The Washington Center Academic Seminars

TWC’s Academic Seminars are experiential learning at its finest. Reaching well beyond books and classrooms, opportunities include experiential site visits and tours, relevant speakers, panel interviews, question and answer opportunities and small group discussions. Students are able to gain a new perspective on hot button issues through their participation in these programs. Led by a faculty director—an expert in the subject matter—and guided by faculty leaders, students are able to grasp the subject matter in a much more hands-on way.

Top Secret 2013: National Security Challenges in a Global Society

This week long program in Washington, D.C. examines the inner workings of the U.S. national security landscape with nationally recognized journalists, politicians, political analysts, and scholars as guides.

In partnership with CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies, cis.org), this academic seminar is designed to teach students about national security issues and the decision making process. With growing threats from terrorist groups, transnational networks, and rogue states, the United States and allied countries must contend with a complicated set of direct national security challenges—from weapons-of-mass-destruction, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism to natural resource constraints. These threats have emerged in, and are affected by, an environment of growing globalization, technological innovation, and shifting geopolitical and economic power. Such challenges have strained existing political and operational norms in the United States and raised concerns about the emerging challenges and how to deal them. Through the guidance of a faculty director expert in national security issues, this program will examine how these changes impact the international arena as well as explore how the U.S. can best respond to the myriad uncertainties present in the world today.

Program Components

Top Secret 2013 academic seminar provides both students and faculty with an exceptional behind-the-scenes perspective on Washington and the national security issues of the day. Combining lectures, site visits, tours and special events, students can see the impact of the role that international institutions and organizations play in an evolving global system, as well as the U.S. reaction and interaction with foreign nations.

Participants could listen to a panel of FBI analysts, hear from a member of the U.S. Treasury Department on Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes or from the prosecutor from the 9/11 terrorist trials. In addition, past site visits to embassies, the Pentagon, the State Department and the National Counter Terrorism Center, among other locations, have provided participants with the opportunity to ask hard questions and gain a variety of perspectives on the broad scope of national security. Consider the skill building and connections the students will gain through engaging in candid conversation in small group meetings, asking presenters or through a variety of site visits. By Participating in Top Secret 2013: National Security Challenges in a Global Society, participants won’t need to imagine these things. They’ll experience it.

Please visit our website at www.twc.edu/topsecret
The richly-programmed one week offering in Washington, D.C. provides participants with an opportunity not typically available on campus. These benefits, however, are not restricted just to the students who participate. Institutions and faculty members are also able to profit from the incredible opportunity.

### Institutional Benefits

- The academic structure of our seminars makes it a credit-worthy experience. It allows students and selected faculty to go beyond the classroom to experience the behind the scenes decision making process for national security issues.
- Participation in this academic seminar is newsworthy and provides a great opportunity for a college or university to gain positive media coverage: http://bit.ly/OJJIc8
- The Washington Center will provide you with press releases, media kits and everything that you will need to promote your institution’s role and the experience of the students who take part.
- Means to enhance retention efforts, especially among lower division students

### Faculty Benefits

- Faculty members are often able to use their academic seminars experience to enhance the courses they teach at their institution through the powerful interactions with important speakers from the political, communications and international communities, whom they would otherwise have almost no chance of meeting.
- The information relayed by the presenters and at various site visits can be defined as “happening right now”. This real-time, relevant information can prove invaluable to those faculty members looking to use the most relevant information in their courses. http://bit.ly/VFJaKY
- Through the small group sessions, faculty have the opportunity to interact with students across a variety majors. In these sessions, consistently a favorite of participants, faculty are often both surprised and impressed with the candid conversations.
- Academic seminars provide professional development opportunities for faculty members.

### Student Benefits

- Students will have unique opportunities to interact with media representatives, policy experts and political decision makers through our general sessions. Networking among these influential groups, they will gain perspectives and experiences–and possibly contacts useful to their future careers–difficult to obtain in other ways.
- When students come back to campus, they can enhance community involvement and recognition.
- Students are able to make personal and professional development in just 10 days time that will help shape their future careers.

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**Facility Director:**

**Gale A. Mattox, Ph.D.**
Professor of Political Science,
U.S. Naval Academy

Dr. Mattox held the Distinguished Fulbright-Dow Research Chair, Roosevelt Center, the Netherlands. She served on the Policy Planning Staff, Department of State, was a Council of Foreign Relations Fellow at State Department Office of Strategic and Theater Nuclear Policy and an international affairs analyst, Congressional Research Service. She has been a Bosch Fellow in Germany, NATO Research Fellow, and Fulbright Dissertation Scholar. Mattox has held the offices of President (1996-2003) and VP (1987-94) of Women in International Security (WIIS), and served as VP of the International Studies Association. She serves on the board of the Naval War College press, American Friends of the AvHumboldt board and the Humboldt Foundation German Chancellor Fellows Selection Board. She holds numerous awards, including Robert Bosch Alum of the Year (2010) and UMw Alum of the Year (1994).

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For more information on supporting The Washington Center, please contact Patricia.Guidetti@twc.edu