

CJ 204 Open Source Intelligence Gathering **Course Syllabus**

Intelligence is more than information. It is knowledge that has been specially prepared for a customer's unique circumstances. The word knowledge highlights the need for human involvement. Intelligence collection systems produce ... data, not intelligence; only the human mind can provide that special touch that makes sense of data for different customers' requirements.

~Captain William S. Brei

Course Instructor: Nathan Ecelbarger

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*** students, please use the preferred contact method via Canvas Messaging, which gives me instant notification of your message, so I can respond more quickly.

Hours: I check my email at least 4 times a minute, 24/7. If you have any questions, email me!

Course Description

This course is an introduction to open-source intelligence (OSINT) and its use in law enforcement investigations. Students will learn about significant areas of intelligence gathering collected from publicly available sources. Open-source intelligence gathering (OSINT) provides online investigative skills for the prediction, prevention, investigation, and prosecution of criminals.

Rationale

I. Prerequisites

ENGL 098 or instructor permission.

II. Required Resource Purchases

Jensen, C. J., McElreath, D., & Graves, M. (2018). *Introduction to intelligence studies*. New York, NY: Routledge. **ISBN: 978-1-4987-3834-7.**

Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with the latest research

regarding the subject area. Everett Community College does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Additional Materials for Learning

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

III. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define the term “intelligence” and describe its historical origins and evolution of its collection, analysis, and applications.
- B. Explain how the concepts and ideas of the intelligence cycle integrate with national security, law enforcement, and the private industry.
- C. Define open-source intelligence (OSINT), its unique benefits, and the challenges facing OSINT collection.
- D. Identify specific intelligence collection methods, capabilities, and limitations, and describe how open-source intelligence collection fits into the overall intelligence process.
- E. Analyze general sources and methods associated with primary intelligence collection disciplines, including intelligence collection platforms, sources, and technologies.
- F. Evaluate the intelligence collection challenges in a post-9/11 environment and how the intelligence community has adapted to these new challenges.
- G. Describe past, present, and future technological changes that facilitate effective open-source gathering techniques and practices.
- H. Identify the processes for prioritizing and employing collection assets to support strategic, operational, and tactical intelligence analysis.

IV. Course Requirements and Assignment

- A. Textbook reading
- B. Course Rules of Engagement Quiz

C. Discussion Board

Discussion Board Initial Posts will be due on Wednesday by 11:59pm (Pacific time). The **Initial Post** should be no less than 300 words, and you are required to include two (2) scholarly references that support your position or argument, cited in APA format. Each **Response** will be no less than 150 words, and will include one (1) scholarly reference supporting your response.

A Peer Response to another student's response on your own original thread is acceptable, but must meet minimum word and citation count to be accepted.

The purpose of the discussion structure is to allow every student's post to be challenged, critiqued, or affirmed, and then for the student to be able to provide a response to that challenge, critique, or affirmation.

Unlike the formal written assignments, it is not required that the discussion question responses adhere to specific formatting requirements. However, the student should make sure to proofread carefully. Grammar and spelling errors may impact the grading. This is a required part of your grade.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Discussion Participation

Since this course is delivered online and not in a classroom, there is a high level of importance placed on student interaction and participation in the Discussion Boards. Please note that both quantity and quality are important considerations when it comes to participation. For example, a message which says simply, "I agree," does not constitute participation, because it does not add anything of substance to the discussion. In order to earn full participation points, you must add something of substance to the discussion—this would consist of new ideas, your perspectives, pointed follow-up questions, etc. supported by scholarly reference.

D. Quizzes (10)

All quizzes are open-book, open-notes, taken from the course textbook. Each quiz has a 3 hour time limit. Quizzes in this course are intended to show thorough understanding of the course material – they are **not** primarily intended to increase memorization skills! In the Criminal Justice field, research is a never-ending part of the job. Every day requires research of Policy and Procedure, State Statute, Case Law, etc. As such, quizzes are intended to test research skills as much as practical knowledge of the concepts discussed. Quizzes are **Pass/Fail**, with 3 attempts allowed. **The passing score is 90% or higher. The failing score is 89% or lower. Students who earn a passing score will receive full credit (50 points) towards their final grade. Students who earn a failing grade will receive zero credit towards their final grade (0 points).**

E. Open Source Intelligence Gathering: Project 1 -> Collection

In Week 5, students will complete a OSINT Intelligence Gathering research project, collecting information to be later analyzed as part of a target profile.

F. Open Source Intelligence Gathering: Project 2 -> Analysis

In Week 10, student will conduct analysis on the information gathered as part of the Collection project, and prepare a report that turns the information gathered into actionable intelligence.

G. Field Observation – Extra Credit

Extra Credit will be available for this course for any student who conducts a field observation and interview with a local law enforcement agency.

V. Course Grading & Policies

A. Assignment Values

Module	Assignment	Points
0	- Rules of Engagement Quiz (Extra Credit)	(10)
	- DB Forum Student Introduction Post	(10)
1	- Quiz 1	50
2	- DB Forum Initial Post	50
	- DB Forum (x2) Peer Responses	25
	- Quiz 2	50
3	- Quiz 3	50
4	- DB Forum Initial Post	50
	- DB Forum (x2) Peer Responses	25
	- Quiz 4	50
5	- Collection Project	100
	- Quiz 5	50
6	- DB Forum Initial Post	50
	- DB Forum (x2) Peer Responses	25
	- Quiz 6	50
7	- Quiz 7	50
8	- DB Forum Initial Post	50
	- DB Forum (x2) Peer Responses	25

	- Quiz 8	50
9	- Quiz 9	50
10	- Analysis Project - Quiz 10 - Field Observation (Extra Credit)	100 50 (100)
	TOTAL POINTS (Extra Credit)	1000 (120)

B. Grading Scale

Point Grade	4.0 Scale	Letter Grade	
930 – 1000	4.0	A	Final Point Grades will be rounded to the nearest 10. Extra credit points will be added to the final grade, which will not exceed 1000.
900 – 920	3.7	A -	
870 – 890	3.3	B +	
830 – 860	3.0	B	
800 – 820	3.0	B -	
770 – 790	2.3	C +	
730 – 760	2.0	C	
700 – 720	1.7	C -	
670 – 690	1.3	D +	
650 – 660	1.0	D	

Below 650	0.0	F	
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C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive a 10% grade reduction. Assignments submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Deadline Extensions

Deadline Extensions will only be given when requested prior to the assignment deadline. The majority of criminal justice students in higher education programs are already involved in a criminal justice, emergency response, or military profession. As this is an online course, it is assumed that students are battling busy and rotating work schedules on top of assignments, as are most instructors. Given that, my deadline extension policy is very flexible regarding work related conflicts that are not regularly scheduled obligations (i.e. mandatory overtime, SWAT callouts, court depositions, military orders, etc.) Please communicate about these issues when they arise so that you can be granted the appropriate extension.

E. Disability Notice

Everett Community College abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” Disabilities covered by law include but are not limited to, learning disabilities, psychological disabilities, health impairments, hearing, and sight or mobility impairments. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Center for Disability Services (located in Parks 267, right across from the bookstore) so that such accommodations may be arranged.