



CAPSTONES FOR SPRING 2013

FP471A, Public Policy Study. Consideration of public policy includes formulation, explanation and evaluation of policy alternatives. Students will select policy topics (either domestic or international) and prepare a systematic overview of one of the following components of policy study (1) the scope or the technical components, (2) the process or the stakeholders, (3) the structure or the political, economic and socio-cultural factors. (Malone)

FP471B, China's Rise & U.S. – China Relations. China's rise represents presumably the most important geo-strategic issue for the 21st century. In many ways, it has become a "peer competitor" to the United States at the bilateral, regional, and global levels. This capstone seminar explores the realities and implications of China's growing power with a focus on the economic, political, and military/security challenges for the U.S. (Deng)

FP471C, The Arab Spring. The uprisings that swept the Arab world during the last two years have generated a wealth of new data and issues in the politics of the Middle East. Our objective is to understand these developments by conducting in-depth research on a variety of issues. Topics include transitions from authoritarianism, social mobilization and movements, the role of the media, rise of Islamist politics and actors, the role of youth, impact on regional and global issues, US foreign policy prior, during and after the Uprisings. (Sinanovic)

FP471D, Editorial Cartoons: Communicating with a Few Strokes. The nostrum that "a picture is worth a thousand words" becomes significant in the political realm as images help define abstract political concepts, summarize characteristics of electoral candidates, and affect the public policy conversation. Using standard social science methods, students will use visual images (and their context) as raw material to test hypotheses using content analysis, polling and/or focus groups to test significant hypotheses. Topics for research will come from the 2012 presidential campaign and/or coverage of key domestic and international conflicts.(Frantzich)

FP471E, The Politics of Transition. The conceptual objective of the capstone is to analyze the rapid pace of political and social transition from one paradigm to another (from authoritarian rule to liberal democracy, for example), through adaptation of new values, rules of conduct, institutions and reorientation of international objectives. The sovereign depth crisis in Europe. The economic crisis in the United States and the socio-economic transformation known as the Arab spring are just a few examples of the most recent transitional politics. (Rachwald)