International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy

EURO 3000 (3 credits / 45 contact hours)

SIT Study Abroad Summer Program:
Switzerland: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy

Course Description
From its base in Geneva, this course provides an in-depth examination of the changing nature of diplomacy. It considers the impact of the profound changes affecting the contemporary international system with respect to the concept of diplomacy and evaluates how the practice of diplomacy can be adapted to global, regional and local levels. The course also examines the approaches of humanitarian, economic, and environmental diplomacy and by taking into account the increasing role of non-state actors. The course examines traditional and non-traditional approaches to diplomacy taking into consideration the strategies of both state and non-state actors, international and regional organizations. A major emphasis is made on the UN system in a multilateral diplomatic perspective.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are to:

- develop analytical skills and critical thinking regarding the evolving nature of diplomacy in the contemporary international system;
- help students to design their Independent Study Project;
- provide an in-depth and comprehensive insight into new forms of diplomacy;
- build networks between students and experts.

Learning Outcomes
Having completed this course, the student is expected to demonstrate the ability to:

- identify the main characteristics of contemporary diplomacy;
- develop analytical tools for evaluating different diplomatic strategies in the contemporary International System;
- demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the UN system in the context of multi-lateral diplomacy;
- analyze the evolving role of the Nation-State in diplomacy.

Meeting Objectives

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.
Classroom seminars are supplemented by lectures and briefings at international organizations, including United Nations and other Geneva based international organizations. The seminar draws on the resources and firsthand experience of leading academics, institutions and insiders. Required readings are assigned to different themes of the seminar. Review and discussion sessions are organized on a regular basis to help students synthesize and create linkages between lectures, briefings and readings.

Lectures, exercises and assignments of the seminar will focus on the following main themes:

- Diplomacy in the 21st Century
- The UN system and Multilateral Diplomacy
- Humanitarian Diplomacy
- Environmental Diplomacy
- Economic Diplomacy

Course Requirements
Attendance of all lectures, briefings and review session are compulsory. Active participation is expected from students in all seminars. Assigned readings have to be completed by students every week. Students are required to read regularly the international press, including the Francophone press on political issues.

Required Exercises
A final exam and participation constitute the course requirements. In all exercises students are asked to reflect systematically and to integrate the briefings, lectures, readings and review discussions.

Students have to respect deadlines and due assignments. No extension of deadlines for assignments will be authorized.

Required Readings


Steve Wood / Wolfgang Quaisser, Turkey’s Road to the EU: Political Dynamics, Strategic Context and the Implications for Europe, European Foreign Affairs, Review, 2005

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(* Readings available in electronic version)

**Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Evaluation will be based upon the following:

Class Participation: 20%
   - Attendance at the lectures and briefings
   - Active participation in discussions of lectures and briefings

Oral presentation: 20%
   - Students present on themes related to the course. Evaluation is based on the integration of required readings, lectures and briefings in a coherent framework of analysis.

Final exam: 60%

Details will be provided at the time of assignments. You will be called upon to integrate readings, briefings, lectures, and review discussions

**Participation**

The depth and quality of students’ participation in all aspects of the course is considered for evaluation, including: visits and debriefings, participation in synthesis discussion (silence will not be considered evidence of wisdom), conscientious and courteous presence at all lectures and excursions, and excellence of performance in the practicum period.

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Presentations and Reading Discussions
Student performance will be evaluated based on the following criteria: scholarly preparation, creative innovation and depth of subject knowledge.

Course Policies
All sessions of this course are compulsory. If a student is to miss a class for any reason, she / he has to contact the Academic Director beforehand and arrange with a fellow student to pick up handouts and assignments. Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of grade. Students should abide by institutional policies on academic integrity, ethics, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, academic appeals process.

Grading Scales and Criteria
Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work done. An “A” letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well argued paper. A “B” letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A “C” letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A “D” letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 64</td>
<td>F</td>
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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.

Please note: the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

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