January 25, 2018

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

CAPSTONES
AY19 (FALL 2018)

Capstones

FP471A: The Promise and Pitfalls of Presidential Leadership-When and under what circumstances do American presidents succeed and fail? What factors are associated with whether they achieve their ambitious goals or fall short? 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 – in order to shed light on both the promise and the pitfalls of presidential leadership. (Doherty)

FP471B: China, Asia, and US Strategy in the 21st Century-China's great-power ascent represents the most important geo-strategic challenge for the United States. The latest US National Security Strategy released in December 2017 states, "China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, expand the reaches of its state-driven economic model, and reorder the region in its favor" (p. 25). Effectively dealing with China requires a broad Asia, or Indo-Pacific strategy. This capstone seminar explores the realities and implications of China's growing power with a focus on the salient economic, political, and military/security issues in US-China relations. It situates America's China policy in the grand strategy towards the dynamic Asia-Pacific in the 21st century. (Deng)

FP471C: The Politics of European Security-This capstone will explore the current state of European security and security institutions (e.g. EU, NATO, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)), the new European strategic environment, Russia and Ukraine as well as the future of NATO and Common European Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) of the EU. It will include the Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland where the US has now stationed troops and some of you may be sent. Potential research topics include all of the above plus any other US bilateral or multilateral allied relations (Australia, Japan, OAS, etc.) and the security considerations of various European nations. (Mattox)

FP471D: Coups and Impeachment in Comparative Perspective-Why do some countries experiences coups and others do not? Why do some coups fail and other succeed? Why are some presidents overthrown, others impeached, and yet others survive? These questions and their answers are germane to the study of comparative politics and international relations, and inform the way politicians, soldiers, policymakers, and citizens behave in democratic (and non-democratic) society. This seminar uses historical accounts and the scholarly literature to unpack these questions and others, as it examines inter-branch conflict and institutional instability, especially in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The course shows how institutional design and the actions of political actors, including the military, social movements, and political-economic elites, contribute to survival or fall of governments and democratic regimes across the globe. (Polga-Hecimovich)

FP471E: Campaigns and Elections around the World-This capstone examines how politicians compete for office in different electoral settings around the world. We will consider how political parties choose candidates, how candidates appeal to voters, how voters are mobilized, and what effect (if any) campaigns have on election outcomes. We will compare these processes in countries such as the United States, Britain, Mexico, and Spain, among others. (Kellermann)