IR/HS320 - ESPIONAGE AND DIPLOMACY IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:
Intelligence and espionage are often treated as intriguing yet anecdotal parts of diplomatic history. Nevertheless, a closer look at key junctures of international relations in the 20th and 21st century exposes the central role that strategic intelligence plays in international politics. The fate of nations has often been decided on the basis of their ability to gather, understand, and act upon information about the international systems that surround them. In addition, the world of strategic intelligence provides a distinctive setting for international interaction. From the joint efforts to decipher the enigma codes during the Second World War, through the espionage competitions of the Cold War, to the current contexts of the “war on terror” and cyber-espionage, intelligence affairs have been both a key arena for international conflict and a platform for international co-operation. This course examines the role of strategic intelligence as a distinct component in the process of foreign policy making with special focus on the role of Berlin as a battleground of strategic intelligence during the Cold War. Utilizing historical and contemporary cases, the course focuses on two distinct dimensions of strategic intelligence. Its first focus is on intelligence as a source of information shaping the national leadership’s policy choices. We will explore the manner in which intelligence information and assessments influence the strategic decision-making process of leaders and nations. Second, the course investigates the political usage of intelligence as an instrument of influence in international relations. We will investigate how nations utilize covert information and intelligence capacities as active means to promote their foreign policy goals.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lectures and class discussions

ADDITIONAL COST: None

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Course participation – 10%
- Mid-term exam – 40%
- Final research paper – 40%
- Presentation of final research paper – 10%

Course Participation
This course is based on an interactive "brainstorming" format. The development of a meaningful discussion depends on students’ active participation in class and on their critical reflection on the reading materials. Each class will be structured around a separate topic, which will be addressed with the help of one or more texts posted on Moodle beforehand. Students will be expected to prepare for class by reading and reflecting upon the assigned texts and to participate in class discussions, showing that they have understood and critically evaluated the authors’ arguments. Students are expected to come prepared with personal notes on the readings. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Mid-term
The mid-term exam will focus on the first two topics of the course – the basic concepts and methods of strategic intelligence work, and the influence of intelligence on strategic decision-making.

Final Research Paper
For the final paper (2,500-3,000 words), the students will be required to examine one of the theoretical aspects of strategic
intelligence from the items examined in class and demonstrate its influence on a decision-making event that was not examined in class. The final paper is due after session 20.

**Final Presentation**
Each student will outline and present the main concept and results of their final paper in class (10 minutes) during the last two sessions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Structurally identify and analyze the role of strategic intelligence as a key aspect of global security.
- Critically reflect on the relationship between the intelligence community and political leadership, and the strategic role that intelligence plays in shaping political leaders’ mindset and decisions in crucial junctures of decision-making.
- Assess the moral challenges and dilemmas affiliated with current intelligence gathering efforts in democratic societies.
- Outline the basic concepts of strategic intelligence work – collection, analysis and supporting the political decision-making process.
- Analyze the unique role of Berlin in the diplomatic history of international espionage in both historical and contemporary contexts.
- Analyze key cases of intelligence failures and successes to predicate/recognize/evaluate key global developments.
- Understand the concepts of intelligence cooperation and competition, and examine intelligence agencies as a unique type of actors within the foreign policy community.
- Identify the role of covert intelligence operations as a means of political manipulation.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies are mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences can affect students’ grades. Students who miss 25% or more of all class sessions will fail the course. Missed exams cannot be taken at another time except in case of documented illness. Late submission of term papers and other work will result in grade reduction unless an extension due to illness or an emergency is approved. Please consult the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle for additional details.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

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<td>Introduction of basic concepts and methods of strategic intelligence work 2</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Intelligence as a policy-making resource: The complex relations between the intelligence analyst and the leader-decision maker 1</td>
<td>George, R. Z., &amp; Bruce, J. B. (Eds.) (2008). <em>Analyzing Intelligence</em>, 82-102</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>The spy who saved peace: Analysis of capabilities vs. assessment of intentions 2</td>
<td>Intelligence and National Security 14(3), 23-47.</td>
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**Session 7-8**  
The deciphering success that saved global freedom: Balancing between sources preservation and making use of intelligence information

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<th>Field Trip 1: The Signal Intelligence base at <em>Teufelsberg</em></th>
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**Session 9**  
Dangerous miscalculations 1: Able-Archer - Over-estimation leads to the brink of war

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**Session 10**  
Dangerous miscalculations 2: The Iraq Invasion - Over-estimation leads to war

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**Session 11**  
Dangerous miscalculations 3: Under-estimation leads to a fundamental surprise  
[Practical exercise: Operation Babylon]

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**Session 12**  
Dangerous miscalculations 4: Under-estimation leads to a fundamental surprise

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**Session 13**  
Intelligence Cooperation as a professional method

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**Session 14**  
Intelligence Cooperation as a diplomatic practice

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<tr>
<th>Intelligence Cooperation as a diplomatic practice</th>
<th>Shapiro, S. (2002). Intelligence services and foreign policy: German-Israeli intelligence and military co-operation. German Politics 11(1), 23-42.</th>
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**Session 15-16**  
Field Trip 2: StaSi Museum  
Espionage at the crossroads between civil liberties and national security in the age of transnational security threats

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| 17      | D&D: Deception and Denial 1  
| 21-22   | The Cyber Revolution  

**Course-related Trips:**
- The Signal Intelligence base at *Teufelsberg*
- The StaSi Museum on the former grounds of the headquarters of the GDR Ministry for State Security (MfS)
- The KGB secret prison in Potsdam

**Required Readings:**
- George, R. Z., & Bruce, J. B. (Eds.) (2008). *Analyzing Intelligence*, 82-102


**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

Additional recommended readings will be posted on Moodle

(2019/03)