



CAPSTONES FOR SPRING 2014

FP471A, Comparing Legislatures. In democratic societies, legislatures transform election results into public policies. This capstone seminar will consider how elections, political parties, and institutional structures affect the behavior of legislators, and how those behaviors shape policy outcomes in different countries. Students can use qualitative or quantitative methods to test hypotheses about legislative behavior and outcomes. (Kellermann)

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, Nuclear Weapons and National Security in the 21st Century. While some analysts proclaim the irrelevance of nuclear weapons in the post-Cold war era, national leaders, however, are forced to confront the game-changing nature of nuclear weapons and their awesome destructive power, thus, nuclear weapons still play a role in the national security of all major powers. Capstone students will also be encouraged to enter the U.S. Strategic Command, General Larry D. Welch Deterrence Writing Award Contest. (Curtis)

FP471D, The American Citizen: Participation and Representation: This capstone will examine the institutional and behavioral factors that influence rates of diverse forms of participation in the political process. Topics will include voting, mobilization, volunteering, collective action, social capital, and protest as well as the decision to run for office. Students will develop an original research project analyzing some form of data. Survey and experimental methods will be introduced. (Davenport)

FP471E, 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)