readings under the direction of the professor.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This capstone course allows students to consolidate the knowledge garnered from their previous courses in the Master of Science in Intelligence, Security Studies, and Analysis program. It concurrently exposes them to a variety of perspectives on Intelligence through reading assignments and discussions on topics not previously addressed in other classes.

Therefore, the goals and learning outcomes of this course are:

1. Students develop an awareness of alternative strategies for national and societal defense through analysis of security systems ubiquitous in natural world.
2. Students begin to develop an understanding of the concepts of environmental and situational awareness as these concepts pertain to Intelligence related to Homeland Security.
3. Students will demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of theory and policy associated with Intelligence, Security Studies, and Analysis through development of a thesis proposal based on applicable research. Students will be expected to read the Graduate Thesis Manual available at the Angelo State University website. So, start out reading that. You can find it at: the Angelo State University website, under Graduate Studies and then Current Student Resources:

Thesis Resources

Thesis Manual and Graduate Advisory Committee

Read the [Thesis Manual](#) to learn more about what to expect in a thesis program.

You need to file this [Thesis Student Graduate Advisory Committee Application](#) with the Graduate College to begin a thesis program.

Thesis Template Pages

These thesis templates are for the title, approval and electronic approval pages and are divided depending on the number of committee members you have.

- [Thesis cover page with notes](#)
- [Thesis cover page](#)

Thesis Procedure Pages

Use these documents to help you format your thesis correctly:

- [Thesis landscape table format](#)
- [Thesis margins with notes](#)
- [Thesis checklist](#)
- [Creating a table of contents, Word 2010](#)
- [Merging PDF files](#)
- [Margins for page number placement, Word 2010](#)

Other Forms

- [Application for Graduation](#)
- [Application for Certificate](#)
- [Change of Major](#)
- [Military Certification Form](#)
- [Student Request for Travel Funds](#)
- [Graduate Advisory Committee for non-thesis students](#)

Ok, now that you are somewhat familiar with where to find the information you need, here are some notes: you must fill out a Thesis Committee Form, which has contact information on it (yours), and a list of people that you wish to be on your committee. Usually, the same people sit on the committee (Dr. Jeff Dailey, Professor Art La Flamme, and Dr. Eddie Martinez. Any of us can Chair your committee, but keep in mind that the request has to come from you, the student, and should match up with our expertise. Dr. Martinez is a former Navy JAG officer, with intelligence experience. He has great legal experience, along with intelligence, so if your thesis topic deals with either, he can assist you. He has good experience working with graduate students on their papers. Professor La Flamme is a former Army Colonel, with several years of combat intelligence experience overseas, both tactical and strategic. Also great experience working with graduate students on their theses. My experience is more limited, and my intel experience is limited to SIGINT, at various places. Keep in mind, that another person can Chair your thesis, if you prefer. You are not limited to any of us. And, whether we can assist you depends on our work schedules.

You should begin thinking about a possible thesis topic immediately, if you have not already begun doing so. It is important that you begin a dialogue with myself, in terms of the acceptability of your topic, or one of the other ISSA professors. Some topics can be too broad, such as Intelligence in War, for example. Or, your topic can be so narrow as to limit the data you can find. It is important to select a topic which has data available, and not be so broad as to be useless. Or, the data on your topic may be classified, which would make accessing the data difficult. Make sense?

Also, you should keep in mind some pertinent dates. You must turn in a finished Thesis Proposal to the Graduate Office by early December if you plan on graduating in May of next year. For May of 2019, the due date for the proposal is not on the current Academic calendar, but in previous years it was Dec 1st. I will try and get an official date for you. Keep in mind that there is a deadline you are working against. The exact format for the Proposal is in the thesis guidelines at the ASU website. Make sure you are aware of them. If the guidelines are not followed, the Graduate Office will not accept your Proposal. And, the proposal must be approved by all members of your Thesis Committee.

Grading Policies

This course utilizes subjective grading to measure a student's comprehension of the materials.

The purpose of the major proposal is for you to demonstrate the ability to take the knowledge you have gained through all your other classes and apply it in creating the research proposal. Feel free to ask your professor for assistance, clarification, or guidance at any time.

Office Hours and/or hours of outside-of class contact

This is an online course. The professor will provide contact information and availability times for direct discussion in the Instructor Information section on Blackboard.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disability

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.