



POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONE COURSES SPRING 2012

FP471A, Global Issues and National Security Threats. The capstone will deepen midshipmen understanding of U.S. security policy, involving domestic/international actors, processes and institutions and, in particular, the use of hard and soft power. Topics include political, military, economic, non-state actors and legal implications of national security and global issues. (Class of 1960 Distinguished National Security Chair Ambassador Dobriansky)

FP471B, Radicalization and De-radicalization of Terrorists. The capstone focuses on the process of “resocialization” that an individual goes through before deciding to join a terrorists group and successful methods of de-programming a terrorists once s/he leaves a terrorist group. Midshipmen will choose a terrorist to research for a capstone paper once they are familiar with the relevant past research. (Purkitt)

FP471C, Maritime Security Challenges in the 21st Century. This capstone will study maritime irregular challenges, specifically the rise of non-state actors (NSAs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as political causes and challenges in the global maritime commons. Prerequisite: FP407 or by permission from the instructor. (Berube)

FP471D, 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 know as the Arab spring are just few examples of the most recent transitional politics. (Rachwald)

FP471E, 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)