1- Description

International Relations (IR) theories tend to depict world politics in highly abstract terms. By these accounts, systems, structures, utility functions and prisoners’ dilemmas would seem to determine the way the world goes around. As much value as there may be in such formal theoretical frameworks, the attendant risk is to 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 everyday international relations. This course revisits global politics from the standpoint of its manifold practices—first and foremost, the practice of diplomacy.

Diplomacy is the basic constitutive process of world politics. Despite their wide evolution over time and space, diplomatic practices give shape to global intercourse. From that standpoint, IR students must better understand the workings of diplomacy in order to capture the dynamics of world politics.

This course looks at diplomacy from six different vantage points: (1) diplomacy in theory and practice; (2) diplomacy in history; (3) key sites of diplomacy; (4) multilateral diplomacy; (5) new diplomatic interfaces and actors; and (6) diplomacy and new information technologies. We conclude by taking stock of current trends to interrogate the future of diplomacy. Overall, the course heavily emphasizes the practical aspects of diplomacy, whether through exchanges with former practitioners or active learning workshops.

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

This class combines lectures, active learning activities, and guest talks. The course takes place in an active learning environment and its weekly workshops involve intensive teamwork and class interaction.

In parallel, weekly conferences led by a TA allow for smaller size discussions on the topics covered in class, including the mandatory readings. Conferences will begin on the third week of the term. Each student will sign up for one of the conference groups on Minerva. Weekly attendance is mandatory. In order to compensate for the hours spent in conferences, a number of lectures will be cancelled during the term (see the exact schedule below).
4- Requirements

There are three types of requirements: (1) participation; (2) four short papers; and (3) a final exam.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Based on attendance, active involvement in discussions and debates, as well as preparedness, during lectures, workshops and conferences. In the regular sessions, student participation will be evaluated through five “one-minute papers” based on self-reflection and posted online (bring your laptop with you in class).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2a) Reading Report</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22.01.14</td>
<td>A 3-page (excluding references) analytical report about a historical case study of diplomacy (assigned through mycourses during the second week). Research should start from the relevant suggested reading (see below), but more references may be needed. The report should try to summarize the most important features of diplomacy in the historical case at hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2b) Speech Writing Policy Memo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>05.02.14</td>
<td>A 3-page (excluding references) policy memo establishing the priorities of a given government branch from a given country (assigned through mycourses during the third week) in its opening speech at the General Assembly. The memo should propose three short paragraphs to include in the speech and justify them in terms of the country’s policy priorities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2c) Multilateral Negotiation Policy Memo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26.02.14</td>
<td>A 3-page (excluding references) policy memo establishing the priorities of a given country (assigned through mycourses during the fifth 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2d) Global Conference Policy Memo</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19.03.14</td>
<td>A 5-page (excluding references) policy memo establishing the negotiation priorities and tactics for a given actor in a global conference on the environment (assigned through mycourses during the seventh week). The report should identify two to three specific tactics to be implemented in order to exert influence and gain leverage during the negotiations, making use of the diversity of actors present toward the actor’s policy objectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Final Exam</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Date to be determined by the Faculty of Arts. The exam will cover all the major elements in the course, including lectures, active learning sessions, guest talks, and readings.</td>
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</table>
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 for about $60:


Check out the companion website to access various resources, including exercises, case studies, and web links: [http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199764488/student](http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199764488/student)

6- Late penalties and extensions

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 date assigned. 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 (medical notes with clear date indications, etc.). Students should advise the instructor about extensions prior to deadline if possible, and at most one week later.

7- Communications policy

The best way to reach the instructor is by meeting him in person. Office hours are held on Thursdays, 2:30-4PM. Priority will be given to students who come in person to the instructor’s office (Leacock 324C) on a first come, first serve basis. Students who have courses or professional commitments during this time slot may set an appointment via email.

Regarding emails, students should refrain from emailing the instructor with questions that either: a) require extensive feedback (in which case students should meet in person with the instructor during office hours); b) are of general interest (in which case the issue should be raised at the beginning of lectures); or c) have been already answered in class (in which case students should obtain answers from fellow students who attended the missed lecture). Otherwise, legitimate email inquiries will normally be answered within two weekdays. 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 on mycourses for important announcements, handouts 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](http://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- Readings (organized per theme)

(1) Diplomacy in Theory and in Practice (Weeks 1 and 2)

- K/W Intro, chapters 3 and 6

(2) Diplomacy in History (Week 3)

- K/W chapter 1
- Recommended: K/W chapter 2

One of the following eight readings, depending on the historical case assigned:


(3) Diplomatic Sites (Weeks 4 and 5)

- K/W chapters 7 and 9

(4) Multilateral Diplomacy (Weeks 6, 7 and 8)

- K/W chapters 10, 17 and 18

(5) New Actors in Diplomacy (Weeks 9 and 10)

- K/W chapter 5

The following readings are *recommended* only; they cover a variety of “new actors” in contemporary diplomacy:


(6) ITs and Diplomacy (Week 12)


(7) Future of Diplomacy (Week 13)

- K/W chapters 4 and conclusion
- Recommended: K/W chapters 15 and 16
### 11- Schedule and Themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAYS, 2:05-3:25</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAYS, 10:05-11:25</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>08-09.01.14</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Diplomacy in Theory and in Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15-16.01.14</td>
<td>Guest lecture: “Protocol and Diplomacy” by Angela Bogdan, Chief of Protocol, and Chantal Chastenay, Deputy Chief of Protocol (DFAIT)</td>
<td>Bargaining and Negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22-23.01.14</td>
<td>Historical Case Studies I (within-case workshop) (first paper due)</td>
<td>Historical Case Studies II (cross-case workshop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>29-30.01.14</td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
<td>Diplomatic Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>05-06.02.14</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: “The Embassy and the Ambassador,” by Marie Bernard-Meunier, former Canadian Ambassador to Germany and the Netherlands</td>
<td>Speech-writing Workshop (second paper due)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12-13.02.14</td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
<td>Guest Lecture: “UN Diplomacy: Permanent Representation and the 38th Floor Compared,” by Louise Fréchette, former Canadian Permanent Representative and Deputy Secretary-General of the UN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>19-20.02.14</td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
<td>The Multilateral Pecking Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>26-27.02.14</td>
<td>Multilateral Negotiation I (third paper due)</td>
<td>Multilateral Negotiation II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12-13.03.14</td>
<td>The New Diplomatic Cast</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: “NGO Diplomacy” by Steven Guilbeault, Senior Director (Équiterre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>19-20.03.14</td>
<td>Global Conference I (fourth paper due)</td>
<td>Global Conference II</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>26-27.03.14</td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>02-03.04.14</td>
<td>New Information Technologies</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: New Medias and Diplomacy, by Renée Filiatrault, former Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>09-10.04.14</td>
<td><em>No class</em></td>
<td>The Future of Diplomacy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING WEEK**
- **12-13.03.14**: The New Diplomatic Cast
- **19-20.03.14**: Global Conference I (fourth paper due)
- **26-27.03.14**: *No class*
- **02-03.04.14**: New Information Technologies
- **09-10.04.14**: *No class*