



POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONES FALL 2015 (AY16)

FP471A, Alliance/Coalition Formation, Operations and Challenges. The capstone seminar will discuss international alliances, particularly the Transatlantic Alliance NATO and its major challenges, i.e. Ukraine, ME, Afghanistan, Piracy off the coast of Somalia, and new strategies (i.e. cyber threats) as well as other US international alliances and major partnerships. Capstone papers may include alliances/partnerships/coalitions with a wide range of countries -- Japan, ANZUS, the Rio Treaty, Israel and others. (Mattox)

FP471B, China's Rise & U.S. – China Relations. China's great-power ascent represents presumably the most important geo-strategic issue for the 21st century and the central factor in the U.S. strategic pivot to Asia. In many ways, it has already 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 United States. (Deng)

FP471C, Visualization and Politics. A social science analysis of the use and impact of visual images (photos and editorial cartoons) in the political process. Students will develop image literacy and apply it using polling, focus groups and/or content analysis techniques. (Frantzych)

FP471D, Ethnic Politics and Conflict in Developing Countries. This course examines how identity groups – such as ethnic groups or tribes – influence politics in developing countries. We will examine what “ethnicity” and “tribalism” are, and why they matter in politics and mobilization for violent conflict in Sub-Saharan African countries as well as Afghanistan, India, Iraq and others. We will read some of the “classics” works and cutting edge research on this topic, with the aim of preparing midshipmen to conduct their own research projects. (Lewis)

FP471E, Natural Security: “How Natural Resources Shape Power in the 21st Century” It will examine how resources, like food, water, energy, precious metals, oil, etc. shape power and international relations, now and in the future. Specific themes include food security, global population growth, the rise of the new middle classes in China and India, the future of resource rich Africa, climate change, alternative energy, and other forces reshaping global relations in an era of impending resource scarcity. (Wheeler)