Diplomatic Disasters: Statecraft in War, Peace, and Revolution

SAIS 660.730.01

WEDNESDAYS, 2:15-4:45, ROOM: NITZE 410
Professor Ambassador Eric Edelman

Syllabus version 072910

Course Concept

“Only fools learn from their mistakes: I prefer to learn from the mistakes of others,” Bismarck is reputed to have said. This course looks at mistakes made by intelligent politicians and statesmen in the midst of war and revolutions. It takes a broad view of diplomacy as statecraft, and not merely the technique of representation and negotiation, and it explores why and how competent diplomats can get it badly wrong.

A note on electronic sources: this course will use the Library’s electronic reserves system for some readings and a number of course documents, which you can access via a link in Blackboard. This course will use the Library’s electronic reserves system for some readings and a number of course documents, which you can access via a link in Blackboard.

Requirements

Each student will write four memoranda from an assigned list, and will be prepared to summarize his or her memorandum in a two minute presentation in class. They will be expected, in most cases, to re-write the memorandum after the class to which it refers. Memoranda will include To, From, Subject, and Date lines at the top, will be in 12 points of a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) and will have margins of 1.5" at the left, 1" at top, right, and bottom, and will consist of single-spaced, numbered paragraphs separated by a full space from one another. The memoranda will be no longer than three pages, and will be submitted in hard copy in class: we also request electronic copies sent to ecohen@jhu.edu and esedelman@gmail.com. These format requirements and length limits are serious. Each memorandum will count for 20% of the student’s grade, the presentations for 5% each, and general participation the remaining 15%. Students will, of course, be expected to attend all classes having done the readings and being prepared to discuss them.

Books Required for Purchase


**Getting in Touch with the Instructors**

To arrange office hours with Ambassador Edelman, email him at eedelma1@jhu.edu or esedelman@gmail.com

1. **What is Diplomacy? Two Mini-Cases - The Decision Not to Negotiate with Hitler (May, 1940) and The War of 1812 (265 pages)**

   **Required Reading:**


   **Recommended Reading:**


2. **Routine Diplomacy: Reporting, Analysis, and Representation – The Iranian Revolution 1979** (222 pages)

*Required Reading:*


*U.S. Documents on the Iranian Revolution.* 60 pages. (*on ERes*)

*Recommended Reading:*


3. **Summit Diplomacy: Kennedy Meets Khrushchev in Vienna, 1961** (242 pages)

*Required Reading:*


Recommended Reading:


4. **Crisis Diplomacy I: Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962** (243 pages)

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


5. **Crisis Diplomacy II: Second Moroccan (Agadir) Crisis, 1911** (247 pages)

**Required Reading:**


*British Documents on the Agadir Crisis*. 74 pages. *(on ERes)*

**Recommended Reading:**


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**6. Alliance Management: Suez, 1956** (213 pages)

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


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**7. Multilateral Diplomacy: The Abyssinian Crisis of 1935** (268 pages)

**Required Reading:**


*German Documents on the Abyssinian Crisis*. 64 pages. (on ERes)

*British Documents on the Abyssinian Crisis*. 7 pages. (on ERes)

**Recommended Reading:**


8. **Coercive Diplomacy: The Christmas Bombings and the Paris Peace Talks, 1972** (270 pages)

**Required Reading:**


*U.S. Documents on the Christmas Bombings*. 59 pages. (on ERes)

*North Vietnam Documents on the Christmas Bombings*. 46 pages. (on ERes)

**Recommended Reading:**


**Required Reading:**


- “Six Party Talks Key Documents.” 18 pages. *(on ERes)*

- “UNSC Resolution 1718 vs. 1874 Comparison Chart.” 1 page. *(on ERes)*


**Recommended Reading:**


*Required Reading:*


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11. War Initiation: The Six Day War, 1967 (245 pages)

*Required Reading:*


*Recommended Reading:*

12. War Termination: The Congress of Vienna, 1815 (155 pages)

*Required Reading:*


*Recommended Reading:*


13. Wrap Up