

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
IAFF 206.10: NATIONAL SECURITY CAPSTONE

Professor Leon Fuerth
Phone: 994-8921
Office: Stuart Hall, Room 402M
Assistant: Rebecca Landis
E-mail: rlandis@gwu.edu

Fall Semester 2001
Thursday 6:10-8:00pm
Class meets in Stuart 401B
Office Hours: Thurs. 2-4pm
For appts. e-mail Rebecca

Course Mission Statement:

Students will explore long-range trends and events in science, economics, defense and governance that could have a major impact on our society and on the world in general, by the time the students themselves have reached positions of senior responsibility. The students will explore whether such events could prove to be especially challenging to democratic governance. The students will therefore also discuss ways in which, starting now, it would be possible to improve the capacity of the government of the United States to perceive and respond to the accelerating onrush of future events.

Timeline

August 30th – Administrative tasks – bio sheets, etc.
Explanation of project – hand out “President’s mandate”
Guest speakers
Break into subgroups

- Science & Technology
- Military & Defense
- Economics & Finance
- State Stability & Governance

Explain individual areas of concentration and expectations

8/30-9/20: Read the last group’s findings
Begin research using “welcome-kit”
Meet as Subgroups as needed to prepare for next meeting’s
Discussion
Choose area of individual concentration
*Possibility of additional guest speakers – Dates TBA**

September 20th – Guest speakers
Discussion of last group’s findings
Preliminary findings of subgroups as to issues
Begin to discuss recommendations as to measures

9/20-10/11: Meet as Subgroup to review preliminary views and possible

measures
Prepare written assessment of individual areas of research
Meet individually or as subgroups with Prof. Fuerth

October 11th – Discussion of issues, interactions and findings as to measures
Give Prof. Fuerth a written copy of individual areas of research

10/11-10/25: Write paper, executive summary and power point briefing

October 25th – DRAFT OF WRITTEN PAPER DUE TO PROF. FUERTH

November 1st – Delivery of findings and recommendations
(Power point briefing)

**Meetings with additional guest speakers may be scheduled throughout the semester.*

Structure

The class will need one chairperson and one executive secretary to be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the final paper and presentation. The class will divide itself into four subgroups: Science/Technology, Defense, Economics, and Governance. The subgroups will be required to meet at additional times to be decided by the groups. In addition, each student will choose an individual area of concentration relevant to the subgroup topic to research and prepare a written assessment.

Possible Areas of Individual Concentration: (these are only suggestions, you may choose your own specialization)

Science & Technology – Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Nanotechnology, Genetic Modifications

Military & Defense – Asymmetric Threats, Universalized low-intensity conflict, War with China, Space Warfare, Space Dominance/Hegemony

Economics & Finance – Challenges to the international economic system, National economic policy vs. ‘supernational’ economic policy, International labor policy

State Stability & Governance – Trends in international law, Governing conflict,

Enforcement on international law, International Criminal Court of Justice, Expanded UN Security Council, Regional Organizations (EU, Mercosur, ASEAN), NAFTA into North American union

Capstone Meetings

August 30 – Class - introduction

September 20 – Class - preliminary findings

October 2 – Guest Speakers (Peter Hotez, Bill Park, Don Burke)

October 9 – Guest Speakers (Gordon Adams, Michelle Florini)

October 11 – Class - discussion of issues (individuals to turn in research topics)

October 25 – Draft of written paper due

November 1 – Class – final project presentation