THE SENIOR IAS 4013 CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

What is a capstone? Capstone courses are intended to serve as the culminating experience for IAS undergraduates. In most cases, students will enroll in capstone courses during their senior year, after having completed their study abroad experience, and after having completed substantial undergraduate coursework at the upper-division level. The content of capstone courses will be thematic (e.g. Global Inequality, Mega Cities, Nationalism, Anti-Americanism, etc.). The themes of the capstone courses will vary from semester to semester, and from instructor to instructor. Capstone courses will not be regionally focused but will instead be global and comparative in nature. Students will have broad flexibility in choosing a topic for their individual projects. While capstone courses will focus on global and comparative themes, individual student projects may have a specific regional or area focus. However, the topic for these individual projects should fit within the thematic parameters of the capstone in which the student is enrolled. Instructors have considerable flexibility in designing the reading, research, and writing requirements for the capstone courses. While capstones will meet regularly, each capstone may incorporate individual student meetings with the course instructor. These meetings may, at the discretion of the instructor, replace regular class sessions – but only up to a maximum of 300 minutes of scheduled class time (i.e., no more than four 75-minute classes). There is also flexibility with respect to teaching methods in the capstones. However, the pedagogical goal of the capstone course should be to provide a collaborative learning environment (maximum enrollment of 20) where students will complete a substantial semester-length research and writing project, and in which students have the opportunity to apply the multidisciplinary skills they've acquired in the IAS major to important global themes.

Class size: Given that the nature of the capstone is a seminar, the primary mode of instruction will likely be discussion. There will be extensive reflection and writing as well as student presentations throughout the semester. To facilitate this type of learning experience, class sizes will be capped at 20 students.

Enrollment: As with all courses offered on campus, some classes will fill faster than others. The same goes with capstones. Enrollment is on first come first served basis. Sections will stay capped at 20 students, and if a section is full, students will be asked to enroll in another open section.

SPRING 2024 IAS 4013 CAPSTONE SECTIONS:

Sec. 001 **"Security: International Terrorism in Context"**, MW 1:30-2:45pm, *Dr. Rebecca Cruise*
The media and politicians are quick to label all sorts of violent activity as terrorism, yet it is difficult to fully articulate exactly what terrorism entails. In this capstone we will explore how terrorism has been studied, and what conclusions have been made about who is engaging in terrorist activities and their motivations. In this class we will explore the under-studied role of women in terrorist organizations historically and today. We will also attempt to remove the concept of terrorism from isolation, examining how terrorism interacts with politics, the media and organized crime. This will be done through the use of case studies of both domestic and international terrorism. We will also explore recruiting techniques, with special attention focused on ISIS and their keen use of the internet and Dark Web to find recruits around the world.

Sec. 002 **"Global Environment & Disease Crises",** MW 3:00-4:15pm, Dr. Miriam Gross
There are few larger threats to our global future than environmental and health crises. This class examines a series of global environmental and disease threats from the perspectives of international security, economic stability, global inequality, and social and familial well-being. Likely topics include: climate change, water scarcity, food security, pollution, AIDS, SARS, state-sponsored medical care, rural health care, chronic (lifestyle) diseases, over-population, and aging.