SPRING QUARTER 2018 TOPICS COURSES

The following course numbers—INTS 4706, 4708, 4709, 4710, 4711—refer to special “topics” courses that are new and/or special course offerings. Topics courses may be added to the INTS curriculum at the discretion of the department, in order to accommodate special opportunities (e.g. a temporary visiting faculty member), or to focus on timely developments, debates, or trends in international affairs. Topics courses are generally offered only once. In the event that a topics course is offered more than once, the assigned course number is subject to change in subsequent quarters.

Because topics courses are not a part of our regular curriculum, details such as course title and description are not included in the permanent course catalog. As a supplement, therefore, we hope the course descriptions provided below will be a helpful resource to you as you prepare for registration.

INTS 4706 (CRN 2141): TOPICS: CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS
Instructor: General George Casey
Dates: March 26 – April 6 (1 CREDITS)

This two-week, two-credit course will permit students to explore the interaction within the highest levels of the U.S. National Security establishment during war. The focus of the course will be on civil-military relations—the interaction between the senior military leadership and elected and appointed civilian officials. Students will have a unique opportunity to learn about the development of national security policy and related issues from a former member of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, former Army Chief of Staff and Commander, Multinational Force-Iraq, General George W. Casey, Jr. The course will examine the civil-military relations during three 20th Century wars and two 21st century conflicts and draw insights about the impact of civil-military relations on national security and the requirements for effective civil-military interaction in the future.

INTS 4708 – section 1 (CRN 4970): TOPICS: SLAVERY, RACISM, SECURITY AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
Instructor: Arthur Gilbert

In a new book by the historian Matthew Karp, This Vast Southern Empire, the author writes that the study of U.S. foreign policy "must begin with the blunt fact of southern power within the American state. In the two decades before the Civil War, pro slavery elites and their largely compliant northern allies maintained a vise like grip on the executive branch of government..." While slavery was abolished after the war, race played a major role in the
foreign policy of the United States for many decades and some would argue to the present day. Racial values helped bind the country together after the war between the states and it played an important role in determining foreign policy most particularly in Cuba and in Mexico. Much of the change in foreign policy was ironically a function of encounters with unsavory countries which forced us to look inward and examine our values. In this new course we will explore United States relations with the rest of the world from the American Revolution to the present day with special emphasis on the interaction between slavery race and security.

INTS 4708 – section 2 (CRN 4971): TOPICS: DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Instructor: Ambassador Chris Hill

This course will focus on the array of factors, interactions, and mechanics that must be engaged and synchronized for the effective execution of diplomacy. The course will explore these themes using first via an array of historical case studies and then will take those same themes and apply them to the current and future context as framed by Ambassador Hill’s real world experience. In the end, the students will have gained professional insight into the array of key elements and challenges associated with carrying out diplomacy in the current context.

INTS 4710 – section 1 (CRN 3615): TOPICS: MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES
Instructor: Peter Smith

The relationship between the United States and Mexico presents enduring puzzles. It is of great importance to both countries, but it receives lopsided attention—not enough in the United States, sometimes too much in Mexico. Economic cooperation and joint endeavors frequently give rise to mutual suspicion and distrust. Intensive informal exchanges take place outside the framework of the law. Soothing diplomatic communications mask underlying tensions and occasionally prevent substantial progress on key issues. Matters of inherent complexity are shrouded in oversimplification. We are neighbors, but not always friends. What gives? In this course we seek to unravel such puzzles within a contemporary context of accelerating political and global change.

INTS 4710 – section 2 (CRN 4972): TOPICS: SOCRATES, GANDHI, AND NON-VIOLENT RESISTENCE
Instructor: Alan Gilbert

This course explores the roots of nonviolence in Gandhi’s relation to Socrates and through Tolstoy to the Sermon on the Mount. It looks at the great mass movement among Pathan Muslims led by the today surprisingly unknown Badshah Khan in alliance with Gandhi, and at Martin Luther King and the vibrance, persistence and immense courage of the American civil rights movement. It will also focus on writings, including Erica Chenoweth’s Why Civil Resistance Works, on the force, internal politics and successes of mass nonviolent movements as well as debates between serious proponents of violence (John Brown, Franz Fanon) and nonviolence (Barbara Deming, Desmond Tutu). In a country where militarism reigns (the US war budget is officially $704 billion, and in reality, in total, over a trillion a year) and whose wars threaten, along with global warming, to make the planet uninhabitable, we will study nonviolence as a
serious contrast/alternative to producing decent social change and a new, less oppressive and more healed and civil politics.