



GREAT DECISIONS 2023
Wednesdays February 1 - March 22 at 6:30pm
FADROW MEETING ROOM

FEBRUARY 1

- **Politics in Latin America** – Pablo Toral, Ph.D. - Professor of Environmental Studies and International Relations, Department Chair of Political Science, Beloit College

Many observers of the regional/political scene have discerned a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. How much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendency have for the region?

FEBRUARY 8

- **China and the U.S.** – Richard Rocamora - former VP and General Manager of Cooper Power Systems in Shanghai, China

One major point of contention between China and the United States is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence?

FEBRUARY 15

- **War Crimes** – DVD/Roundtable

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with?

FEBRUARY 22

- **Energy Geopolitics** -- John Katzka, retired Senior Foreign Service Officer

As more countries move toward sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world?

MARCH 1

- **Climate Migration** -- Pablo Toral, Ph.D. - Professor of Environmental Studies and International Relations, Department Chair of Political Science, Beloit College

As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals, and how might the United States aid them, and be affected by the migration?

MARCH 8

- **Iran at a Crossroads** – Beth Dougherty, Ph.D. - Manger Professor of International Relations, Beloit College

By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, the economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming

succession of the country's religious leader. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it?

MARCH 15

- **Global Famine** – DVD/Roundtable

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer, has produced global food shortages. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there?

MARCH 22

- **Economic Warfare** – DVD/Roundtable

Economic warfare tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies, and in the case of the United States, have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war?