Diplomatic Protocol and History of Diplomacy

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| **Credit level:**Level 5 |
| **Length:** semester 2 |
| **ECTS credit value:** 8 |
| **College and School:** Lazarski University in Warsaw, Faculty of Economics and Management |
| **Module Leader:** prof. Jakub Wódka |
| **Host Course:** BA International Relations |
| **Pre-requisites:**N/A |
| **Co-requisites:**N/A |
| **Special features:**N/A |
| **Access restrictions:**N/A |
| **Summary of module content:** The module will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the rules, customs, and conventions that govern diplomatic interactions between countries and international organizations. This includes, among others, understanding the legal framework for conduction of diplomatic relations; hierarchy of diplomatic ranks, as well as diplomatic privileges and immunities. It will also offer a chronological and thematic run-down of the most important developments in diplomacy. It will primarily focus on modern and contemporary diplomacy. The module builds on the Diplomacy in Action module, which introduces first-year students to practical diplomatic skills. In their second year, students explore historical diplomatic practices, key treaties, and evolving protocols that shape modern diplomacy, equipping them to approach contemporary challenges with both theoretical and practical knowledge. |

**Assessment Methods**

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| Rank | Assessment type | Assessment name | Weighting | Qualifying set (where the minimum mark required applies across multiple assessments) |
| 1 | Group Presentation | In-class oral presentation (diplomatic protocol part) | 50% |  |
| 2 | Coursework | Research paper (history of diplomacy part) | 50% |

**Synoptic assessment**

N/A

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of diplomacy historically and and its relevance to contemporary globalization and regionalization, analyzing how diplomatic practices shape bilateral and multilateral relations.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of international diplomatic norms and practices, applying theoretical approaches to understand their role in structuring global political interactions.
3. Analyze historical case studies to trace cause-effect relationships in diplomacy, evaluating how diplomatic structures can be used to solve international conflicts and tensions.
4. Gain essential skills in communication, cultural sensitivity, etiquette, and protocol, empowering students to effectively function in diplomatic interactions.
5. Critically evaluate historical and contemporary diplomatic strategies to anticipate potential international challenges, exploring how diplomacy can be leveraged to prevent conflicts and maintain stability.
6. Apply cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and networking skills in diverse geopolitical contexts, demonstrating competence in navigating global diplomatic environments.

**Course outcomes the module contributes to:**

* L5.3 An ability to critically identify the geopolitical dimensions of International Relations and key events into a broad narrative on post-Cold War politics.
* L5.4 An appreciation for the regional dynamics of International Relations, with specific focus on the politics of Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.
* L5.5 An understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the international system, especially through concepts and theories derived from the social sciences.
* L5.6 An understanding of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, including the ability to use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information.

**Indicative syllabus content**

* Vienna Conventions and the legal framework
* Order of Precedence. Diplomatic ranks and hierarchy
* Diplomatic communication and correspondence
* Diplomatic events and ceremonies
* Bilateral and multilateral diplomacy in historical context
* Conferences and summit diplomacy in historical context
* Secret Intelligence and diplomacy in historical context
* Mediation and diplomacy in historical context
* The future of diplomacy

**Teaching and learning methods.**

This module on diplomatic history and protocol is conducted in the form of seminars covering the indicative content. Varied and innovative teaching methods, such as end-of-class quizzes (which do not contribute to the module assessment), will be employed to consolidate students’ understanding of the material discussed during seminars. Additionally, interactive case studies and group discussions will be incorporated to encourage critical thinking and practical application of concepts. Furthermore, students will receive supplementary reading materials for self-study and be encouraged to engage in peer-teaching exercises, where they present key takeaways from assigned readings to their classmates. For the part focused on diplomatic protocol, students will do an in-class presentation on a chosen topic. In addition, they will take part in scenario-based exercises where they navigate diplomatic etiquette in real-life situations, analyze case studies of diplomatic successes and failures, and engage in practical exercises on ceremonial procedures, precedence, and formal correspondence. In terms of extra-curricular activities, students will participate in field study visits to the Polish MFA or the office of a chosen international organisation based in Warsaw, for example the ODIHR/OSCE, FRONTEX, European Parliament liaison office/European Commission representation. Additionally, they will meet with representatives of subnational entities and non-governmental organisations engaged in international activities.

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| Activity type | Category | Student learning and teaching hours\* |
| Lecture | Scheduled |  |
| Seminar | Scheduled | 60 |
| Tutorial | Scheduled |  |
| Project supervisor | Scheduled |  |
| Demonstration | Scheduled |  |
| Practical classes and workshops | Scheduled |  |
| Supervised time in studio/workshop | Scheduled |  |
| Fieldwork | Scheduled |  |
| External visits | Scheduled |  |
| Work based learning | Scheduled |  |
| Scheduled online learning | Scheduled |  |
| Other learning | Scheduled |  |
| Total scheduled |  | 60 |
| Placement | Placement |  |
| Independent study | Independent | 140 |
| Total student learning and teaching hours |  | 200 |

\*hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

**Assessment rationale: why has this assessment been used for this module?**

**1. The in-class group presentation** on an aspect of diplomatic protocol will evaluate students' communication skills, analytical thinking, and application of theoretical concepts. Presenting students will not only assess important aspects of diplomatic protocol and analyse case studies but will also be encouraged to provide a debate prompt which will lead to a wider class discussion. This presentation will contribute 50% of the final grade, with students working in pairs or groups of three to research and present a topic in class. Presentations will last 20 minutes for pairs and 30 minutes for groups of three, ensuring each student has equal speaking time. A 15-minute Q&A session will follow, helping students develop public engagement skills and enhance their employability in diplomacy, international organizations, public affairs, lobbying, and related careers. This type of assessment addresses LOs 2, 4 and 6.

**2.** **The 2,500-word** paper on an aspect of the history of diplomacy is a substantial piece of work in the traditional essay format, allowing for extended engagement with the module material and serving as a means to assess students’ progress by the end of the module. The paper will contribute 50% of the final grade. The paper will especially address LOs 1, 3 and 5.

Students will be informed about the ethical considerations of AI usage in academic work and may use AI for preliminary research, literature inquiry, brainstorming, improving language and writing style, fact-checking, and preparing for potential Q&A sessions.

**Assessment criteria: what criteria will be used to assess my work on this module?**

**1. In-class group presentation:** Individual assessments will be based on five criteria, each worth 20%: (1) clarity of explanation, (2) use of sources, (3) quality of argument and analysis, (4) contextual understanding and factual accuracy, and (5) ability to answer questions.

**2. 2500-word paper:** Students’ work will be evaluated based on five equally weighted criteria, each worth 20% of the final mark: (1) the quality of writing, (2) the use of evidence, (3) the quality of argument and analysis, (4) the understanding of context and factual accuracy, and (5) the use of references and citations.

The assessment(s) will examine to what extent the student has demonstrated ability to:

* articulate the historical development of diplomacy, demonstrating its relevance to contemporary globalization and regionalization, and analyzing its impact on bilateral and multilateral relations.
* analyze historical case studies to trace cause-effect relationships in diplomacy, assessing how diplomatic structures have been used to resolve international conflicts and tensions.
* assess historical and contemporary diplomatic strategies to anticipate potential international challenges, evaluating how diplomacy can be leveraged to prevent conflicts and maintain stability.
* apply cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and networking skills, demonstrating the ability to navigate complex geopolitical and diplomatic environments.
* demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of international diplomatic norms and practices, illustrating proficiency in navigating diplomatic settings
* demonstrate essential skills in communication, cultural sensitivity, etiquette, and protocol, showcasing the ability to function effectively in diplomatic interactions.

**Sources**

Berridge, G. R, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.

Hamilton, K and R. Langhorne, *The Practice of Diplomacy: Its Evolution, Theory and Administration*, Routledge, 2011.

Monod de Froideville, G and M. Verheul, *An Experts Guide to International Protocol. Best Practice in Diplomatic and Corporate Relations*, Amsterdam University Press, 2021.

U.S. Protocol and Etiquette Abroad. The Modern Diplomat’s Guide, <https://fsiapps.state.gov/DLD/Protocol/html/app.htm>.

**Recommended Reading List:**

Bjola, C and M. Kornprobst, *Understanding International Diplomacy: Theory, Practice and Ethics*, Routledge, 2018.

Kerr, P and G. Wiseman, *Diplomacy in a Globalizing World*: *Theories and Practices*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Penavic Marshall, C, *Protocol. The Power of Diplomacy and How to Make It Work for* You, HarperCollins, 2020.

Zhou, J and G. Zhang, *A Study of Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette: From Theory to Practice*, Springer, 2022 (selected chapters)

An annually updated reading list including a list of other resources such as contemporary journal articles, reports, magazines and blogs will be provided.

In addition, students will be expected to carry out independent research to explore topics within contemporary publications in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding beyond the core content delivered in seminars and workshops.