

Emily Cope
English 102: Inquiry into Espionage

The recent boom of movies and television shows based on the lives of spies (*The Bourne Identity*, *Breach*, and *Alias*, just to name a few) shows just how interesting and sexy Americans find espionage, probably because of how little we actually know about it. In this course, we'll explore the way popular culture represents espionage and how Americans perceive the CIA by watching movies, reading novels, and listening to radio broadcasts about spying. Then, we'll take a look at the history of the CIA through recently declassified documents and with the help of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner *Ghost Wars*. Finally, we'll get involved in ongoing ethical and political debates over American espionage policy. Writing (both formal papers and journals/blogs) will be the primary way we think through these topics. In the end, you should leave this class with a better understanding of espionage and useful research and writing skills to take to your future inquiries.