



## POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONES SPRING 2017

Each of the seven full-size capstones (FP471A through G) is capped at 10 students. One capstone (FP471H) is capped at 4 students; enrollment in FP471H is by instructor permission. 66 students still require capstones, so pre-register early to get your preference – and have an alternate choice ready in case your first choice capstone is already full.

**FP471A – Group Politics and Social Movements in the U.S.** This capstone examines the dynamics of historic and contemporary group politics in the United States. We will explore political advocacy and social movements formed around a variety of identities, issues, and beliefs. Examples may include populism, progressivism, prohibition, suffrage, civil rights, states’ rights, war opposition, family values, marriage equality, environmentalism, Occupy Wall Street, and the Tea Party, among others. Students will conduct an empirical analysis to evaluate the emergence, strategy, advocacy, effects, and dissolution (if applicable) of a group interest of social movement in American politics. (Davenport)

**FP471B – U.S. Strategic Rebalance in Asia-Pacific.** Since the announcement of “pivot to Asia” in 2011, the United States has undertaken a strategic shift of rebalancing in the Asia-Pacific. The strategy has entailed a reinvigorated, multifaceted U.S. engagement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the alliance network, maritime disputes, major power relations, and regional flashpoints in the region. The seminar examines the continuities and changes in the new U.S. policy, investigates its key components, and evaluates progress towards the strategic goals. (Deng)

**FP471C – Politics in the Digital Age: Does the Internet Change Everything?** This seminar will examine the effects of the Internet and social media on politics and

society. The digital age is characterized by political transformation like the Arab Spring Uprisings, Wikileaks, and the Occupy movement. Some of the questions we will consider are: Will authoritarian governments collapse in the face of social media armed publics? What will our global future look like as the "Internet of things" wires our lives? Does the Internet promote global civil society, freedom and integration; or divide us into information rich and information poor? Our ultimate goal is to tackle Bill Gates' famous argument that the Internet changes everything. (Wheeler)

**FP471D – Public Policy Study.** The focus of this writing and research seminar is public policy defined as “who gets what” in politics and “why” and “what difference it makes.” Using any one of Thomas Dye’s 8 public policy models, this capstone research seminar permits investigation of the development, implementation and evaluation of policy alternatives. Students will identify domestic policy topics and prepare a systematic analysis of the following components of policy study (1) the political costs and benefits, (2) the perspective of various stakeholders and, (3) the economic and socio-cultural factors which influence decision making. If approved, research can cover a range of issues, for example immigration policy, environmental policy, health care policy and education. (Malone)

**FP471E – 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 “classic” works and cutting edge research on this topic, with the aim of preparing midshipmen to conduct their own research projects. (Lewis)

**FP471F – The Sources of International Conflict.** This capstone examines how and why conflict arises between countries. Each student will develop an independent research project to evaluate a theoretical explanation of conflict origins. While centered on international relations, there is ample opportunity for students with interests in other concentrations to examine the origins of conflict from the perspective of comparative or American politics. (Ling)

**FP471G – Grand Strategy.** This seminar explores the central question posed by grand strategists: how can a country marshal all its resources – its geography, its natural resources, its people, its culture, its traditions, its industrial capacities and its military capabilities – to maximize its power? The seminar will explore both ancient empires, like Greece and Rome, and modern ones, like Russia and China, as it creates a perspective on American grand strategy. (Wrage)

**FP471H – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.** Liberty versus authority is an enduring theme in American constitutionalism and life. How do we balance minority rights versus majority will. This capstone is a significant research project into the application of the concepts of equality, due process, freedom and liberty. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor; 4 student maximum. (Zotti)