

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Department of History History 600/755: A Pro-Seminar

Spring 2005

Mr. McCoy

### CIA Covert Warfare & US Foreign Policy

#### I. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:-

**Course Description:** Designed for undergraduate and graduate students with some background in US Diplomatic History and Third World politics, the course will probe the dynamics of CIA covert wars through comparative case histories during the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The seminar will approach the study of modern US diplomatic history by focusing on the covert wars that have often left something akin to black holes of regional and global instability. After several sessions reviewing the origins of the CIA and its patterns of its covert warfare, the seminar will apply a case-study approach to covert wars in Asia, Africa, and Latin America--including, the anti-Mossadeq coup in Iran, Sukarno's overthrow in Indonesia, the Congo operation, and the more recent Afghan covert wars.

**Qualifications:** This is a pro-seminar, a class for graduate and undergraduate students, with selective undergraduate admission based on past academic performance. Interested undergraduates should send a short email explaining their interest in the course, possible paper topics, and academic preparation.

**Class Meetings:** The seminar is scheduled to meet on Tuesdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Humanities Building.

**Office Hours:** In Room 5131 Humanities, Thursdays 4:00-6:00 p.m., and other hours by appointment. Telephone: 263-1855 (direct line); 263-1800 (History Department, message). Messages also may be left in Mailbox No. 5026 or sent direct via email to <awmccoy@facstaff.wisc.edu>

**Grading:** In addition to participating in each class, students shall be marked upon their participation in discussions and their weekly writing exercises.

**Class Presentation:** Every class meeting shall begin with each student presenting a brief, two-minute commentary on several of the assigned readings--one, if possible, broadly thematic and another focused on a particular covert operation. Alternatively, students can read two or more sources to compare two covert operations. Then, one student shall offer a 15 minute discussion of most of the readings for the week. It is anticipated that each student will all serve as discussant once during the semester, responding to the major presentation and trying to define the key questions for discussion.

*Weekly Discussion Summaries:* During the first three weeks of the class, all students shall deliver to my mailbox--by Monday at 10:00 a.m.--a two-page synopsis of two of the week's readings, summarizing general and specific readings or two comparative cases.

*Final Paper:* Drawing upon both primary and secondary sources, students shall write a 15-page analytic essay on a single CIA covert war or clandestine operation. For primary sources, depending on the case, students will need to consult Foreign Relations of the United States, US Congressional hearings, and commercial compendia of official documents by organizations such as the National Security Archive (both bound and web-based).

Around week ten, students shall place a one-page outline of their proposed project in my Humanities Building mail box. During that same week, students shall meet individually with me to discuss their proposed papers. In week twelve, students shall submit a 15-page essay with a detailed case study, drawn from both secondary and primary sources, of a single covert operation, assessing both its short-term gains and long-term impact.