

The Agency – The History of the CIA, Part 1

Published by the Great Courses, this course begins with a brief review of the history of American intelligence prior to the CIA's creation in 1947 including the creation and work of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the CIA's predecessor, during World War II. We'll follow the development of the CIA from a small collection of OSS experienced operators to being a key instrument of US foreign policy. Along the way we'll examine its exploits both bad and good, and how it has positioned us in the World. The class is based on pre-recorded lectures by Hugh Wilford, PHD, Professor of History at California State University in Long Beach. I will augment the lectures with added information and context. The class will be broken into 2 parts with Part 1 in the Fall following the CIA through the Cuban Missile Crises. Part 2 will be in the Spring and take us up through present day.