

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: International Relations
Political Science
International History
American Studies

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Diplomatic Studies

Course Code: INR 6103

Total Hours: 160

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning: 100

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course offers an overview of the history and practice of contemporary diplomacy. It begins with analysis of what a modern diplomat currently does, both at home and abroad, set within the context of diplomatic history and theory. The normal practice of diplomacy and the various techniques of international negotiation will be addressed by using both historical and contemporary examples. It will familiarize students with the activities of a modern diplomat within a wider historical and theoretical context.

Pre-requisites:

One of the following:

PLT 5201 Research Methods Social Sciences

HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters: A History of History

SCL 5200 Social Research

INR 4101 Global Politics in the 21st Century

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop a critical understanding of the historical development and differing interpretations of modern diplomatic practice and methods
- To engage with various source materials pertaining to diplomatic practice and methods
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of modern diplomatic practice
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

International Relations: A6(ii); A6(iii); B6(i); C6(i); C6(iii); D6(ii)

Political Science: A6(ii); A6(iii); B6(i); C6(i); C6(iii); D6(ii)

International History: A6i, A6iv, B6i, B6iii, C6i, C6iii, D6ii

American Studies: A6iii, B6i, C6i, C6iii, D6ii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in the study of diplomacy
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts of power and influence as they are relevant to the practice of diplomacy
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into the formal and informal exercise of power through diplomacy and diplomatic relations
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation and critical thinking appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Overview of the evolution of diplomatic practice
- The standard and contemporary theories of diplomacy
- Familiarity with the works of key diplomatic theorists (ie Machiavelli, Grotius, Richelieu, Callières, Satow, Nicolson, Kissinger and Copeland)
- Contemporary diplomatic norms and practices
- International negotiations, both bi-lateral and multilateral
- Consideration of the current role of Public Diplomacy

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent, and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

Barston, R.P. (2019) *Modern Diplomacy*. 5th ed. Routledge.
Roberts, I. (ed.) (2018) *Satow's Diplomatic Practice*. 7th ed. OUP.
Berridge, G.R. (2015) *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*. 5th ed. Palgrave.
Cooper, A.F., J. Heine and R. Thakur (Eds.) (2013) *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy*. OUP.
Pigman, G. A. (2010) *Contemporary Diplomacy. Representation and Communication in a Globalised World*. Polity.
Berridge, G.R., M. Keens-Soper and T.G. Otte (2001) *Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger*. Palgrave.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	

Total Hours Updated	April 2024	