SSDA320: Information Operations

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Norwich University

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the overall concept of Information Warfare (IW) and Information Operations (IO), particularly with regard to the US Federal government and the Department of Defense. (6 credits)

Pre-requisites: none.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the history and evolution of IW and IO around the world.
- Demonstrate understanding of the operational use of IW and IO around the world.
- Demonstrate the ability to use research skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to write at the college level.

Required Textbooks

Textbooks required for this course are:

- **Armistead, E. (May 2004).** *Information operations: The hard reality of soft power.* **Potomac Books.** (Print ISBN: 9781574886993)
- **Armistead, E. (April 2007).** *Information warfare: Separating hype from reality***. Potomac Books.** (Print ISBN: 9781597970587)

Discussion Groups

In this course, you will be assigned to a small discussion group. Each week your group will discuss one or two questions, most of which will be graded. The quality of your posts and those of your fellow students will create a lively discussion and ensure that a high level of learning occurs.

You are expected to contribute at least three posts to each question every week. Your **first post** should be substantive (approximately 200-300 words) and it should be made by Wednesday at the latest. It should answer the question using your own experience, if appropriate, and, very importantly, it should refer to the readings of that week, using correct citations. Your **second two posts** should be responses to posts of your fellow group members. Responses such as, "Good point," or, "I agree," are not sufficient. Your response posts should be substantive - ask questions, point out additional thoughts, etc. Disagreement and critical feedback are part of an academic classroom, as is respect for the diversity of opinion.

For more information about what is expected in regard to Discussion Forum postings, please review the Weekly Discussion Rubric and Discussion Guidelines in the Grading Guidelines and Rubrics link.

Late Work

It is important that writing assignments and discussion posts be completed on time. Extensions of deadlines will be given only for serious extenuating circumstances. In the absence of such extensions, assignments may be downgraded for lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

Grades

You will be provided a weekly commentary/lecture and have required readings and discussion assignments. There will be a number of written assignments and exercises. A total of 1000 points are available in the course distributed across the components listed below, with both points and percent of final grade indicated.

As a student in this course, you have a number of responsibilities that will affect the level of learning you achieve. These responsibilities include: 1) working actively to create a challenging and useful learning experience for yourself, your discussion group and the class as a whole; 2) encouraging and supporting the learning of each member of the class; 3) preparing and participating fully in discussions as well as group and/or class activities; and 4) completing all assigned work on time or making prior arrangements if an absence of late submission is unavailable. In this course you have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you become effective, confident and focused in your learning.

The following table shows the graded assessment types contained within this course and the assigned weighting to determine the final course grade.

Graded Assessment Types	Points	Weights (%)
Weekly Discussions: 8 at 40 points each	320	32%
Research Paper Proposal	65	6.5%
Short Writing Assignment - Book Review	200	20%
Research Paper Bibliography & Detailed Outline	65	6.5%
Research Paper	350	35%

Note that your research comprises the vast majority of your grade with 35% for the paper itself, and another 13% for the preparatory phases. That is 48% in total, or nearly half of your overall grade, *so please ensure that you plan accordingly*.

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A	93–100%	4.0
A -	90-92.9%	3.7
B +	87-89.9%	3.3
B	83-86.9%	3.0
B -	80-82.9%	2.7
C +	77-79.9%	2.3
C	75-76.9%	2.0
C -	73-74.9%	1.7
D +	70-72.9%	1.3

D	67-69.9%	1.0
D-	63-66.9%	0.7
F	0-62.9%	0.0

For complete information on the Grading Policy for Bachelor Degree students, please refer to the CGCS Online Catalog (Sub-Section of Catalog on "Grades.")

Students are expected to maintain a grade point average of a minimum of 2.0 to remain in good academic standing.

All writing for this seminar must follow the APA writing style. All writing for this seminar must follow APA guidelines for formatting and citation, which can be found at The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) (opens in new window). Grading rubrics for assignments and discussions are provided from the Grading Guidelines and Rubrics link.

Academic Honesty and the Norwich University Honor Code

A student must submit work that represents the student's own original analysis and writing. Copying another's work is not appropriate. If the student relies on the research or writing of others, the student must cite those sources. Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. While students are encouraged to seek editing feedback, extensive revisions of one's work by another person is considered a lack of academic honesty, as it is representing another student's work as one's own.

For more information see:

Academic Dishonesty
Academic Integrity
Norwich University Honor Code

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Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA

Please consult Appendix H: University Policy - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for instructions on obtaining an accommodation.

Disclaimer: Please note the specifics of this Course Syllabus are subject to change. Students are responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.