Preliminary Syllabus for The Espionage Novel

Note: Film clips based on some of these texts will be shown.

Week 1
Espionage as history: The Dreyfus Affair. No assignment.

Week 2
Reading: The first six chapters of The Secret Agent by Joseph Conrad. If you can finish the book, great; if not, these chapters will provide you with a lot of food for thought. This is the novel that has had the greatest influence on writers of espionage fiction.

Week 3
Espionage before and after World War I
Reading: Excerpts from The Book of Spies (selections from Ashenden, by W. Somerset Maugham; Baroness Orczy’s The Scarlet Pimpernel; and others.)

Week 4
The 1930’s and the eve of World War II
Reading: A Coffin for Demetrios by Eric Ambler

Week 5
The Cold War and Its Children Part I
The Quiet American, by Graham Greene.

Week 6
Excerpts from The Tears of Autumn by Charles McCarry, from The Book of Spies; and The Things They Carry with Them by Tim O’Brien.

Week 7
The Cold War and Its Children, Part II
John Le Carre
Reading: *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. Read as much as you can. This is the book that made Le Carre famous, and for good reason.

**Week 8**
The Cold War and Its Children, Part III
Espionage as romantic adventure
Reading: *From Russia with Love*, by Ian Fleming.

**Week 9**
The Past is Always with Us
Reading: *The World at Night*, by Alan Furst.

**Week 10**
What Goes Around Comes Around. Topic—Kim Philby and his friends; Aldrich Ames and the CIA, and more. No assignment.