SEC 6391 Research:
Somalia: State Fragility and Maritime Insecurity

Course Details

Term: Fall B 2021
Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Overview

In this course, the student will research Somali history to discover the conditions that led the country to its current status as the world’s quintessential failed state. Occupying prime maritime real estate, Somalia threatens its neighbors’ stability as well as commercial shipping lanes. The effects that bleed out of Somalia into the international community and especially those which threaten the political, economic, or social well-being of the United States of America are of primary concern.

Using the history of Somalia, current facts on the ground, and an understanding of international and U.S. capabilities, the student will address ways to solve the twin Somali problems of state fragility and maritime insecurity. The historical conditions that have led to state collapse will be examined in order to inform future nation-building exercises aimed at a stable, viable, and long-lasting political order. In addition, current events in Somalia, the region, and the world will be analyzed in order to develop strategies and forecasts relating to U.S. policy toward Somalia.

Course Objectives

As a result of this course, the student will be able to develop a better understanding of the impact of ongoing events in Somalia, both historical and contemporary, and to articulate how state fragility and maritime insecurity limit the economic growth and political stability of Somalia, thereby requiring international intervention, both economic aid and military enforcement, to combat residual effects in direct conflict with the interests of the United States.

Books


**Assessment**

The student will complete a Final Essay Exam of approximately 20–25 pages due on the Wednesday of Week Eight by midnight CST to satisfy the course objectives.