



POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SPRING 2017 (AY17)

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.

FP341 – Political Psychology. Introduction to psychological concepts and approaches used to analyze politics. Topics covered include acquisition of personal political attitudes and beliefs; the dynamics of public opinion; theories underlying PsyOp (Psychological Operations), riots, revolutions and wars; and psychological sources of effective and defective decisions in small group settings such as juries, military commands and policy settings.

FP345 – Environmental Politics and Security. Examines major environmental problems currently influencing U.S. domestic and security policies. Explores major theories and public policy controversies related to global warming, pollution, land, air, water degradation and scarcity, and biodiversity. Discusses enduring and novel ethical issues. Special emphasis placed on DoD environmental programs.

FP397 – Criminal Justice. An examination of both (1) the criminal justice system and the requirements of due process as mandated by the Constitution (double jeopardy, coerced confessions, plea bargaining, etc.) and (2) the criminal law -- the nature of criminal intent, the criminal act, the defenses (self-defense, insanity, etc.) as illustrated in such common law felonies as murder, rape, robbery, and battery.

FP414 – Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. An analysis of leading Supreme Court decisions in the areas of speech, press, and religion; equal protection of minorities and women; privacy.

FP420 – Public Policy Analysis. Analysis of U.S. public policy toward social and economic problems, including nature of social choice; survey of selected policy areas, such as health care, education, housing and economic and social welfare.

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 and the CIS. The development and disintegration of the contemporary Russian political system.

FP462 – Special Topics in Iran 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.

FP486C – Popular Culture and World Politics. Popular culture provides windows on the ways in which words and images shape and are shaped by politics, our everyday lives, and competing identities, both local and global. Popular culture

entertains and provides a space for civic engagement. This course examines how popular culture shapes our identities as individuals and global citizens.

FP486D – Comparative Democratic Institutions. Democracy has become an increasingly common form of government over the past 100 years, but it can be organized in a variety of ways. This course examines four key institutions that affect the character and operation of democracy in different countries: electoral and party systems, legislatures, and executives.

International Relations

FP314 – Formulation of U.S. Foreign Policy. Case study-based review of the content, formulation and execution of U.S. foreign policies since World War II, including decision-making processes, administration of policy and development of current policies.

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.

FP468 – Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. The conflict between Arabs and Jews over Palestine is one of the most important factors shaping Middle East politics. To date, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has produced a series of wars and recurring patterns of violence. This course identifies key actors and motivations in the conflict as well as the conflict's intractability. Peace processes are also a topic of discussion.

FP486E – War and Conflict in the International System. War between states in the international system has diminished but not vanished in the international system. Closely related, other forms of political violence such as civil war and terrorism have become "embedded" in larger regional and global structures and have significant transnational consequences. This course looks in depth at theoretical explanations of the causes and consequences of conflict in the International System especially since the end of the Cold War as well as opportunities for peace and cooperation. *Prereq: FP230 or FP210.*

FP486I – Politics of Security in Northeast Asia. Examines international security issues in Northeast Asia, including relationships between China, Russia, South Korea, North Korea, Japan and the U.S. Historic tensions between these regional neighbors (and frequently involving the U.S.) make Northeast Asia a potential flashpoint in international relations. *Prereq: FP230 or FP210.*

FP486J – Congress and National Security Decision Making. Covers the constitutional role and legislative process of Congress in making national security policy. Evaluates congressional oversight of executive branch activities in national security matters, the annual defense budget process, and congressional action in specific national security policy areas. *Prereq: FP230 or FP210.*

FP486K – Weapons of Mass Destruction: Foundations and Policy. Evaluates the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological weapons). Covers technical foundations, international, state, and non-state actors and the issues of WMD policy and proliferation in the modern world. *Prereq: FP230 or FP210.*

Honors

FP500 – Honors Advanced Research Design (2/c). An advanced research seminar to carry out the research to culminate in a senior honors thesis. *Prereq: Acceptance into the honors program, and 1/C standing.*

FP510 – Honors Senior Thesis (1/c). An advanced research seminar to carry out the research to culminate in a senior honors thesis. *Prereq: FP505.*

Special

FP482 – NAFAC Moderators Course. *Prereq: Acceptance as a NAFAC Moderator.*

FP482B – Debate. *Prereq: Debate team membership. Can only be taken once for credit.*