

POLI 449—DIPLOMACY IN PRACTICE

Fall 2019

Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:35-3:55 PM, ARTS 150

***** preliminary version subject to change *****

PROFESSOR VINCENT POULIOT

vincent.pouliot[at]mcgill.ca

Office hours: Fridays, 10-11:30 PM, Leacock 324C

1- Description

International Relations (IR) theories tend to depict world politics in highly abstract terms, from systemic forces to utility functions. As much value as there may be in such formal frameworks, they often lose sight of how it is ultimately people of flesh and blood—diplomats, or “professional strangers,” as Paul Sharp calls them—who form the backbone of international relations. Despite remarkable variation over time and space, diplomatic practices are what gives shape to global politics.

This course seeks to capture the richness and social complexity of diplomacy in practice. Its main objective is to shed analytical light on the intricacies and contingency of diplomacy as a set of patterned ways of doing things on the world stage.

The course is structured around six main themes: (1) diplomacy in theory and practice; (2) diplomacy across history; (3) sites and functions of diplomacy; (4) multilateral diplomacy; (5) the expanding diplomatic cast; and (6) diplomacy and new information technologies. We conclude by taking stock of current trends in order to interrogate the future of diplomacy.

2- Prerequisites

In order to fully take advantage of this course, students should have an introductory course in International Relations (POLI244) as well as a more advanced, 300-level class. On a personal level, a capacity to work in team and speak in public is required.

3- Format

In this course students will learn primarily by doing. Taught in an active learning environment, the class combines lectures, practical workshops, simulations and guest talks delivered by practitioners. Pedagogical activities regularly involve teamwork and intensive interaction and participation.

In parallel, weekly conferences led by a TA (Erik Underwood: erik.underwood[at]mail.mcgill.ca) allow for smaller size discussions on the topics covered in class, including readings. Conferences will begin during the third week of the term; students will sign up for one of the conference groups on Minerva. Weekly attendance is mandatory. Since most workshops and sessions necessitate the full 90 minutes, six lectures will be cancelled during the latter part of the term in order to compensate for the hours spent in conferences (see the schedule below).

4- Requirements

	%	Date	Description
(1) Conference participation	10%	N/A	Based on attendance, active involvement in discussions and debates, as well as preparedness. More details will be provided by the TA.
(2) Course journal	20%	10 posts across the term	The journal is meant to help students prepare for, or reflect on, course activities. Ten questions will be asked by the instructor in class at different points throughout the term. Each post is worth 2% of the final grade.
(3) Multilateral negotiation policy memo	20%	18.10.19	A 3-page (excluding references) policy memo establishing the priorities of a given country (assigned through mycourses during the fourth week) about a real-world situation under consideration by the Security Council (TBA). The report should identify three priorities and make attendant recommendations with regards to the drafting of a Council resolution.
(4) Global conference policy memo	20%	15.11.19	A 5-page (excluding references) policy memo establishing the negotiation priorities and tactics for a given actor (assigned through mycourses during the seventh week) in a replay of the 2015 Paris conference on climate change. The report should identify two to three specific tactics to be implemented in order to exert influence and gain leverage during the negotiations.
(5) Take-home exam	30%	04.12.19	In the final week of the term, students will pick two open-ended questions (out of a choice of three) and write short essays in response (about 5 double-spaced pages). The take-home requires students to integrate the different course components, including active learning workshops and simulations, guest talks, readings, and lectures.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

5- Materials

Mandatory articles may be downloaded through the McGill library system for free (see the list below). The mandatory textbook is on sale at the McGill bookstore:

Pauline Kerr and Geoffrey Wiseman (2018), *Diplomacy in a Globalizing World: Theories and Practices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd edition.

6- Late penalties and extensions

With the exceptions of the course journal and the take-home exam, which cannot be submitted late, the late penalty on assignments amounts to one (1) percent of the final course grade per day, including weekends and holidays. Papers must be submitted in class on the listed date; they will not be accepted via email, nor should they be left anywhere else in the university. The exception to this rule is late papers, which must be handed in at the Political Science front desk (Leacock 414), in the instructor's mailbox, with a date stamp. Students are responsible for keeping safe both a paper and an electronic copy of any submitted papers. It is also students' duty to retain all marked assignments returned by the instructor until the end of the term.

Extensions or make-up exams are not granted except in cases consistent with the Faculty of Arts' guidelines. Be prepared to provide all the relevant documentation (e.g., medical notes with clear date indications). Students should advise the instructor about extensions prior to deadlines whenever possible, and one week later at the latest.

7- Communications policy

The best way to reach the instructor is by meeting in person. Office hours are held on Fridays, 10-11:30AM. Priority will be given on a first come, first serve basis to students who come in person to the instructor's office (Leacock 324C). Students who have courses or documented professional commitments during office hours may set an appointment via email.

Students should refrain from emailing the instructor with questions that either: a) require extensive feedback (come to office hours instead); b) are of general interest (ask the question in class instead); or c) have been already answered in class (ask a peer for their notes). Otherwise, legitimate email inquiries will normally be answered within two business days. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s). Students are also required to regularly consult the course website for announcements and other course-related information.

8- Plagiarism

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). A number of tools, including public search engines, may be used to detect plagiarism. In addition, students are not permitted to hand in the same assignment in two or more courses.

9- Disabilities and other special needs

Students with learning disabilities should advise the instructor as soon as possible. They should also contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (398-6009, www.mcgill.ca/osd). Arrangements can also be made to accommodate special needs such as religion, chronic illness, social discomfort or else.

Students facing personal issues are invited to seek help with McGill's Counselling Service (www.mcgill.ca/counselling). Please note that in order to avoid penalties, it is imperative to inform the

instructor of any possible delays as soon as possible. Additional policies governing academic issues affecting students can be found in the Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Charter of Students' Rights (regulations can be found online at www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/greenbookenglish.pdf).

10- Schedule, themes and readings

Subject to change

1) Introduction (W 4 Sept)

Reading: KW introduction

2) Diplomacy in IR theory (F 6 Sept)

Reading: Robert D. Putnam (1988), "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization* 42(3): 428-460.
(Recommended) KW chapter 6

3) Diplomacy as practice (W 11 Sept)

Readings: Vincent Pouliot and Jean-Philippe Thérien (2018), "Global Governance in Practice," *Global Policy* 9(2): 163-172;
as well as Backgrounder on the Cuban missile crisis (posted on mycourses)
(Recommended) KW chapter 3

4) Protocol in diplomacy (F 13 Sept)

Guest lecture by speaker to be confirmed

Reading: Alisher Faizullaev (2014), "Diplomacy and Symbolism," *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy* 8(2): 91-114.

5) Workshop: Diplomacy across history I (W 18 Sept)

Readings (only one per student—cases will be attributed online during the previous week):

1- ANCIENT NEAR EAST: Bertrand Lafont (2001), "International Relations in the Ancient Near East: The Birth of a Complete Diplomatic System," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 12(1): 39-60;

2- CLASSICAL GREECE: Andrew Wolpert (2001), "The Genealogy of Diplomacy in Classical Greece," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 12(1): 71-88;

3- EARLY COLONIAL DIPLOMACY: Ivana Elbl (1992), "Cross-Cultural Trade and Diplomacy: Portuguese Relations with West Africa, 1441-1521," *Journal of World History* 3(2): 165-204;

4- IMPERIAL CHINA: Bjornar Sverdrup-Thygeson (2012), "A Neighbourless Empire? The Forgotten Diplomatic Tradition of Imperial China," *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy* 7(3): 245-267;

5- IROQUOIS: Neta Crawford (1994), "A Security Regime Among Democracies: Cooperation among Iroquois Nations," *International Organization* 48(3): 345-385;

6- RENAISSANCE ITALY: Michael Mallett (2001), "Italian Renaissance Diplomacy," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 12(1): 61-70;

7- ROME: Brian Campbell (2001), "Diplomacy in the Roman World (c.500 BC-AD 235)," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 12(1): 1-22;

8- STEPPE: Edward Louis Keenan, Jr. (1967), "Muscovy and Kazan: Some Introductory Remarks on the Patterns of Steppe Diplomacy," *Slavic Review* 26(4): 548-558;

9- TBA

10- TBA

11- TBA

6) Workshop: Diplomacy across history II (F 20 Sept)

Reading: KW chapter 1

(Recommended) KW chapter 2

7) The foreign ministry (W 25 Sept)

Reading: KW chapter 7

(Recommended) Iver B. Neumann (2007), "A Speech That the Entire Ministry May Stand for, or: Why Diplomats Never Produce Anything New," *International Political Sociology* 1(2): 183-200.

8) The embassy (F 27 Sept)

Reading: David M. Malone (2012), "The Evolving Nature and Role of the Diplomatic Mission," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 18(2): 225-241.

(Recommended) KW chapter 9

No class on W 2 Oct

9) Multilateral organizations (F 4 Oct)

Reading: KW chapter 10

(Recommended) Rebecca Adler-Nissen and Alena Drischova (2019), "Track-Change Diplomacy: Technology, Affordances, and the Practice of International Negotiations," *International Studies Quarterly*, early view.

10) United Nations diplomacy (W 9 Oct)

Guest lecture by Louise Fréchette, former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Reading: KW chapter 18

(Recommended) Thomas G. Weiss (1982), "International Bureaucracy: The Myth and Reality of the International Civil Service," 58(2): 287-306.

No class on 16 Oct

11) Workshop: Security Council simulation I (F 18 Oct)

Reading: Rebecca Adler-Nissen and Vincent Pouliot (2014), "Power in Practice: Negotiating the International Intervention in Libya," *European Journal of International Relations* 20(4): 889-911.

12) Workshop: Security Council simulation II (W 23 Oct)

Reading: Ian Johnstone (2003), "Security Council Deliberations: The Power of the Better Argument," *European Journal of International Law* 14(3): 437-80.

13) New ITs and diplomacy (F 25 Oct)

Readings: KW chapter 8

No class on W 30 Oct

14) Social medias and diplomacy (F 1 Nov)

Guest lecture by Alain Lemay, Global Affairs Canada

Reading: KW chapter 11

(Recommended) Rebecca Adler-Nissen and Alexei Tsinoi (2019), "International Misrecognition: The Politics of Humour and National Identity in Israel's Public Diplomacy," *European Journal of International Relations* 25(1): 3-29.

15) New actors in diplomacy (W 6 Nov)

Reading: KW chapter 5

(Recommended) Richard Langhorne (2005), "The Diplomacy of Non-State Actors," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 16(2): 331-339.

16) NGO diplomacy (F 8 Nov)

Guest lecture by speaker to be confirmed

Reading: Katharina Rietig (2016), "The Power of Strategy: Environmental NGO Influence in International Climate Negotiations," *Global Governance* 22: 269-288.

No class on W 13 Nov

17) Workshop: Paris conference simulation I (F 15 Nov)

Reading: Radoslav S. Dimitrov (2016), "The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Behind Closed Doors," *Global Environmental Politics* 16(3): 1-11.

No class on W 20 Nov (room may be used toward simulation)

18) Workshop: Paris conference simulation II (F 22 Nov)

Reading: Karin Bäckstrand *et al.* (2017), "Non-state Actors in Global Climate Governance: from Copenhagen to Paris and Beyond," *Environmental Politics* 26(4): 561-579.

19) Take-home exam begins (W 27 Nov)

No class on F 29 Nov

20) The future of diplomacy (W 4 Dec)

Reading: KW conclusion; and

John Robert Kelley (2010), "The New Diplomacy: Evolution of a Revolution," *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 21(2): 286-305.

(Recommended) KW chapters 4, 13, 15, 16 and 17