

**UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE**

ELECTIVE COURSE EL 811  
WINTER 2025-26

DIPLOMACY FOR A DANGEROUS WORLD

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**Elective Course EL 811**  
**Winter 2025-26**  
***Diplomacy for a Dangerous World***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Diplomacy is the preferred means for achieving the strategic goals of nation states and the primary instrument of statecraft in peacetime. In this course we will explore the relevance of diplomacy in an increasingly dangerous world, including the relationship between diplomacy and the use of force. The first part of the course will cover the history of diplomacy, the roles and functions of embassies and diplomats, and diplomatic strategies such as negotiation and the use of economic instruments of statecraft. We will then consider current challenges to national security and the international order (including climate change, pandemics, and cyber threats) and the increasing power of both benign and malign non-state actors to challenge traditional nation state prerogatives. Finally we will analyze how diplomatic strategies may be used to mitigate and respond to current threats.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To understand diplomacy as an instrument of statecraft and international problem-solving.
- To understand how diplomacy functions, including the roles of foreign ministries, embassies and consulates.
- To appreciate the relationship between diplomacy and the use of force.
- To assess the utility of different diplomatic tools, including economic incentives and constraints, to address bilateral and multilateral issues.
- To recognize the growing role of non-state actors, including benign actors such as NGOs.
- To understand the role of diplomacy in responding to current transnational challenges.
- To assess the roles and contributions of multilateral actors including the United Nations.
- To analyze newer diplomatic strategies and their efficacy for solving transnational and global problems.

**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

The course will be conducted as a graduate seminar, with substantial input from the students. Forty percent of the grade for the course (High Pass, Pass, Fail) will be based on class participation. The other 60% will be based on three research- and thought-based short essays, 5-6 pages each. Students may choose their own topics. Proposed topics should be submitted to me by November 27. Papers are due on December 16, January 13 and February 3. Examples of possible topics include: a case study of the use of economic sanctions; a case study of human rights diplomacy; the role of the United Nations Security Council in international conflict; challenges to multilateral diplomatic efforts to address climate change; trade as an instrument of statecraft; challenges to multilateral diplomacy on climate change; relationship between climate change and conflict; and the outlook for negotiated settlement in Ukraine. Students are welcome to propose their own topics.

The main textbook for this course is Diplomacy Theory and Practice by G.R. Berridge. Though not all the chapters will be assigned as weekly readings, students are encouraged to read the entire book to gain a solid background in the basics of diplomacy. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings to ensure a meaningful discussion.

All graded work must comply with the NWC Academic Honor Code. This includes proper citation in graded written work to avoid any form of plagiarism. Authors are expected to give full credit in their written submissions when utilizing another's words or ideas. Moreover, authors must avoid misrepresentation. Misrepresentation is defined as reusing a single paper for more than one purpose without permission or acknowledgement, and it includes the following: a) submitting a single paper or substantially the same paper for more than one course at the NWC without permission of the instructors; and b) submitting a paper or substantially the same paper previously prepared for some other purpose outside the NWC without acknowledging it as an earlier work.

All unclassified, graded, written assignments will be submitted to their professors/moderators electronically through Turnitin Assignments set up in each Blackboard seminar course. Students may assess their papers through the Turnitin Students Workbooks in Blackboard to benefit from Turnitin's Similarity Report prior to final paper submission. This will highlight for students areas that require additional citation. There is no percentage that means "all clear" and no percentage that means "big trouble." Papers with as low as 10% similarity score may have serious plagiarism concerns while a 50% similarity score could be fine (an example is a large portion of an official document attached as an appendix). Turnitin requires students to go through the markup line by line to identify and correct any problems. When submitting papers for evaluation to professors/moderators through the Blackboard seminar course, students are still able to revise and resubmit the assignment up to the assignment deadline. For this reason, faculty will refrain from downloading or otherwise viewing submissions that come in through Turnitin Assignments in their Blackboard seminar course until the final deadline for submitting papers has passed. Students should refer any questions regarding Turnitin to their professors/moderators.

Students must also adhere to the NWC's non-attribution policy in class discussions.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1:History of Diplomacy and Functions of Diplomatic Institutions**

#### **Read:**

Lauren, Craig and George,"The Emergence of Diplomacy and the Great Powers" and "The Classical System of Diplomacy" Chapters 1 and 2 in *Force and Statecraft, 2020*

Berridge, G.R., Chapters 1,7,9,14 and 15 in *Diplomacy Theory and Practice 2022*

### **Week 2: Concepts, Roles and Functions**

#### **Read:**

Fendrick, Reed J., "Diplomacy as an Instrument of National Power," Chapter 13 in *Theory of War And Strategy*, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College, 2008

Freeman, Chas. W., "Tasks and Skills of Diplomacy," pp 107-140 in *Arts of Power, 2002*

Thayer, Charles, "Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities," "Protocol," and "Mr. Ambassador " pp.201-263 in *Diplomat*, 1959

Nicolson, Sir Harold, "The Ideal Diplomatist," Chapter 5 in *Diplomacy* ,1963

#### **Watch:**

Ker-Lindsey, James, How Do Countries Recognise Each Other: The Strange and Varied Forms of State Recognition,<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3dDqV7khi8>

### **Week 3: Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy**

#### **Read:**

Berridge, G.R., Chapters 11 and 12 in *Diplomacy Theory and Practice, 2022*

De Laurentis, Jeffrey and Finerty, Tressa Rae, Chapter 12 in *Diplomatic Tradecraft, 2024*

Bjola, Cornelius and Kornprobst, Markus, Chapter 4 in *Understanding International Diplomacy*, 2018

### **Week 4: International Organizations**

**Read:**

On homepage of United Nations (<https://www.un.org>) under “About Us” read sections on Main Bodies, Secretary General, UN System, UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Lauren, Craig and George, “A Post-war System of Security: Great Power Directorate or United Nations?” and “The Evolving International System,” Chapters 4 and 6 in *Force and Statecraft*, 2020

“The UN Security Council,” Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder, updated 2024  
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

**Week 5: Diplomatic Negotiations****Read:**

Berridge, G.R., “Part 1 - The Art of Negotiation,” and “Mediation” Chapters 2-6 and 16 in *Diplomacy Theory and Practice*, 2022

Barston, R.P., “Negotiation,” Chapter 4 in *Modern Diplomacy*, 2019

**Watch:**

D’Argent, Pierre, International Law MOOC, Episodes 29 and 31, “The Notion of Treaty” and “Signature, Ratification and Entry into Force”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu9q-y3\\_oPM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu9q-y3_oPM) and  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_MnsoHpGLK4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MnsoHpGLK4)

Haas, Richard, “Negotiations in Foreign Policy,” Council on Foreign Relations Video, 2018  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6a7nvuOEnU>

**Week 6: Force and Diplomacy****Read:**

Eizenstat, Stuart E., “The Balkan Wars: The Marriage of Force and Diplomacy,” Chapter 8 in *The Art of Diplomacy*, 2024

Lauren, Craig and George, “Deterrence” and “Coercive Diplomacy,” Chapters 9 and 10 in *Force and Statecraft*, 2020

Freeman, Chas.W., “The Nonviolent Use of Military Power,” pp. 53-60 in *Arts of Power*, 2002

Freedman, Lawrence, “The Falklands/Malvinas Conflict,” Chapter 7 in *War and Diplomacy*, edited by Andrew Dorman and Greg Kennedy, 2008

## **Week 7: Economic Statecraft**

### **Read:**

Baldwin, David A., "National Power and Economic Statecraft," Chapter 7 (pp 124-152) and "The Afghanistan Embargo" case study, (pp 256-268 in Chapter 9), *Economic Statecraft* 2020

Masters, Jonathan, "What Are Economic Sanctions?," Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder, 2024

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-are-economic-sanctions>

Froman, Michael, "After the Trade War," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2025

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/after-trade-war-michael-froman>

## **Week 8: Transnational Security Threats: Focus on Climate, Cyber and Pandemics**

### **Read:**

Eizenstat, Stuart E., "Climate Change: The Supreme Test of Diplomacy," Chapter 12 in *The Art of Diplomacy*, 2024

Joi, Priya, "The Next Pandemic: Ebola?," Gavi website, 2021

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/next-pandemic/ebola-virus>

Sivaram, Varun, "We Need a Fresh Approach to Climate Policy. It's Time for Climate Realism," Council on Foreign Relations, April 7, 2025.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/we-need-fresh-approach-climate-policy-its-time-climate-realism>

Singer, P.W., and Friedman, Allan, *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar*, pp 173-197.

## **Week 9: Growing Role of Non State Actors**

### **Read:**

Gordon, Noah, "How Climate Change Helps Violent Non State Actors," Carnegie Endowment website

2022, <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2022/12/how-climate-change-helps-violent-nonstate-actors?lang=en>

Homans, Charles, "Track II Diplomacy: A Short History," *Foreign Policy* June 2011

[https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/06/20/track-ii-diplomacy-a-short-history/?download\\_pdf=true](https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/06/20/track-ii-diplomacy-a-short-history/?download_pdf=true)

### **Watch:**

"Non State Actors and Geopolitical Rivalry," Video Discussion, Carnegie Endowment website, 2024

<https://carnegieendowment.org/events/2024/04/non-state-actors-and-geopolitical-rivalry?lang=en>

“The Role of the Private Sector in Geopolitics; A Conversation with George Logothetis,” Video Discussion, The Wilson Center website

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/role-private-sector-geopolitics-conversation-george-logothetis>

## **Week 10 New Diplomatic Tools, Future Prospects**

### **Read:**

Day, Joel, “Planning for Global Engagement in Cities,” CPD Perspectives, Center on Public Diplomacy, February 2022

[https://uscpublicdiplomacy.org/sites/default/files/Planning%20for%20Global%20Engagement%20in%20Cities\\_2.28.22%20%281%29.pdf](https://uscpublicdiplomacy.org/sites/default/files/Planning%20for%20Global%20Engagement%20in%20Cities_2.28.22%20%281%29.pdf)

Moore, Andrew, “How AI Could revolutionize Diplomacy,” in *Foreign Policy* March 2023

[https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/21/ai-artificial-intelligence-diplomacy-negotiations-chatgpt-quantum-computing/?download\\_pdf=true](https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/21/ai-artificial-intelligence-diplomacy-negotiations-chatgpt-quantum-computing/?download_pdf=true)

Ghosh, Runge-Metzger, Victor and Ji, “The New Way to Fight Climate Change: Small-Scale Cooperation Can Succeed where global Diplomacy Has Failed,” *Foreign Affairs*, November 2022

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/world/new-way-fight-climate-change>

### **Watch:**

Subnational Diplomacy Unit Anniversary Video, State Department 2023

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/the-special-representative-for-subnational-diplomacy/>

“How American Diplomacy has Evolved in the Modern Era,” CBS News May 8, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gz35eRuZ4A>

