

Brenner H. Cobb

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, NC

May 2025

Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War, and Defense with a second major in Contemporary European Studies

Minor in German; Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Honors and Awards:

- Highest Distinction
- Phi Beta Kappa – *America's most prestigious academic honor society*
- Honors Carolina Laureate
- Diplomacy Fellow – *Reflects engagement in campus events and simulations in global affairs and a commitment to honing informational, operational, and relational skills vital for impactful work in global affairs*
- Dean's List – *All semesters*

NOTABLE COURSEWORK

EU Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times • Trans-Atlantic Security • 20th-Century German Philosophy and Modern Youth Cultures • Elementary German I and II • Intermediate German I and II • Advanced German Communication • Introduction to German Literature • Global Issues and Globalization • Introduction to Comparative Politics

WORK EXPERIENCE

US Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistantship Program of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB), administered by Fulbright Austria (Austrian-American Educational Commission) October 2025 - Present

- Working alongside teachers in two Austrian applied technical high schools to strengthen applied and conversational English language skills.
- Interpreting and representing the United States of America to students.
- Augmenting curriculum-centered lessons and designing and presenting independently lessons on US culture, lifestyles, and sociopolitical developments.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Populism • European security • Deindustrialization and sociopolitical consequences • Far-right politics • Political polarization • Party competition • German politics • Euroskepticism • European energy policy

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Re-Imagining Linkages Between Right-Wing Populism and Climate Skepticism: Climate Contestation from a CPE Perspective

Literature review-based term paper completed for POLI 490: EU Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times.

The AfD's Populist Origins: Historic Decline and 2015 Transformation

Term paper completed for HIST 159: Europe and the World Since 1900; notified of acceptance for publishing in forthcoming publication of the North Carolina Journal of European Studies.

Invisible Lines: Mapping the Impact of Cocaine on Belgian Society

Semester-long group research project for the Diplomacy Lab, a partnership between the US Department of State and leading universities to provide actionable insights into mission-relevant issues for US Missions and Embassies worldwide.

EU Energy Security and Climate Commitments following 2022-3 Energy Crisis

Research essay completed for POLI 490: EU Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times.

LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Carolina International Relations Association – Chapel Hill, NC

November 2022 – May 2025

President (May 2024 – May 2025)

- As Chairman of the Board of Directors for seven-branch nonprofit, coordinated diverse activities of conference-hosting branches, undergraduate student research journal, outreach efforts, etc.
- As representative of organization, coordinated with other student clubs and relevant university entities, including UNC's Global Education Center, to offer international relations programming
- Approved annual five-figure budget and oversaw organization finances in conjunction with CFO
- Scheduled and led all executive board meetings and activities

Co-Director General for External Affairs – UNCMUNC XV (October-November 2024)

- Co-led 550-person collegiate Model UN conference ranked #5 in world
- Moderated opening ceremony panel discussion featuring World Health Organization expert on global women's health and student leader on local women's health issues
- Organized multi-day catering for conference leadership team and staff; managed 500-attendee social event
- Delivered closing ceremony speech to delegations and staff

Director of Oversight (November 2022 – April 2024)

- Led all internal investigations into misconduct for multi-branch student organization
- Envisioned and implemented initiatives for club improvement with fellow members of upper Executive Board
- Responded to incidents and medical emergencies during Model UN conferences hosting 500+ participants
- Ensured compliance with university policy and state law for a registered nonprofit; liaised with organization's legal representation as needed

MEDIA EXPERIENCES

Tangle News – Chapel Hill, NC

August 2024 – May 2025

Campus Ambassador

- Promoted an independent, nonpartisan politics newsletter seeking to foster constructive political dialogue, counter polarization, and provide Americans with an alternative to divisive echo chambers.
- Co-organized events for Spring 2025 semester with other campus organizations, including Bridge UNC.

Journal of Foreign Affairs at Carolina – Chapel Hill, NC

September 2023 – May 2024

Foreign Affairs Blog Contributor

- Composed bi-monthly short-form articles on current international developments, including war in Ukraine and weapons systems advancements; research focus on German politics, European security, and European energy policy

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language Skills

English (native speaker)

German (moderate working proficiency; CEFR level B2)