The power to hurt is bargaining power. To exploit it is diplomacy—vicious diplomacy, but diplomacy. T.C. Schelling, academician, Nobel Prize winner

Most governments lie to each other. That’s the real world we deal with.
Robert Gates, ex-Secretary of Defense

GOVT 342 –FALL 2017
COURSE SYLLABUS

DIPLOMACY

Instructor:
Joseph F. Becelia: jbecelia@gmu.edu

Office and Office Hours:
Robinson A, 218A, before/after each class and by arrangement

Required Texts


Freeman, Chas.  Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy -- Discusses diplomacy as an instrument of state power and a reflection of national interests.

Other readings are assigned. See class schedule that follows. Students must also keep well informed of current international affairs, which will serve as background for class presentations and exercises and will be included in tests.

Your attention is called to the following valuable resources:

1) GMU’s Writing Center for anyone seeking to improve drafting skills.
   http://writingcenter.gmu.edu

2) University Libraries: “Ask a Librarian.”
   http://library.gmu/mudge/IM/IMRef

3) Disability Resource Center. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodation, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.
COMMUNICATING WITH INSTRUCTOR

I encourage and welcome consultation with students. E-mail is a quick, reliable way to communicate with me. I will also transmit to the class important information by e-mail. Make sure you have a functioning GMU e-mail account. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu. Grades and other information will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

This course will familiarize students with the craft of international diplomacy and the role of diplomats in advancing their governments’ objectives. As used here, the term “diplomats” is a broad one, encompassing heads of government and other high-ranking officials as well as professional diplomats working in foreign ministries and in embassies abroad.

Diplomacy and foreign policy are closely linked. Accordingly, while the course centers on diplomacy, it also includes segments on foreign-policy making and the forces that drive it. Emphasis in both areas is on the practical, i.e., the way policy is made and carried out and the roles of the individuals and institutions responsible. In this context, students will conduct simulations of real-life situations such as those that confront diplomats and policy makers. The required paper for the course is also geared to the hands-on functions of diplomacy (see below).

The course is aimed at improving your understanding of how the world works and the role of foreign-policy practitioners in the high-stakes, often unforgiving arena in which they function. An additional aim is to sharpen skills in drafting, oral presentation, and critical thinking--all key components of the practice of diplomacy.

TESTS, ASSIGNMENTS, ATTENDANCE, PCs, AND GRADES

There are two preliminary tests (see schedule attached) and a final exam. Students will also write a paper in the form of a telegram from a diplomatic post containing analysis and policy recommendations. The paper will be five to six pages, double-spaced, with emphasis on clear, concise drafting, quality of analysis, and strength of advocacy. The topic and detailed guidance will be provided later. To receive credit, the paper must be submitted on (or before) the due date. See calendar.

Class participation counts for 10 percent of final grades. Class participation includes volunteering for role-play exercises, taking an active part in class discussions, and answering questions posed to the class. Open discussion and differing views are encouraged. University policy stipulates that students are expected to attend class and authorizes instructors to use absence as de facto evidence of non-class participation. Attendance will be taken. Note, however, that merely being in class is not enough. Meaningful class participation requires active student involvement in areas mentioned above.

Use of PCs in class is permitted on request and for note-taking only. Use for other purposes is an obvious detriment to your own class participation and a potential distraction to others.
The final exam counts for 30 percent of the final grade. The two preliminary tests and the assigned paper will be worth 20 percent each. Papers and tests will be graded by numerical percent, with the cumulative total, plus class participation score, converted to a final letter grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>76-70</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>69-60</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

There will be no extra-credit opportunities.

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

- Attendance at all classes. Tests will focus on material presented in class.
- Completion and understanding of assigned readings.
- Awareness of current world events.
- Careful attention to grammar, spelling, and clarity of presentation in all written work especially that prepared outside of class.
- Active class participation. See above.
- To be avoided, please: eating in class

HONOR CODE POLICY

The George Mason University Honor Code requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are prohibited. See the University catalog for details. Note especially the following:

1. Quizzes, tests, and examinations. No help may be given or received by students when taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, whatever the type or wherever taken, unless the instructor specifically permits deviation from this standard.

2. Course Requirements: All work submitted to fulfill course requirements is to be solely the product of the individual whose name appears on it. No paper or work of any type submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of another course may be used a second time to satisfy a requirement of any course in the Department of Public and International Affairs. No assistance is to be obtained from commercial organizations that sell or lease research help or written papers.

Note the clear policy stated above on test-taking and plagiarism. Note especially that all work submitted must be solely the product of the student. This policy will be strictly enforced.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Introduction and overview.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>What diplomacy is--and is not.</td>
<td>Freeman 107-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>National interests and national power.</td>
<td>Freeman 9-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Origins of diplomacy; what makes it unique.</td>
<td>Berridge 1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>The structure of diplomacy and its uses.</td>
<td>Freeman 93-104, Berridge 229-235 (top)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>TEST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>The modes of diplomacy.</td>
<td>Berridge 184-188 and 251-254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>Negotiations.</td>
<td>Berridge 25-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>The real world of diplomacy: challenges and dangers. Video</td>
<td>Berridge 125-128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
14) Oct. 17  
**Role-play exercise: An embassy under threat.** Scenario to be provided

15) Oct. 19  
The shadowy side of diplomacy. Freeman 23-31, Berridge 153-165

16) Oct. 24  
**Making foreign policy: why it’s so hard.**  
http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/american-foreign-policy-no-good-options

17) Oct. 26  
**Making foreign policy: The players**

http://www.fpa.org/features/index.cfm?act=feature&announcement_id=45 &show_sidebar=0

18) Oct. 31  
The National Security Council System  
“In the Shadow of the Oval Office,” Foreign Affairs, Jan.-Feb. 2009

19) Nov. 2  
**Role-play exercise: The Interagency Process**

20) Nov. 7  
When diplomacy is not enough: use of force. Freeman 61-68

21) Nov. 9  
**TEST**

22) Nov. 14  
Avoiding Annihilation: The ultimate diplomatic challenge  

23) Nov. 16  
**Diplomacy on the brink: The Cuban Missile Crisis I**

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/cuba-62.htm

24) Nov. 21  
**Diplomacy on the brink: The Cuban Missile Crisis II**

“The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50,” Foreign Affairs, July-August 2012

25) Nov. 23  
No Class

26) Nov. 28  
(This class will examine a current events topic, which will also be the subject of the following week’s exercise. Reading to be assigned) **PAPER DUE**

27) Dec. 4  
The painful dilemma of humanitarian intervention  
“The Responsibility to Protect” Foreign Affairs Nov-Dec 2002

28) Dec. 7  
**Discussion and review**

**Final exam: Thursday Dec. 14, 7:30-10:15 a.m.**