



POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL 2017 (AY18)

Required Courses

FP130 – U.S. Government and Constitutional Development. Core course taken by all midshipmen during their Fourth Class year. Basic concepts of American democracy, the Constitution, political process, structure and functions of national government and factors influencing its operation; emphasis on legal and ethical demands placed on government officials, both civilian and military, as defined by the Constitution and statute.

FP210 – Introduction to International Relations. Approaches to analysis of international relations; nature and evolution of international political systems; foreign policy decision making; roles of non-state actors; diplomacy and war; economic development; and international institutions.

FP220 – Political Science Methods. Discussion of the philosophy of science for the political scientist; instruction in research methods with emphasis on scientific method and quantitative techniques.

FP230 – Introduction to Comparative Politics. Study of the origins of the modern state and the emergence of democracies and dictatorships. Investigates economic and cultural causes and consequences of democracy. Explores different regime types, institutional design, government performance, and survival. Introduces key theories and debates about political phenomena.

American Politics

FP326 – American Presidency. An examination of the presidential selection process and of the nature of presidential power in both the domestic and international spheres, with a focus on the ways in which they are both enhanced and constrained by other actors in the political system, including Congress, the judicial branch, the bureaucracy, the media, and the public.

FP328 – Legislative Process. Decision making in the U.S. Congress; constituencies and elections, role of party and committees, and interaction with executive and judicial branches, bureaucracy, interest groups and other actors.

FP413 – Constitutional Law: Federal System. Analysis of key Supreme Court decisions interpreting the power of judiciary, executive and Congress under the Constitution; nation-state relations; the commerce power; economic liberties.

FP430 – Political Philosophy. Addressing the development of political philosophy, this course will examine intellectual heritage of Western thinkers from ancient Greece to the present.

FP485A – Energy Analysis, Policy, and Security. This interdisciplinary course focuses on energy analysis, policy, and security. The course is divided into four major sections: (1) Overview and Introduction, (2) Fossil Fuels, (3) Nuclear Power, and (4) Renewable Energy. The class includes specific topics such as: underlying energy science, best estimates of energy supplies and current usage profiles, energy policy trends, current and developing energy technologies, the economics of energy development and usage, and the competing interests and worldviews that drive the energy policy debates. Consists of large interdisciplinary lectures (conducted by Professors from Political Science, Economic, Oceanography and Engineering) and small discussion sections lead by a political science professor. No preexisting knowledge or expertise is required.

FP485B – U.S. Elections and Voting Behavior. U.S. elections from 19th century corrupt party machines to today's high-tech data-driven campaigns. Topics include voter turnout, voter mobilization and persuasion, election laws, campaign finance, voter disenfranchisement, party membership, public opinion, media, and campaign strategy, often featuring guest speakers.

FP485C – Homeland Security: Strategy and Policy. An overview of homeland security. Analyzes US unconventional threats and vulnerabilities as well as organizational strategies and policies to counter them. Focus on intelligence reform, infrastructure protection, interagency coordination, and law.

Comparative Politics

FP322 – Comparative European Politics. Study of foreign and domestic policy issues and processes of major European political systems as well as NATO, the European Union, and the U.S.-European relationship.

FP323 – Comparative Latin American Politics. Social, economic and political environments; regimes and government institutions and interest groups, political parties, students, church and armed forces; theories of Latin American political behavior with country case studies.

FP366 – Politics in Africa. Why have many countries in Africa been so much poorer and less stable than much of the rest of the world? What do politics have to do with it? What, if anything, should the U.S. and other states do about it? This course examines contemporary politics in Africa with an emphasis on issues of international intervention in African states.

FP367 – Politics of Russia. The development and disintegration of the contemporary Russian political system.

FP369 – Middle Eastern Politics. Comparative analysis of domestic politics, political economy, the role of religion, foreign policies, and elements of international relations of Middle Eastern political systems; theoretical emphasis on ethnic conflict, conflict resolution and democratic development.

FP462 – Special Topics in Iranian Studies. Explores the challenges of Iran to the United States and its role in the Middle East. Taught by Class of 1955 Distinguished Professor of Middle East Studies.

FP469 – Islam and Politics. This course provides an overview of the relationship between Islam and politics. It covers important political developments in Muslim history: starting with the Prophet Muhammad's time, the establishment of the early Muslim community, the development of the Caliphates, the role of the Shari'ah (Islamic Law), the decline of Islamic societies, and their revival in modern times. Additional attention is given to selected topics, such as contemporary Islamic movements, the status of minorities in Islamic societies, the role of women, and the question of violence.

FP485D, Special Topics in Israeli Studies. Explores special topics in the politics of Israel. Taught by the Miller Distinguished Visiting Professor of Israeli Studies.

International Relations

FP311 – Ethics and International Relations. The course will focus on dominant theories on International Relations and will use historical and fictional case studies to explore the ethical dilemmas that arise in relations between states.

FP355 – Civil-Military Relations. An examination of the interplay between civilians and the military in a liberal democratic society. The course blends of theory, practice, policy, sociology, history and political philosophy to examine the relationship of the professional military to the society which it serves.

FP371 – Asian International Politics. Analysis of interstate relations of selected East and Southeast Asian states; concentration on regional organizations, security alliances and bilateral arrangements.

FP384 – Politics of Irregular Warfare. Theoretical, historical and policy examination of low-level political-military confrontation; viewed from several perspectives, such as revolutionary, policy-making, military and nation-state; focus on U.S. response to low intensity conflict. (*Prereq: 2/C*)

FP407 – Intelligence and National Security. Examination of nature, significance and development of intelligence including collection, counterintelligence, clandestine and covert action and evaluation; includes current issues and case studies.

FP437 – International Organizations. International organizations in world politics; attention given to control of conflict and violence, economic cooperation and management of global resources; major focus on the United Nations; discussion of selected regional issues and other organizations.

FP485E – U.S. National Security Strategy. Covers the foundations of US national security strategy, including national security actors, processes and both historical and emerging case studies of national security strategy challenges. Taught by the Class of 1960 Chair of National Security.

Honors

FP505 – Honors Senior Seminar. An advanced research seminar to carry out the research to culminate in a senior honors thesis. *Prereq: FPSH major, FP500.*

Political Science electives planned for Spring 2018 (subject to change)

American Politics

FP328 Legislative Process
 FP420 Public Policy Analysis
 FP345 Environmental Politics
 FP414 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
 FP341 Political Psychology
 FP397 Criminal Justice
 FP486 Congress & Nat'l Security

Comparative Politics

FP486 Civil Wars
 FP486 Popular Culture in World Politics
 FP486 Executive Power and Bureaucracy
 FP357 Politics of China/Japan
 FP468 Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
 FP462 Special Topics - Iran

International Relations

FP314 U.S. Foreign Policy
 FP486 War & Conflict in the International System
 FP407 International Law
 FP421 National Security Policy
 FP450 Int'l Political Economy
 FP460 Nuclear Weapons & U.S. National Security Policy
 FP384 Politics of Irregular Warfare
 FP407 Intelligence & Nat'l Security
 FP486 Politics of WMD
 FP486 Politics of Security in Northeast Asia