

Al-Qaida and Intelligence Analysis Spring 2012

Tuesday & Friday 8:30-9:50
Vestergade 10-B14

Instructor: Søren Hove, Ph.D.

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Søren Hove is a research fellow at the section for Middle East and Terrorism studies, at Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen.

PhD in Middle East Studies (University of Southern Denmark). Project Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies for the research unit on The Middle East. Søren has expertise in the opposition in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa – specifically in terrorism and Islamist militancy in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Somalia.

Co-Instructor: Nis L. Mathiesen, MA

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Nis Mathiesen

Cand.Mag. (MA) in Rhetoric (University of Copenhagen, 2006), MA in Intelligence and International Security (King's College London, 2005). Nis is working as a Chief Analyst with the private intelligence company Risk Intelligence, specialising in maritime security. Have been teaching courses at DIS since 2007.

DIS Contacts

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Content

This course has two central components:

1. It analyses al-Qaida's ideology and modus operandi
2. It shows - through a hands-on approach - how intelligence analysis works.

Students will be reading primary al-Qaida sources and analyze what kind of organization al-Qaida is. What is the history of al-Qaida? Does al-Qaida today have a leadership? How does al-Qaida's ideology evolve over time and why has Europe and especially Denmark come to the attention of the organization?

On the other hand, the course will also offer a broad introduction to the methodology of intelligence analysis. Through workshops we will apply basic intelligence analysis to both fictive and real al-Qaida source material.

Objectives

By the end of the semester, all students will:

- understand the ideology and modus operandi of al-Qaida and its affiliated organizations
- understand different theories of how al-Qaida and militant Islamist mobilize, evolve and communicate
- know different approaches to analyzing sources and work with intelligence

Field Studies: February 22 (13.00-17.00) and April 25 (8:30-12:30)

- Danish Defense Intelligence Service
- Open source intelligence workshop

Assignments and evaluation:

Students will be evaluated as follows:

- Work shop 1, written in groups (1 page pr. Person): 30%
- Work shop 2, written in groups (2 pages pr. Person) 50%
- Participation (including group presentations): 20%

Attendance

You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor's note.

Academic Honesty

DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of "F" and can result in dismissal. The students' home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the *Academic Handbook* for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Disability and Resource Statement

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Sean Green (sgr@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Schedule

Session 1: January 27

Introduction – Intelligence, spies and al-Qaida (Nis + Søren)

- Housekeeping and logistics
- Readings: Burke 2011, Ramakrishna 2011, Tawill 2011

Part 1 – Basic Intelligence

Session 2: January 31

What is intelligence? (Nis)

- The history of modern Intelligence organizations
- Intelligence cycle
- Readings: Herman 1996

Session 3: February 3

Reading intelligence? (Nis)

- Reading, understanding and writing intelligence
- Readings: Major 2008 pp. 3-23
- http://cnettv.cnet.com/syria-covert-nuclear-reactor/9742-1_53-50032502.html
- NIE example

(No class February 7 and 10)

Session 4: February 14

OSINT (Nis)

Open source

- Readings: Bowen 2009
- *Election of class reps*

Session 5: February 17

OSINT tools (Nis)

Open source

- Readings: <http://rr.reuser.biz/>

Session 6: February 21

Basic Analysis (Søren)

Introduction to source criticism

- Readings: Howell & Prevenier 2001

Session 7: February 22

FIELDSTUDY (Nis & Søren)

Basic Intelligence Works Shop - Production of briefing

- Readings: Briefing Example

Part 2—Al-Qaida – reading and understanding the organization

History and evolution of al-Qaida

Session 8: February 24

What or who are al-Qaida? - the history of al-Qaida from the 1980's to 2001 (Søren)

- Readings: Gerges 2005, Mandaville 2007

Session 9: February 28

Al-Qaida's ideology 1 - The Near Enemy (Søren)

- Readings: Gerges 2005, Mandaville 2007, Hegghammer 2008, Abdallah Azzam 1984,

Session 10: March 2

Al-Qaida's ideology 2 - The far enemy (Søren)

- Readings: Kepel 2004, Osama bin Ladin 1994+1996+1998

(No class March 6 and 9)

Session 11: March 13

Does al-Qaida have a leadership? – “AQ-central vs. leaderless jihad”? (Søren)

- Readings: The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission) 2004, Sageman & Hoffman 2008, Hoffman 2011.

Session 12: March 16

Al-Qaida and its affiliates – al-Qaida amongst guerillas and foreign fighters (Søren)

- Readings: Hegghammer 2011 (*located on Blackboard*), Kilcullen 2009. Shabaab 2008+2010.

Session 13: March 20

Al-Qaida and its affiliates – different levels of commitment (Søren)

- Readings: AQAP 2009, Shabaab 2008+2010.

Session 14: March 23

Al-Qaida’s communication – from fax to web 2.0 (Søren)

- Readings: Katz 2007 (*located on Blackboard*)

- Primary source examples from early 1990’s to 2011 (will be posted later on black board)

Session 15: March 27

Al-Qaida and the Cartoon crisis (Søren)

- Readings: Jyllandsposten 2008, Osama bin Ladin 2008,

- AQ-propaganda from 2008 (will be posted later on black board)

Session 16: March 30

European outreach and lone wolf attacks (Søren)

- Readings: AQAP 2010, Crone & Harrow 2010 (*located on Blackboard*), Shabaab 2010.

Session 17: April 17

Al-Qaida and the revolutions in the Middle East (Søren)

- Readings: Riedel 2011, Telhami 2011, Byman 2011, CNN 2011.

Part 3 – Advanced Intelligence

Session 18: April 20

Intelligence sources (Søren)

Introduction to types of intelligence sources

- Readings: Herman 1996

Session 19: April 24

Workshop 2 (Søren)

Introduction – Timeline

- Readings: Source compendium for workshop 2 (will be handed out separately)

Fieldstudy: April 25

Briefing at Danish Defense Intelligence Service (Søren & Nis)

Session 20: April 27

Workshop 2 (Søren & Nis)

Introduction – Competing Hypotheses

- Readings: Source compendium for workshop 2 (will be handed out separately)

Session 21: May 1

Workshop 2 –Link-chart (Søren)

- Readings: Source compendium for workshop 2 (will be handed out separately)

May 3 Deadline for Workshop 2 briefing!!!

Session 22: May 8
Workshop 2 – evaluation (Søren)

Session 23: May 11

Closing remarks (Søren + Nis)

- Summing up, questions about final paper, evaluation etc.