



## POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONE COURSES FALL 2011

**FP471A, Security Challenges in the Western Hemisphere.** Focuses on the security challenges facing the United States within the Western hemisphere. Students will be required to analyze a particular challenge and to develop a creative and comprehensive policy response. Potential paper topics include transnational criminal networks, insurgent groups, the growing influence of external actors (e.g., Russia and China), and the spread of anti-U.S. populism in Latin America. (Chavez)

**FP471B: China's Rise & U.S. – China Relationship.** 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 Priorities of the Modern American Presidency.** Modern American presidents are, in the words of Richard Neustadt, expected "to do something about everything." As time is perhaps the president's scarcest resource, a successful president must effectively prioritize goals. Our focus will be objective empirical analysis to evaluate the priorities of the people who hold the presidency – what they aim to do, whether they succeed, and why. (Doherty)

**FP471D, Editorial Cartoons: Communicating with a Few Strokes.** Editorial cartoons are a potent form of political communication that have made and broken political careers and causes. Cartoons have their own logic, vocabulary and grammar whose understanding is useful to the citizen and political activist alike. This course will interact with cartoonists, and create an interactive cartoon literacy web site. (Frantzich)

**FP471E, Quantitative Research in Political Science.** Builds on the empirical methods covered in the Methods Sequence, with a focus on advanced methods for causal inference in political science and hierarchical/Bayesian approaches to data analysis. In consultation with the instructor, students will be able to choose their own research topic to investigate using appropriate tools from their methodological toolbox. (Kellermann)

**FP471F: Politics of Poverty:** More than a billion people in the world live on less than \$1 a day. This capstone examines the politics of poverty. It attempts to answer the following questions: What is poverty? Who is poor? Why does poverty persist in spite of globalization and economic liberalization? Does good governance promote poverty reduction? What can be done, and by whom to reduce poverty? Will information technologies help the poor to reach a more equitable existence? Students in this Capstone will explore these issues in light of current theories and cases of poverty reduction world wide. (Wheeler)

**FP471G, Statecraft and Nuclear Weapons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** Nuclear weapons have the power to change forever the world as we know it-or even to end it. Therefore, statecraft is essential as the proliferation of nuclear weapons occur among regional states in this the second decade of the twenty-first century. (Curtis)

**FP471H, Transatlantic Relations and European Security under Challenge?** Addresses major issues in transatlantic relations focusing on the stated priorities of the alliance – terrorism/weapons of mass destruction/failing states – as well as Iraq and Afghanistan. Topics will range from Iraq to NATO enlargement to views of individual allied members toward relations with the U.S. or the development of European Security and Defense Policy to be pursued outside the NATO alliance. (Mattox)