PACE-C 400 Issue Forum

**Forum:** Feb. 22, 2014, 11:30 AM to 5 PM  
(Woodburn Hall 101 and assigned small group rooms)  
**Topic:** National Security – America’s Role in the World

**Co-instructors:** Lisa-Marie Napoli, Michael Grossberg, Joeline Bergonzi  
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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give participants an opportunity to engage in deliberative democracy through a one-day Forum experience (including pre- and post-Forum papers) on American National Security. We use an approach to addressing controversial public issues in which students, not just experts or politicians, are deeply involved in public decision making and problem-solving. Working with trained moderators who utilize a variety of deliberative techniques, students representing a broad range of perspectives come together to consider relevant facts and values about the issue from multiple points of view; listen to one another in order to think critically about the various options before them and consider the underlying tensions and tough choices inherent to most public issues like this one; and ultimately seek to come to some conclusion for actions based on a reasoned collective judgment among the Forum participants.

**Issue Forum Experience:**

Students in the Issue Forum will approach the topic of American National Security from the vantage point of being a citizen of the world and, in particular, of the United States. The following quote and information highlights the focus that students-as-citizens need to understand before participating in democratic deliberation experiences at the Forum.

“The goal behind deliberation is not merely to draw a crowd and fill a room with opinionated people. The purpose is much bigger and more powerful. When citizens deliberate about an issue and when a community has a habit of asking citizens to make choices, the directions that are chosen often are better and they have a legitimacy that simply doesn’t exist otherwise. Citizens take ownership of problems. They talk about what they can do, not what others ought to do. They act out of a sense of mission and passion. Communities in a democracy are
healthier when citizens are doing the work of citizens.” - Framing Issues for Public
Deliberation, Kettering Foundation, 2002

DELIBERATION:
Searches for strengths in another position
Searches for shared concerns and genuine tensions
Is collaborative and seeks common understanding
Listens to understand and find meaning in agreement
Expects a willingness to change opinion
Opens up the possibility of better solutions and innovative ideas
Reveals assumptions for reevaluation
 Assumes that many people have pieces of an answer to a workable solution

Learning Objectives:

✓ To increase knowledge by immersing oneself in a major public issue and gaining information about it from a variety of sources and perspectives
✓ To practice public leadership, communication, deliberation, and decision-making skills with a cohort of PACE students and other IU students
✓ To participate in an open exchange of ideas and opinions on political and social issues, especially including conflicting perspectives
✓ To increase proficiency in citizenship skills for participation in political and civic engagement
✓ To take knowledge and skills beyond deliberation into action

Assignments:

• Papers must be turned in by due date and time for full credit.

I. Pre-Forum Paper (2-3 pages)
15 points - due by 12 PM, Feb. 22.

Instructor Napoli will send registered students a message when assignment details are posted under Oncourse Assignments. Additionally, students will receive information when the final resource list is posted. The resource list will include access information to the materials for reading and viewing, to be able to complete the pre-forum assignment. Students will turn in a hard (paper) copy of the pre-forum paper upon arrival at the Forum and attach a Word document to the Oncourse assignment (both forms due by 12:00 PM, Feb. 22).

II. Participation in Issue Forum
50 points -- Saturday, Feb. 22, 11:30 AM - 5 PM

Arrive at Woodburn Hall 101 between 11:30 AM and 11:45 PM. BYO Coffee.
Snacks and lunch will be provided. We will be giving PACE travel mugs to all
participants to be used the day of the forum. All participants must attend for the entire
time and are expected to practice civil behavior* during the forum. Civil behavior
includes being alert, attentive, respectful and engaged. Uncivil behaviors will result in
relevant point deductions. Point deductions also apply for arriving after 12 PM or
leaving before the Forum ends. [*See information in next section of syllabus to better
understand expectations of civil behavior as a key course requirement.]

III. Post-Forum Assignment (4-5 pages)
35 points - due by 5 PM, Wed., March 5

Following the Forum, you can find detailed instructions under Oncourse Assignments.
The paper is due Wednesday, March 5, in two forms. First, students will electronically
submit in Oncourse Assignments and second, students turn in a paper copy at the PACE
office by 5:00 PM, Ballantine 132.

Civil Behavior as Key Course Requirement:

For the most optimal Issue Forum experience (including the panel presentation and
group experiences of democratic deliberation), civil public behavior is required of all
participants. The practice of civil behavior begins by being alert, attentive, respectful
and engaged with the Forum’s activities throughout each part of the afternoon.
Additionally, it means that participants refrain from distracting behaviors that affect the
group (such as talking to each other privately, appearing to be asleep or tuned out,
using mobile devices and laptops) while a Forum activity is occurring.

This course is designed for effective, active engagement by students. If students
cannot uphold the spirit of civil behavior for public deliberation (as defined here), then
they are encouraged to drop the course. Otherwise, there is a risk of a failing grade. If
you have any questions or concerns about the above, please contact the lead instructor,
Prof. Napoli, at Inapoli@indiana.edu.