



## ICIR 226 The History and Concept of Diplomacy

### Course Description & Aims:

This course introduces students to the history of diplomatic theory and practice. It examines the origins of diplomacy, the changing role and status of diplomats and their conduct, and the frameworks of norms and laws that have governed these in a variety of historical and cultural settings. It examines the evolution of business-to-state and international business relations as well as state-state relations, and compares them. It considers how diplomacy continues to change in a globalized and digital world, and how it might evolve in the future.

Lecturer: Dr. Robin Ramcharan

Office: Room

Email address

Student hours:

### Assessment

Participation	10%
Two written assignments 20% each	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. understand the concept of diplomacy and the activities that have historically comprised its conduct in a variety of contexts
2. explain how and why diplomatic practice has evolved, and relate this to underlying changes in the international system
3. explain theories of diplomacy and apply them to specific historical events
4. understand the contemporary challenges that face diplomacy and diplomats, and explain how these can be met.

### Key texts include:

- G. R. Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)
- Geoffrey Allen Pigman, *Contemporary Diplomacy* (Polity, 2010)
- Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*
- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat* (Collins, 2016)
- R. P. Barston, *Modern Diplomacy* 4<sup>th</sup> edn (Routledge, 2013)

Topic No.	Topic
1	What is diplomacy
2	Evolution of diplomacy
3	Diplomatic Theories
4	Types of diplomacy and forms of its practice
5	Bilateral Diplomacy
6	Midterm Examination
7	Multilateral Diplomacy
8	From the French Revolution 1789 to 1919
9	The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century: World War II and Cold War
10	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Diplomacy
11	The Future of Diplomacy
12	Revision Group Presentations

### Assessment Methods & Criteria

#### **Classroom Participation (10%).**

Students will receive 0-10% depending on attendance and active participation in class (contribution to discussions, asking and answering questions). Coming to “student hours” (formerly “office hours”), or meeting to discuss the course at other times, is encouraged, and will earn credit.

#### **Two written assignments (20% each).**

Students will be asked to consider a historical situation from the point of view of an actor in it. They will explain their understanding of the situation, how it might develop, and possible choices available. An example would be to analyze and give recommendations to the leader of a country. Each assignment should be c. 800-1000 words long. They are due at the end of week 6 and week 12.

#### **Mid-term (20%)**

Students will be assessed on weeks 1-5 of the course. The exam will include a combination of essay questions and analysis of documents and other primary materials.

#### **Final exam (30%)**

Students will be assessed on the whole course. The exam will include a combination of essay questions and analysis of documents and other primary materials.

Students should follow current international events, and be ready to discuss them and how they can be analysed and understood using the themes and ideas of the course. There may be opportunity for variation in topic coverage, depending on student demand. Please contact me to discuss if you have any particular interests.

Computers, mobile phones and other devices may not be used in the classroom.

### What is Diplomacy?

**Topic description:** Students will be introduced to the course outline, course requirements, and their expected input. Review and refresh understanding of basic concepts and approaches to international relations. Introduction to the concept of diplomacy, and how it relates to international relations

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand and explore the idea of diplomacy and how it relates to the wider study of international relations

**Readings and activities:**

- Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*, chapter 1
- Pigman, *Contemporary Diplomacy* chapters 1-2
- Barston, *Modern Diplomacy*, chapter 1
- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat*, chapters 1-2

**Group discussion** (1): review/refresh basic understanding of international relations. Explore role of diplomacy within it. What can diplomacy add to our understanding of international relations?

(2): what ideas, associations and assumptions do you have about “diplomacy”?

### Evolution of Diplomacy

**Topic description:** An outline of the origins of diplomacy, the main activities that comprise it, and the forces that have driven its evolution.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand evidence about the origins of diplomacy, the basic element of diplomatic activity, the different forms diplomacy has taken across space and time, and how and why it has changed.

**Readings and activities:**

- Paul Lauren, Paul Craig and Alexander George *Diplomacy and Statecraft* (OUP, 2013), chs. 1-3
- Hamilton and Longhorne. “The Old Diplomacy” in *The Practice of Diplomacy*
- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat*, chapters 1-2
- Excerpts from Amarna Diplomacy, Indian and Chinese diplomacy, to be circulated

**Group discussion:** 1. What conditions are needed for diplomacy to take place?  
2. What is the role of diplomacy in our individual, everyday life?

### Diplomatic Theories

**Topic description:** How theorists of international relations, across different cultures, have conceived of diplomacy and related it to the nature of international relations. What these suggest about the potential and limits of diplomacy. Diplomacy’s relationship to power, and to other key institutions of international order: war and law.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand the major theories of diplomacy, relate them to the context in which they were developed, and be able to critically assess and compare them.

**Readings and activities:**

- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society* (Columbia UP, 1977) chapters 1 and 7
- Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (Simon and Schuster, 1994), chapter 1
- Hans J. Morgenthau, “Diplomacy,” ch. 31 in *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*
- Paul Sharp, *Diplomatic Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge UP, 2009)

**Group exercise:** Compare and contrast different theories of international relations. Which do you find most useful, and why?

## Types of Diplomacy and Forms of its Practice

**Topic description:** Exploration of the forms and methods of diplomacy undertaken by state and non-state actors: economic, corporate, public, NGO, “guerilla” etc.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand, and be able to compare and contrast, the varieties of diplomacy, the actors who practice them, and the skills and resources they require.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Pigman, *Contemporary Diplomacy* chapters 7-10
- Barston, *Modern Diplomacy*, chapter 3
- Each student to read at least two of the following chapters in Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*: chapters 10, 19, 21, 24, 25

**Group exercise:** compare and contrast the varieties of diplomacy conducted by different kinds of actors. What are the key features and instruments of each?

## Bilateral Diplomacy

**Topic description:** The history of bilateral diplomacy: its nature, evolution, forms and methods.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand the history, principles, variety and main practices of classical and modern bilateral diplomacy.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*, chapter 1
- Pigman, *Contemporary Diplomacy* chapters 1-2
- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*, chapter 9
- Garret Mattingly, *Renaissance Diplomacy* (Penguins Books, 1964)

**Group exercise:** analyse cases of successful and unsuccessful diplomacy, and explain their outcome

## Midterm Examination

**\*\* First written exercise due\*\***

**Topic description:** Mid-term exam and discussion

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** Before the exam: students will consolidate their understanding, especially of topics of which they are less confident. After the exam: students will learn lessons from exam preparation and performance that they can apply to the final exam, and beyond.

### **Activities:**

Group exercise: Discussion of course material so far. Outline model answers to sample questions.

Group discussion: Review of exams questions, how to tackle them and lessons learned.

### **Readings:**

Review of course readings to date

## **Multilateral Diplomacy:**

**Topic description:** The history of multilateral diplomacy: its nature, evolution, forms and methods. How and why it emerged, and how it differs from bilateral diplomacy.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand the history, principles, variety and main practices of multilateral diplomacy, and be able to compare and contrast it with bilateral diplomacy.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Pigman, *Contemporary Diplomacy* chapter 4
- Kishore Mahbubani, "Multilateral Diplomacy" and A J R Groom, "Conference Diplomacy" in eds. Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*

**Group discussion:** which is harder: bilateral or multilateral diplomacy? Why?

## **From the French Revolution 1789 to 1919**

**Topic description:** The impact of the French Revolution, industrialization, imperialism and other forces of change and modernisation on the classical conduct of state-to-state relations: complex alliance management, first experiments in multilateral diplomacy and international organization, revolutions etc. Innovation in forms and methods of diplomacy, and how these were related to wider changes in the international system. Key episodes in the diplomacy of this period.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand how and why diplomatic theory and practice evolved, and be able to analyse and explain key diplomatic events.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat*, chapters 3 and 4
- Sasson Sofer "Old and New Diplomacy: A Debate Revisited", *Review of International Studies*, 14:3 1988
- Martin Wight, *Power Politics*, chapter 6

**Group discussion:** what were the key changes in international relations in this period, and how did they impact diplomacy?

## **The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: World War II and Cold War**

**Topic description:** How the evolution of the international system shaped diplomatic practice: the rise of international organization, public diplomacy, the expansion of international society, nuclear diplomacy etc. Key episodes in the diplomacy of this period.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand how and why diplomatic theory and practice evolved, and be able to analyse and explain key diplomatic events.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Harry Hinsley, *Power and the Pursuit of Peace* (Cambridge UP, 1963)
- Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, chapter 9

**Group discussion:** what were the key changes in international relations in this period, and how did they impact diplomacy?

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Diplomacy

**Topic description:** Major contemporary international developments and challenges, and how diplomacy is responding: globalization and its critics, humanitarian concerns, environmental issues, transnational crime and terrorism, cyber and artificial intelligence, etc.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will understand challenges facing diplomats and diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as opposed to their predecessors. Stressors and factors changing the face of modern diplomacy.

### **Readings and activities:**

- “Introduction: The Challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Diplomacy” in Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*
- Joseph S. Nye, Jr, “Hard, Soft and Smart Power” in Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*
- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat*

**Group discussion:** What are the major challenges facing diplomacy today, and why do they arise?

## The Future of Diplomacy

**Topic description:** How the conduct of diplomacy, by state, transnational and non-state actors, may evolve in the future. Anticipating new challenges to, and demands. Is diplomacy (or are diplomats) obsolete?

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will analyse and forecast possible future directions of international relations and their implications for diplomacy.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Joseph S. Nye, Jr, “Hard, Soft and Smart Power” in Andrew F. Cooper et al, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*
- Tom Fletcher, *Naked Diplomat*, chapters 14, 15, 18

**Group discussion:** what might diplomacy –of states and non-state actors- look like in 50 years time? 100 years?

**Group debate:** Do we still need diplomats? Why or why not?

## Revision and Group Presentations

**\*\* Second written exercise due\*\***

**Topic description:** Review of whole course, further discussion of key issues, student presentations.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will review the course material, enhance their understanding, and fill gaps in their knowledge. By preparing and delivering group presentations they will develop skills of analysis, co-operation and communication.

### **Readings and activities:**

- Class discussions, group presentation exercise