FALL 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 4706.1 (CRN 4806): TOPICS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Instructor: Julia Macdonald

This course analyses subjects central to the understanding of the role of nuclear weapons in international politics. The course addresses the origins of the atomic bomb project, early efforts to control nuclear materials, deterrence theory, nuclear strategy and force posture, and considers contemporary challenges to the global nuclear order including nuclear latency and nuclear terrorism. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the evolution of scholarship on the role of nuclear weapons in international politics, and to evaluate contemporary nuclear security issues in light of this broader context.

INTS 4706.2 – (CRN 4853): INTERAGENCY SECURITY CHALLENGES
Instructor: Barbara Smith

This class will ask students develop the skills and addresses the challenges associated with the process by which policy recommendations are developed within the United States Government, particularly as they relate to complex multi-dimensional security problems. Students will learn about the roles played by various departments and agencies that are engaged in the policy making process, as well as how external actors impact the development of national security policy.

This class will also give students the opportunity to learn about the policy making process in the United States inter-agency environment through a series of presentations from practitioners as well as hands-on experience via role-playing and the development of briefing memos, presentations and other materials. Students will learn about the history, structure and function of the interagency process, including past and current reform processes such as the Clinton Administration’s Presidential Decision Directive on Managing Complex Contingency Operations (PDD-56) as well as the more recent Project on National Security Reform. Students will also hear several real-life examples of interagency policy-making from former government officials and various subject-matter experts.

Updated April 24, 2018
Students will be expected to role-play members of a mock National Security Council (NSC) team or as representatives of various US Government Departments and Agencies involved in the interagency decision-making process. Students will identify an actual national security problem and be responsible for debating and agreeing to a set of policy recommendations within the format and structure of the mock NSC. Select students may have the opportunity to present their recommendation to a current member of the National Security Council via video-teleconference.

At the end of course, students should have a fundamental understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system; what constitutes good NSC products and how to produce them; and how concession and compromise, trade-offs, external public pressure, intelligence issues and budget realities all can play a role in how national security decisions are made.

**INTS 4708 – (CRN 4824): INTRO TO POLITICAL THEORY**

**Instructor: Nader Hashemi**

Political theory analyzes and interprets the foundations of political life and evaluates its principles, concepts and institutions. It is fundamentally concerned with political relationships among human beings that revolve around the organization and basis of government. This course provides an introduction to Western political theory through key texts and thinkers that are common reference points in the social science literature.

The focus will be on the Enlightenment tradition and the approach in this course will be geared toward understanding how the seminal texts and thinkers of this period have shaped—and continue to shape—our understanding of political ideas and norms. This seminar will also have a pragmatic component, where the books and ideas under consideration will be applied to contemporary international debates and controversies. Please note that this course is geared toward students without a strong background in political theory. No previous knowledge is required or assumed. All that is needed is an open mind and willingness to work hard.

**PPOL 4501 – (CRN 2224) GREAT ISSUES FORUM: POWERS, STRATEGY AND HEGEMONIC CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Instructor: Michael O’Hanlon, Director, Foreign Policy and National Security Research, Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C.**

**Friday, September 21st and Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

In the late 1980s, as U.S. GDP growth slowed, budget deficits remained stubbornly high, and other economies outperformed that of the United States, it was common to hear people argue that “the Cold War is over—and Japan and Germany won.” At least those latter powers were U.S. allies. Since that time, moreover, they have encountered their own challenges—Germany in reintegrating its own eastern half and then helping establish the viability of the EU and Euro systems, Japan in dealing with prolonged economic difficulties and demographic decline. Today, we are witnessing a period of even greater American economic travails, greater national debt relative to the size of the economy, and the concern that less friendly powers—especially China and Russia—may be poised to benefit from the relative decline of the United States in specific and the West in general. Is this true? Even more to the point for this course, what do these shifting economic realities bode for the future of American power and ultimately the security of this country and its allies?
This course, informed by both historical and technical perspectives, will wrestle with such broad questions about the architecture of the international power system. It will consider the relative decline of the United States and many of its major western allies that many consider to be already underway, and only likely to accelerate. It will examine the promise of the rising powers, together with the structural constraints and other impediments that they will have to face themselves as they seek greater stature, clout, and prosperity in the 21st century.

PPOL 4502 – (CRN 2225) GREAT ISSUES FORUM: POLITICS, PRIORITIES, and POLARITIES 2018
Instructor: Jonathan Rauch, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute, Washington D.C.
Friday, October 5 – Saturday, October 6, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
2 credits

Has the modern aversion to “smoke-filled rooms,” “Tammany Hall” style politics, and “party hacks” actually undermined our ability create an effective political system and destroyed our most vital organizing systems? Has the war on “insiders” created chaos and destroyed confidence in the mechanisms of government?

Jonathan Rauch, a graduate of Yale University and one of America’s most thoughtful and distinguished writers, will take a fresh and provocative look in this special class at the current state of our ability govern, given the ever-accelerating state of political disintegration.