

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	MA International Relations
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Diplomacy, Decision-Making and Foreign Policy
Course Code:	INR 7113
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits
	10 ECTS credits
	4 US credits

Course Description:

Diplomacy and foreign policy are central features of international politics. This course provides students with an opportunity to examine and critically evaluate the decisional dynamics underpinning foreign policy and diplomacy. The course incorporates a significant practical element, whilst being firmly grounded within contemporary academic debates across both the study of diplomacy, foreign policy and related institutions through both history and theory. The course considers the important interaction between international and domestic politics and the impact the latter has on the formulation and implementation of diplomatic practice and foreign policy. The course covers a wide range of issues such as foreign policy formulation and implementation; economic diplomacy; the art of decision-making; the foreign policy of states in key regions; the use (and misuse) of foreign policy tools such as economic aid, sanctions, coercive diplomacy and deterrence.

Prerequisites:

MA students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To engage in an advanced specialist education in the area of foreign policy, diplomacy, and decision-making.
- To understand the practical skills and abilities applicable to roles in diplomacy and foreign policy-making

- To develop analytical capacities, and your ability to examine and critically evaluate the role of foreign policy, diplomacy, and decision-making in relation to complex issues such as the capacity of states to meet their economic and political foreign policy goals; the role of foreign policy and diplomacy in global conflict; the relationship between human rights, foreign policy, and diplomacy; the evolution of international organizations as diplomatic and foreign policy forums.
- To engage in a conceptualization of the challenges and opportunities entailed by foreign policy, diplomacy, and decision-making in the 21st century.
- To establish a good understanding of contemporary theoretical debates pertinent to the study of foreign policy, diplomacy, and decision-making.
- To understand the significance of risk and change in contemporary foreign policy and diplomacy.
- To critically assess complicated issues and debates concerning foreign policy and diplomacy of individual states in a cross national context.
- To develop analytical capacities to critically evaluate the utility of foreign policy tools and diplomacy in the contemporary world

Programme Outcomes:

A; B; C; D; E; G;

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develops a critical response to the various debates within the IR discipline with regard to diplomacy and foreign policy and comprehends how these are related to the historical context in which they developed
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts of power and influence as they pertain to diplomacy, foreign policy-making and implementation
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, geographical, historical, and political dimensions of diplomatic practice and foreign policy-making in different states and contexts
- Analyse and articulate the means and processes through which states, international organizations, and territorial non-state actors mobilize support and resources in pursuit of foreign policy goals;
- Analyse the complex and changing roles of governments, transnational actors, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, economic players, and human rights in the context of contemporary foreign policy and diplomacy;
- Understand the legacy of colonialism and global inequality as a structural condition for the practice of diplomacy and foreign-policy.

Indicative Content:

- The central debates concerning the evolution of diplomatic practice and foreign policy-making and competing levels of analysis.
- Key scholars, their thoughts on the standard and contemporary theories of diplomacy and foreign policy
- International negotiations, both bi-lateral and multilateral
- Consideration of the possible future directions of diplomatic practice and foreign policy-making and implementation

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.

Indicative Text(s):

- Smith, S. Hadfield, A. and Dunne, T. (eds.) (2016) *Foreign policy: theories, actors, cases*. 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hudson, V. (2014) *Foreign policy analysis: classic and contemporary theory*. 2nd edn. New York: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Mintz, A. and DeRouen, K. (2010) Understanding foreign policy decision making. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hill, C. (2003) *The changing politics of foreign policy*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Berridge, G.R. (2022) *Diplomacy: theory and practice*. 6th edn. London: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Berridge, G.R., Keens-Soper, M. and Otte, T.G. (2001) *Diplomatic theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Pigman, G. A. (2010) *Contemporary diplomacy: representation and communication in a globalised world*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Roberts, I. (ed.) (2018) *Satow's diplomatic practice*. 7th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Journals

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Web Sites

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See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total hours updated	April 2024	