



International Relations and Multilateral Diplomacy

INTS 3000 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Switzerland: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Description

From its base in Geneva, this seminar provides an in-depth examination of the evolving nature of diplomacy in contemporary international relations. It considers the impact of the profound changes affecting the contemporary international system on the concept of diplomacy and evaluates how the practice of diplomacy can be adapted to global, regional, and local levels. The seminar also examines the approaches of economic, environmental, and humanitarian diplomacy. It evaluates traditional and non-traditional approaches to diplomacy, taking into consideration the strategies of both state and non-state actors as well as international and regional organizations. A major emphasis is put on the position of the UN system and the European Union in a multilateral diplomatic perspective.

Teaching incorporates in-class lectures and field visits to international organizations based in Geneva, Brussels, and Paris, including United Nations and European Union agencies. The seminar draws on the resources of leading academics and institutions, as well as insiders' firsthand experiences. Required readings correspond to different seminar themes. Review and reflection sessions are organized on a regular basis to help students to synthesize and create connections among lectures, presentations, and readings.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, students will be able to:

- Define an in-depth and comprehensive approach to new forms of diplomacy;
- Demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the UN system in the context of multi-lateral diplomacy;
- Analyze the role of the EU and the UN as actors in diplomacy;
- Identify and interact with expert networks in the international community of Geneva;
- Apply analytical tools for evaluating different diplomatic strategies in the contemporary international system;

- Critically assess the evolution of strategies of state actors, non-state actors, and international organizations to resolve conflicts.

Language of Instruction

The course is taught in English, but students will be simultaneously learning French. Students are expected to read the French press and academic articles in French related to the course.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Module 1: Multilateral Diplomacy and the UN System

This module seeks to provide an introduction to processes, techniques, and strategies of multilateral diplomacy. It aims at examining the evolution of the UN in contemporary international relations and the impact of emerging powers on diplomacy.

Session 1: Multilateral Diplomacy: Processes, Techniques, and Strategies

This session seeks to present the main components and evolution of multilateral diplomacy.

Required Reading:

- Rozental, A. and Buenrostro A. (2013). Bilateral Diplomacy. In Cooper, A, Heine, J and Thakur R. (Ed.), *Modern Diplomacy* (pp.230-245). Oxford University Press.
- Mahbubani, K. (2013). Multilateral Diplomacy. In Cooper, A, Heine, J and Thakur R. (Ed.), *Modern Diplomacy* (pp.249-262). Oxford University Press.
- Hampson, F.O., Crocker, C.S, and Aall, P. (2013). Negotiation. In Cooper, A, Heine, J and Thakur R. (Ed.), *Modern Diplomacy* (pp.320-336). Oxford University Press.

Session 2: The Impact of Emerging Powers on the Multilateral System

The objective of this session is to discuss the influence of the emerging powers on the multilateral system in the context of a global powershift.

Required Reading:

- Schweller, R. (2011). Emerging Powers in an Age of Disorder. *Global Governance* 17. (pp. 285-297), retrieved from:
http://www.academia.edu/1211850/Emerging_Powers_in_an_Age_of_Disorder

Session 3: Multilateral Diplomacy in the Changing Context of the 21st Century

This session deals with the evolution of Multilateral Diplomacy within the changing political, economic, and cultural patterns of international relations. Perspectives on diplomatic strategies are discussed by a former Swiss Ambassador.

Required Reading:

- Cooper, A. (2013). The Changing Nature of Diplomacy. In Cooper, A, Heine, J and Thakur R. (Eds.), *Modern Diplomacy* (pp.35-53). Oxford University Press.
- Goff, P. (2013). Cultural Diplomacy. In Cooper, A, Heine, J and Thakur R. (Eds.), *Modern Diplomacy* (pp.35-53). Oxford University Press.

Session 4: Perspectives for the Evolution of the UN System in the 21st Century

This session examines the role of the United Nations in the evolving geopolitical context of the 21st century.

Required Reading:

Trachsler, D. (2010). *UN Security Council Reform: A Gordian Knot? CSS Analysis in Security Policy* (pp.1-4). Zurich: ETH Zurich.

Recommended Reading:

BASIC FACTS about the United Nations. (2011). New York: United Nations Department of Public Information.

Module 2: Humanitarian Diplomacy

This module seeks to present the main components of international humanitarian law and its role in armed conflicts. It aims at discussing the strategies and challenges of humanitarian diplomacy in the contemporary world system.

Session 1: Field Visit to ICRC: ICRC and International Humanitarian Law

Students will learn about the mission and strategies of the ICRC and will acquire knowledge about the fundamentals of International Humanitarian Law.

Required Reading:

ICRC (2009). *The ICRC: its mission and work*. Retrieved from

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0963.htm>

ICRC (2004). What is International Humanitarian Law? *ICRC Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law*. Retrieved from

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/legal-fact-sheet/humanitarian-law-factsheet.htm>

Session 2: Humanitarian Diplomacy

During this session, students will learn about the evolution and multiple processes of humanitarian diplomacy in the context of the evolving nature of conflicts.

Required Reading:

Veuthey, M. (2012). Humanitarian Diplomacy: Saving it When it is Most Needed. In A. Vautravers & Y. Fox (Eds.). *Humanitarian Space and the International Community, 16th Humanitarian Conference* (pp.195-208). Geneva: Webster University.

Session 3: Review and Reflection

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Modules 1 and 2, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

MIDTERM EXAM—2 hours

Module 3: Europe in Multilateral Relations—Study Trip to Brussels and Paris

This module seeks to examine the role of the European Union in international relations and its diplomatic strategies. Students will attend an introductory lecture on European integration in Geneva and then, during their stay in Brussels, will attend lectures at the European Union headquarters.

Session 1: The European Integration Process

This session aims to present and discuss the historical and political backgrounds of the European Integration Process. The session will also look at the future of the EU in light of the potential rise of nationalist political leaderships.

Required Reading:

- Jovanovic, M.N & Damjanovic, J. (November 2013). Geopolitics of the European Union. Are Steps Backward the Way Forward? *International Economics*, Volume LXVI, No 4. (pp.455-482). Retrieved from: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2395169>
- Nicoli, Francesco and Zuleeg, Fabian. (2014). The Long-Term Implications of the Euro Crisis for European Integration: A Deeper Union or Fragmentation? In Daianu, Daniel et al. *The Euro Crisis and the Future of Europe: The Political Economy of Further Integration and Governance*. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Session 2: European Union: Trans-Atlantic Relations and Eastern Foreign Policy

This session seeks to examine the evolution of the relations between the European Union and the United States, and the European Union's external policy towards the post-Soviet geopolitical space. A particular point of focus here is the case of Ukraine crisis as perceived from EU perspective.

Required Reading:

- Michel, Leo. (2013). NATO and the United States: Working with the EU to strengthen Euro-Atlantic Security. In Biscop, s. and Whitman R. (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of European Security* (pp. 255-269). London & New York: Routledge.
- Menon, Rajan and Rumer, Eugene (2015). *Conflict in Ukraine: The Unwinding of the Post-Cold War Order*. Boston, MA: The MIT Press.

Session 3: Field Visit to the EU Commission: European Union as an Actor in Contemporary Diplomacy

This session seeks to critically assess the role of the European Union as a regional actor in contemporary international relations.

Required Reading:

- Börzel, Tanja A. & Van Hüllen, Vera. (2014). One voice, one message, but conflicting goals: cohesiveness and consistency in the European Neighbourhood Policy. *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol.21(7), pp.1033-1049.

Session 4: Field Visit to UNESCO: Diplomacy and Education

This session focuses on the role of UNESCO as a facilitator between member states to increase access to education, in particular in the developing world.

Required Reading:

- UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report (2013), *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, Policy paper 11, retrieved from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002253/225300E.pdf>

Session 5: Review and Reflection

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 3, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

Module 4: Development Diplomacy and Multilateral Organizations

This module aims at examining the role and strategies of selected multilateral organizations in development diplomacy.

Session 1: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: UNCTAD and Multilateral Diplomacy

This session examines the role of UNCTAD in development diplomacy.

Required Reading:

UNCTAD Adjusts to the World Trade Organization (chap. VII). In *UNCTAD at 50, A Short History* (pp. 87-99). United Nations 2014, retrieved from:

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/osg2014d1_en.pdf

The Recent Decade and its Challenges (chap. VIII). In *UNCTAD at 50, A Short History* (pp. 101-112), United Nations 2014, retrieved from:

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/osg2014d1_en.pdf

Session 2: WTO, Diplomacy, and Trade—Field Visit to the WTO

This session presents the main functions of the World Trade Organization in the management of the multilateral trade system.

Required Reading:

Barston, R.P. (2014). Trade, foreign policy and diplomacy (chap 9). In *Modern Diplomacy* (4th ed.) (pp. 159-182). Harlow, England: Pearson.

Module 5: Environmental and Economic Diplomacy

This module aims at examining the increasing influence of economic and environmental factors on diplomatic processes, bilateral regional and multilateral levels.

Session 1: Field Visit to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the WTO and EFTA: Economic Diplomacy

Students learn about the objective and the main processes of economic diplomacy and its role in enhancing the power position of states in contemporary international relations, with a focus on Swiss foreign policy.

Required Reading:

Van Bergeijk, P. A. G. & Mons, S. (2009). Economic Diplomacy and Economic Security. In , C. Guapo Costa. (Ed.). *New Frontiers For Economic Diplomacy* (pp. 37-54), Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas, retrieved from:
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1436584

Session 2: International Labor Organization—Field Visit to the ILO

Students will learn about the diplomatic approaches of the International Labor Organization to enhance socioeconomic development and corporate responsibility.

Required Reading:

Lund-Thomsen, P. & Nadvi, K. (2011). Applying the Atlanta Agreement on Child Labour in South Asia. In Reed, H, Reed, D. & Utting, P (Eds), *Business, Non-State Regulation and Development*. London: Routledge.

Session 3: Environmental Diplomacy

This session seeks to present the main factors that impact environmental diplomacy in its political, legal, and diplomatic contexts.

Required Reading:

Barston, R.P. (2014). Environmental Diplomacy (chap. 10). In *Modern Diplomacy* (4th ed.) (pp. 183-201). Harlow, England: Pearson

Session 4: Review and Reflection

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Modules 4 and 5, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

FINAL EXAM—3 hours

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

Midterm, final exams, and participation constitute the course requirements. In all exercises, students are asked to reflect analytically and to integrate the briefings, lectures, and readings, as well as review sessions.

- Final exam: Students must respond to two essay questions and short identification questions related to Modules 3, 4, and 5.
- Midterm exam: Students respond to one essay question and two short identification questions related to Modules 1 and 2.
- Participation: Attendance, punctuality, interest in the subject, discussion, questions, and completion of reading assignments are absolutely essential for passing the International Relations and Multilateral Diplomacy Seminar.

Assessment:

Final exam	60%
Midterm exam	30%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.