



21 December 2011



## Graduate students to share their ideas

The first semester program from the Centre for Continuing Education will include courses offered by some of ANU's finest postgraduate students who will share their research with the Canberra community.

### Understanding the superpowers

*Understanding the Superpowers: Issues and Politics in the USA, European Union and China* starting on 18 January is based on Matthew Laing's research into leadership, political parties and international politics. Matthew is soon to complete his PhD in the School of Politics and International Relations.

"China, the USA and the European Union are the three superpowers that dominate the international economy and global politics. But how much do you know actually know about them?" asks Matthew. "We will go behind the headlines to explore why the superpowers are the way they are, and look at big questions like 'why are Greece and Portugal so deeply indebted', 'why does China want to reunify with Taiwan' and 'why is the Tea Party so popular in the USA?'" says Matthew.



### Critical introduction to world affairs

*Critical Introduction to the World Affairs: seeing past 'good versus evil'* starting on 1 March is the work of Mirko Pavlovic a PhD candidate in International Relations. The course is based on Mirko's research on the influence of international communication in international relations and "aims to build a foundation for a more analytical view of international affairs" says Mirko.

"By introducing some general questions that can be useful when enquiring into international events and issues" Mirko says, "we will move beyond the passive acceptance of media lines such as 'good versus evil' and develop a more analytical approach to forming a position on an international issue or event".



## Topics in global justice

*Topics in Global Justice* will be presented on 1 February by Rosa Terlazzo a PhD candidate in the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics of the College of Arts and Social Sciences. Rosa says “we will explore the pressing ethical issues that arise in the global context, with a focus on issues of poverty, climate change, immigration, and health”. “We will also investigate the moral and practical dimensions of these issues in an effort to understand what our own responsibilities as citizens and individuals might be” explains Rosa.



Rosa predicts that “at the end of this course, students will be able to identify and critically discuss moral issues in the area of global justice and be able to apply analytic and critical thinking tools to other areas of public concern”.

## Ritual, spirit-mediums, spirits and taboo

*Ritual, spirit-mediums, spirits and taboo: an anthropological perspective* is the title of Rikardo Shedden’s course starting on 6 March. Rikardo is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the College of Asia and Pacific and will use his research interests in developing this course.



“Ritual and spirit-world beliefs have long been a central concern in anthropology” explains Rikardo, “and this course will broadly address some of the issues raised”. “We will explore ritual sacrifice, taboos and their meanings, funeral practices, and meet a spirit-medium who leads her own Sunday church service – all in a Philippine highland village” says Rikardo. “Students should gain an understanding of several contemporary analytical approaches to the study of religious practice” he says.

### **UNDERSTANDING SUPERPOWERS**

Matthew Laing

6-8pm on 8 Wednesdays from 18 January - \$195 ND

### **CRITICAL INTRODUCTION TO WORLD AFFAIRS**

Mirko Pavlovic

6-8pm on 6 Thursdays from 1 March - \$155 ND

### **RITUAL, SPIRIT MEDIUMS, SPIRITS AND TABOO: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Rikardo Shedden

6-8pm on 4 Wednesdays from 6 March - \$110 ND

### **TOPICS IN GLOBAL JUSTICE**

Rosa Terlazzo

6-8pm on 4 Wednesdays from 1 February - \$110 ND