Course Syllabus

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.

Course Description
From its base in Geneva, this course 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 course 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.

Lectures, exercises, and assignments of the course will focus on the following main themes:
- Diplomacy in the 21st Century
- The UN system and Multilateral Diplomacy
- Humanitarian Diplomacy
- The EU as an Actor in Diplomacy
- Environmental Diplomacy
- Economic Diplomacy

Teaching will incorporate in-class lectures, which are supplemented by presentations at international organizations based in Geneva, Brussels, and Paris, including United Nations and European Union agencies. The course draws on the resources of leading academics and institutions, as well as insiders' firsthand experiences. Required readings correspond to different course themes. Review and discussion 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 course, 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.

**Session 1: Multilateral Diplomacy: Processes, Techniques, and Strategies – 3 hours**
This session seeks to present the main components and evolution of multilateral diplomacy.

**Session 2: Perspectives for the Evolution of the UN System in the 21st Century – 3 hours**
This session examines the role of the United Nations in the evolving geopolitical context of the 21st century.

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: ICRC and International Humanitarian Law – 3 hours - Field visit to the ICRC**
Students will learn about the mission and the strategies of the ICRC and will acquire knowledge about the fundamentals of International Humanitarian Law.
**Session 2: Humanitarian Diplomacy – 3hours**
During this session students will learn about the evolution and multiple processes of Humanitarian Diplomacy in the context of the evolving nature of conflicts.


**Session 3: Review session – 3hours**
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 & Paris**
The 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: Introduction to European Integration – 3 hours**
This lecture has the objective to present the historical and political backgrounds of the European Integration Process since the end of the Second World War to present.


**Session 2: European Union as an Actor in Contemporary Diplomacy – 3 hours**
This session seeks to critically assess the role of the European Union as a regional actor in contemporary international relations.


**Session 3: UNESCO: Diplomacy and Education - 3 hours**
This session will focus on the role of UNESCO as a facilitator between member states to increase access to education, in particular in the developing world.


**Session 4: Review session – 3 hours**
This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 3, including the critical assessment of the required readings.
Module 4: Economic Diplomacy, Environmental Diplomacy
This module aims at examining the increasing influence of economic and environmental factors on diplomatic processes, on bilateral regional and multilateral levels.

Session 1: Economic Diplomacy—3 hours
Students will 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.

Session 2: International Labor Organization—3 hours- Field visit to ILO
Students will learn about the diplomatic approaches of the International Labor Organization to enhance socioeconomic development and corporate responsibility.

Session 3: Environmental Diplomacy—3 hours
This session seeks to present the main factors that impact environmental diplomacy in its political, legal, and diplomatic contexts.
Required reading: article to be indicated soon

Module 5: 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 -1.5 hour
This session examines the role of UNCTAD in development diplomacy.

Session 2: World Trade Organization: WTO, Diplomacy, and Trade-1.5 hour- field visit to WTO
This session presents the main functions of the World Trade Organization in the management of the multilateral trade system.

Session 3: Review session—3 hours
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, readings, as well as review sessions.

- **Final exam**: Students must respond to essay questions related to modules three, four, and five.
- **Midterm exam**: Incorporates short identification questions related to the first two modules.
- **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:**

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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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**Grading Scale**

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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.
Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.