

**USNA, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT, COURSE  
DESCRIPTIONS,  
AY2022 FALL (FALL 2021)**

**FP130 U.S. Government and Constitutional Development.** Core course taken by all midshipmen during their Fourth Class year. Basic concepts of American democracy, the Constitution, political process, structure and functions of national government and factors influencing its operation; emphasis on legal and ethical demands placed on government officials, both civilian and military, as defined by the Constitution and statute. *(Staff)*

**FP210 Intro to International Relations.** Approaches to analysis of international relations; nature and evolution of international political systems; foreign policy decision making; roles of non-state actors; diplomacy and war; economic development; and international institutions. *(Mattox, Nutt, Laverde)*

**FP220 Political Science Methods.** Discussion of the philosophy of science for the political scientist; instruction in research methods with emphasis on scientific method and quantitative techniques. *(Kellermann, Richardson)*

**FP230 Intro to Comparative Politics.** Study of the origins of the modern state and the emergence of democracies and dictatorships. Investigates economic and cultural causes and consequences of democracy. Explores different regime types, institutional design, government performance, and survival. Introduces key theories and debates about political phenomena. *(Kellermann, Polga-Hecimovich, Miller)*

**FP311 Ethics and International Relations.** The course will focus on dominant theories of International Relations and will use historical and fictional case studies to explore the ethical dilemmas that arise in relations between states. *(Wrage)*

**FP326 American Presidency.** An examination of the presidential selection process and of the nature of presidential power in both the domestic and international spheres, with a focus on the ways in which they are both enhanced and constrained by other actors in the political system, including Congress, the judicial branch, the bureaucracy, the media, and the public. *(Doherty)*

**FP328 Legislative Process.** Decision making in the U.S. Congress; constituencies and elections, role of party and committees, and interaction with executive and judicial branches, bureaucracy, interest groups and other actors. *(Alfriend)*

**FP345 Environmental Politics and Security.**

Examines major environmental problems currently influencing U.S. domestic and security policies. Explores major theories and public policy controversies related to global warming, pollution, land, air, water degradation and scarcity, and biodiversity. Discusses enduring and novel ethical issues. Special emphasis placed on DoD environmental programs. *(Ernst)*

**FP356 War and Conflict in the International System.**

This course looks in depth at theoretical explanations of the causes and consequences of conflict in the International System, especially since the end of the Cold War as well as opportunities for peace and cooperation. *(Nutt)*

**FP360 U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East.**

This course examines the causes and consequences of US Middle East policy. It explains the evolution of US interests in the region, and explores the shifting alliances linked with US power projection in the Middle East. Throughout the course, we will look at the strategic value of the Middle East, conflict and cooperation with and among regimes in the region, and the role that factors such as natural resources, democracy, economic development, weapons, and terrorism play in shaping US Middle East policy. *(Wheeler)*

**FP371 International Politics in Asia.**

Offers a comprehensive review of international relations in Asia with a focus on East Asia. Considers the history, political economy, regional dynamics, major flashpoints, and great-power politics in the region. *(Deng)*

**FP393 Civil Wars and Armed Conflict.**

This course will embark on an effort to rigorously assess the causes, dynamics, and outcomes of civil wars and internal armed conflict. In the modern era, there have been over 200 intra-state conflicts. The intensity of violence, their seeming preventability, and the investment of significant resources by major powers make the study of civil wars relevant to future military officers. *(Testerman)*

**FP408 International Law.**

Survey of public law of nations including jurisdiction, citizenship, nationality, human rights, and treaty law. This course places special emphasis on the law of the sea, the law of war, and the legal issues involving the use of force by states. *(Todd)*

**FP421 National Security Policy.**

Examination of interaction of domestic and foreign political and military considerations in the formulation and execution of national security policy; use of case studies and review of current strategic policies. *(Laverde)*

**FP430 Political Philosophy.**

Study of Western political philosophy, with emphasis on roots of democracy and the meaning of justice; explores relationship between individual and society, as well as the sources of a state's power and authority; examines works of major thinkers from Plato to the present. *(Childress)*

**FP485A Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality in the U.S.**

This course focuses on how attributions of race, gender, and sexuality difference shape American political institutions and behavior. A study of these identities and their effects on a wide variety of outcomes, including public opinion, political representation, party politics, and public policy. *(Harbin)*

**FP485B Political Psychology of the Internet.**

Online news and social media has become some of the most important driving factors in 21st century politics. This course explores how political psychology theories of cognition, personality, and decision-making can explain extremism, intolerance, and misinformation online - as well as providing ways for us to make positive changes in how we consume the internet. *(Smith)*

**FP485C The Rise and Fall of Syria.**

A special course on Syria offered by the USNA Class of 1955 Distinguished Chair in Middle East Studies. *(Jouejati)*

**FP485D Issues in Baltic Sea Maritime Security.**

The Baltic Sea is at once an often overlooked marginal sea as well as a crucial theatre in what constitutes contemporary Northern European and transatlantic security. The seminar will explore maritime and geopolitical issues broadly spanning from the mid-1980s to today. A special course offered by the McCain Fulbright Scholar in Residence. *(Bruns)*

**FP485E Homeland Security: Strategy and Policy.**

An overview of homeland security. Analyzes US unconventional threats and vulnerabilities as well as organizational strategies and policies to counter them. Focus on intelligence reform, infrastructure protection, interagency coordination, and law. *(Ostwind)*

**FP485F Modern Military Strategy.**

This course examines cyberspace operations and other elements of national security, notably conventional warfare and nuclear deterrence in the context of superpower competition. Topics include integrated operations, strategic warfare, stability, deterrence, escalation, and norms. *(Libicki)*

**By Invitation Courses:**

**FP505: Honors Senior Seminar.**

An advanced research seminar to carry out the research to culminate in a senior honors thesis. *(Wheeler)*  
*(Prereqs: FPSH major, FP500, 1/C honors students only.)*

