Study visit to Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) - fall 2014 as part of graduate course PPAD 5153 titled "Armament, Arms Control, and Disarmament."

As part of FALL course titled “Armament, Arms Control, Disarmament” (PPAD 5153) Ambassador Professor Sameh Aboul Enein, adjunct professor for international security & disarmament at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy led a diplomatic study visit to the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) on Thursday, Oct 30th, 2014.

The graduate students had a lively interactive session with Ambassador Mohamed Shaker, chairman of the council, and Ambassador Mounir Zahran, the Secretary General of ECFA. ECFA is categorized as a non-governmental organization (NGO), which was founded in 1999 and aimed at promoting both national and international dialogue and public debate on significant foreign policy issues as well as disarmament and arms control in the Middle East.

Students were engaged in invaluable discussions with regards to WMD in the ME: chemical weapons convention, biological weapons convention, NPT deficiencies, as well as the influx of conventional weapons from small arms, short range missiles, and role of Non-State Actors in the Middle East. The rise of terrorism and the feasibility of a nuclear free-zone in the Middle East and the future of the Arab world were key topics addressed.

The students were very excited to hear first-hand accounts and analysis of international events and appreciated the opportunity to have a private meeting with professionals to gain insight into inner workings of their fields. Further, study visit increased the student’s knowledge in international security issues & disarmament in the Middle East as well as it added professional experience to AUC post graduates.