INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY
SPRING 2010 POLS 5270 U/G
GUIDANCE FOR TERM PAPERS

You are to write two papers for this course. Each paper must follow the Guidance for Short Papers and the Proofreading Guide that are handed out separately. The papers will be graded according to the Grading Standards, also handed out separately.

UNDERGRADUATES:

Paper One: You are to write a paper of at least seven pages of text on one discrete counterintelligence operation. This paper is due on Thursday, 2 March, at the beginning of class.

Paper Two: You are to write a paper of at least 10 pages of text on an intelligence collection program or covert action. This paper is due on Thursday, 29 April, at the beginning of class.

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

You are to write one paper of a minimum length of 20 pages, not including title page, endnotes, bibliography, maps, photos or other inserts. You may choose any topic from either of the undergraduate papers.

FOR ALL

An intelligence collection operation may deal with human spies, technical devices, or other methodologies (including operations/programs employing such “devices” as submarines and aircraft), so long as the program objective is the collection of intelligence.

A covert action program must discuss the political objectives to be achieved, the audience to be influenced, and in conclusion address both the short term and long term consequences.

You must use at least five academically credible sources for Paper One and ten academically credible sources for Paper Two. “Academically credible” sources are books or articles from peer-reviewed academic or professional journals.

You may supplement those primary sources with articles from newspapers and news magazines. Internet sites may be used provided they are “professional” sites (eg: the CIA site; Global Security; Federal of American Scientists; National Security Archives; presidential libraries) or are the location of an appropriate journal article (eg: articles from Foreign Affairs
journal can be located on the website of the Council of Foreign Relations). Otherwise, Internet sites are to be avoided.

Lane Library does not, unfortunately, offer a large collection of books or other materials on intelligence in general, much less accounts of specific operations. Therefore, you must: (a) identify your topics in a timely manner and (b) obtain or access acceptable books or articles from elsewhere – including inter-library loan, purchased used books from Amazon.com, or local county libraries – in time to research the topic sufficiently.

The above notwithstanding, DO NOT use the Internet as a primary source or as your only location of sources.

All papers must discuss the reason(s) or objectives why operation or program was conducted; its national security objectives; how it was conducted (i.e., walk through the details of the operation/program and the operational methodologies utilized, from the initial decision to undertake it until its conclusion); whether the program/operation was seen as a success or otherwise at that time; and whether the light of history has changed that assessment. Conclude the papers by evaluating whether the operation/program achieved the intended objectives and give some thought to the impact of the operation/program (i.e., changed world history, had no effect, or something in between).

A paper on a discrete single operation will, obviously, have more specific detail than a paper on a larger umbrella program (under which any number of individual, discrete, operations will be conducted). A discussion of a covert action program will require a discussion of the political objectives to be obtained and cover the decisions of senior policy makers, including those of the president.

You may NOT use any of the following as a topic: Chile covert action from 1968 to 1973; Bay of Pigs; the overthrow of the Guatemalan government in 1954; the Cuban Missile crisis; the Penkovsky case; the overthrow of the Iranian government in 1953, or any case that we talk about in detail in class.

This is an upper division class. Students attending this class should, by this time, have experience in researching topics and utilizing the resources of the library. You have been given a reading list as a place to begin, both for topic identification and primary sources. Therefore, I will not be giving suggestions for topics or ideas on where to find sources. Your choices are literally in the thousands.