OSINT – Collection and Analysis; and Structured Analytic Techniques
Spring 2014
Schedule Number: 26626
COURSE INFORMATION

Class Days: Monday
Class Times: 1600 to 1840 (lecture and lab)
Class Location: EBA-439

Professor: Cecilia Anastos
Contact Information: canastos@mail.sdsu.edu
Office Hours Days: Mondays
Office Hours Times (and by appointment): 1500 to 1600
Office Hours Location: CSL 120 Viz Center

Course Overview

Although open source information have always been accessible to law enforcement officers, the digitalization and ubiquitous presence of open source information in the cyberspace domain that took place at the beginning of the XXI Century presents new opportunities and challenges for collection of open source information for law enforcement and homeland security. Moreover, in 2005, the Intelligence Community re-discovered a series of “alternative analysis techniques” that had been successfully used in the 1980s. Now, these analytic techniques are known as Structured Analytic Techniques for Intelligence Analysis.

This course examines the history of open source information collection, techniques and ethical issues for collection of publicly available information, validation of sources, and the Structured Analytic Techniques for Intelligence Analysis applied to the collected data in order to produce an intelligence report that will satisfied the requirements for information that arise within the law enforcement and homeland security environments.

The principal objectives of this course are to develop a basic understanding of and capacity to utilize open source information (publicly available) when satisfying a request for information to produce an open source information intelligence (OSINT) report; to understand the tools and methods used by OSINT analyst; to understand ethics and laws when collecting publicly available information; and to learn structured analytic techniques to better identify indications and warnings.

- Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:
- Understand the history and importance of OSI collection
- Analyze the ethical and legal obligations of OSI collection in various intelligence related situations
- Evaluate the technical aspects of OSI collection
- Evaluate the validation and trustworthiness of OSI sources
- Explain how OSI collection can enhance law enforcement and homeland security intelligence and forensic activities
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of OSI collection
- Understand the history of structured analytic Techniques
- Understand different analytical methodologies for law enforcement and homeland security
- Synthesize and separate facts, assumptions and personal beliefs in a professional setting as it relates to duties and responsibilities related to the intelligence profession
- Apply the elements of analytical methodologies in the decision-making process for intelligence in the realm of law enforcement and homeland security
- Develop a set of OSI collected data and apply a structured analytical methodology for an issue related to law enforcement and homeland security
- Recognize the major public health programs and agencies, and public health laws.
- Learn how to develop an open source intelligence report to satisfy a request for information from a government agency.

Enrollment Information

Please include information about enrollment for the course including, but not limited to:
- Prerequisites – Interest in the subject and willingness to learn new ways to collecting intelligence without compromising our national security in the process.
- Adding/Dropping – Procedures are the same for this class as other classes. Last day to Add or Drop or Change Grading Option (class only counts for graduation as a graded class) is Feb. 4th. The University rigidly enforces this, so
Adding/Dropping is possible after two classes (Jan. 27th, Feb. 3rd) so should be very obvious what the class is about and the workload that it represents.

- Spring break is March 31st-April 4th, so no class on March 31st.
- According to Academic Calendar (on school webpage), Final exams are May 9th-15th, so for this class would be May 12th. Last class will be May 5th.
- May 20th grades due from teachers, so you will have your grade by that night.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Course Materials**

Students will receive on the first day of class a list of all required readings, which the majority of them can be found online.

**Course Structure and Conduct**

Course will be structured primarily as a lecture-discussion class with instructor leading the discussion around a questions related to the required reading material and current events in the field of cyberspace domain and open source and publicly available information.

- Style of the course will be lecture-discussion and students are expected to participate in the discussion.
- After week seven, the class will work in group activities to explore structured analytic techniques. Each group will turn separate but related deliverables.
- The knowledge gathered in this course will be useful when you go to work in the private and public sectors. During the semester, students are required to bring to class five unclassified names of interests of individuals who could affect US National Security; five unclassified problems related to national security; and five concerns related to national security.

**Course Assessment and Grading**

Course will be graded by a combination of participation in class forums, small weekly assignments; and a final OSINT project:

- Each week you will have an assignment related to the subject matter for the week. The assignment will not be longer than 3 pages. The total of these assignments compose 25% of your final grade.
- Each week you are required to actively participate in the class forums. These forums will compose 25% of the final grade.
- The final project and presentation of the results in front of class will be 50% of the grade. Final projects will provide real life experience in briefing an OSINT report.
- Excused Absence Make-up Policies: Most of the students are working adults with complex travel and daily lives. Generally, I am flexible to work with individuals who are not able to make class for valid reasons. Simply contact instructor prior to class via email to arrange a make-up class/delivery of due assignments.

**Other Course Policies**

- Do not work on external projects or communication during class. Texting and checking of social media pages is not allowed.
- Carefully clean up your space after leaving class.
- Maintain all conversations at unclassified level while discussing national security issues during class.
- As per University rules, drug usage is illegal.
- Honor your colleagues, yourself and our nation by refraining from inappropriate behavior such as drugs, cheating, heavy drinking, sexual harassment and bullying.