

Diplomacy in the 21st Century
POL 594-01
Spring 2023
University of San Diego
Ambassador (retired) Leslie Bassett
3 hours/14 nights 5:30 pm – 8:20 p.m. (Thursday Jan 26 – May 11)
Office hours: Th – 3:30-5:30 p.m. (in person) or by zoom appointment
Email: lbassett@sandiego.edu phone: 407-335-8075
KIPJ Rm 253
Zoom link for class:
Zoom link for office hours: <https://sandiego.zoom.us/j/3103750919>

Course description:

Since the 1989 fall of the Soviet Union the fabric of the post-WWII vision of international cooperation has frayed as global institutions, networks and understandings fail to anticipate, prevent, adapt to or sanction a menu of challenges ranging from technological revolutions to pandemics to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The consensus of the WWII victors who framed the United Nations and its goals has stagnated without the meaningful reforms needed to keep it relevant and truly representational to a diversified international community. The benefits of global cooperation and globalization of trade are all now subject to debate. This semester we will consider how global engagement must evolve in the 21st century to better engage new opportunities, manage conflicts, promote inclusivity, and achieve human progress. We will assess and reinvent the pillars of diplomatic practice as they address global collaboration across all sectors of society, highlighting the roles of non-government organizations, businesses and ordinary citizens. We will then apply them to compelling challenges, concluding with student proposals for the future of global governance.

This will be an in-person synchronous course that relies on continuous student assignments, collaboration and presentations. It is therefore extremely important that students plan to attend all class sessions.

All course directions, assignments, and updates will be posted on blackboard. Please check there regularly. If you have problems accessing blackboard, please contact the instructor.

Please offer constructive comments and suggestions at any time to make the experience better for you and your colleagues. I promise all suggestions will be carefully considered and adjustments made whenever possible. For that reason, the syllabus will likely change as we go through the course together, please be alert to notices in blackboard.

Office hours are here for you! You will need to meet with the instructor outside of class as part of the participation grade process but please feel free to reach out anytime.

Zoom meetings are available on almost any day of the week. In-person meetings can be scheduled during office hours or at a mutually convenient time.

Pro tip: To get the most out of this course, keep up with the workload and come to class prepared.

Learning objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will become familiar with the full range of foreign policy actors and influences and their impact on global foreign policy challenges while assessing the relevance of existing multinational organizations.
- **Operational Assessment:** Students will be able to identify current global challenges, opportunities or imperatives for action, and be able to identify key issues that must be addressed. They will also develop skills for effective team collaboration.
- **Social Responsibility:** Students will understand the roles non-governmental entities and/or individuals have played in influencing global events and outcomes, preparing themselves for a changemaking role in the future.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Students will form their own research agendas in foreign policy analysis; will participate in a constructive and respectful fashion in class; and will practice academic integrity in their podcasting and other assignments.
- **Communication:** Students will build their skills in effective communication to inform, engage, elicit information from and influence others to support positive change in global affairs.

Course Texts: All readings/reference materials will be available on-line or through the instructor.

Required readings/activities are listed for each class session and should be completed *prior* to the relevant session. Links are provided. **It is essential that you come to class prepared by having completed all preparatory materials.**

Please do keep up with the news as well, as current events will be discussed at every session and an understanding of current dynamics will be essential to your success in the course.

Course Conversations: Sometimes not all topics get covered during in-class discussions to students' satisfaction. I will open a discussion board where students can post additional thoughts, questions or reflections for continuous conversation between classes. I will also post relevant media stories that may further enrich topics covered in class.

Grading and Assignments:

Late Assignment Policy: Out of respect to those who meet deadlines, extensions will be granted only in case of emergency. Late submissions will lose 1/2 a letter grade per day, unless accompanied by a dean's excuse for incapacitating illness, the death of a family member or a comparable emergency.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Please familiarize yourself with the [University's policy on cheating, plagiarism and documentation](#). Any cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported directly to the appropriate dean.

Participation: Students are expected to have completed the preparatory assignments and actively contribute to class discussions. **Every student is expected to meet with the instructor at least once during (in person or virtual) office hours as part of the participation score.** Completion of the end of year course evaluation will also contribute to your participation score. Participation will count for 10 percent of the final grade.

Simulations (4)

Each simulation will provide experiential learning of how multilateral/multi-participant diplomacy works and the difficulty of reaching agreements, as well as specific information related to relevant, current topics. Students should expect to spend 2-3 hours preparing for the simulations. Each simulation counts as 15 percent of the final grade (5 points for a draft resolution (2-3 preambular clauses plus 3-4 operative clauses); 5 points for the policy memo for your assigned country (3 pages double-spaced); 5 percent for the actual role play).

All students must register for a free account with [Model Diplomacy](#) in order to access relevant materials and roles for three of the four simulations. Please note that the "case notes" questions do not need to be handed in – they are simply a guide to help you ensure you understand the issues as you prepare a draft UN resolution and a policy paper for the country you are representing. Written assignments for simulations are due by 5 pm the day of class – i.e., BEFORE the simulation starts. Instructions for all written assignments as well as grading rubrics are available on blackboard.

Case Study (one per team)

Students will be divided into teams, and each team will be asked to present a case study to the class, drawing upon assigned readings as well as independent research, and answering specific questions provided in advance by the instructor. The team will then lead a class discussion on how elements of the case study impact the current international order, and the implications for the future. The case study will count as 10 percent of the final grade. Case-specific instructions, a presentation outline, and grading rubric will be available on blackboard.

Final Paper – Re-Imagining Global Governance for the 21st Century

Each student will submit a final paper offering their proposal for reforming the existing UN order to be more inclusive and effective, with specific recommendations on at least three reform measures with strong reasoning as to why they are necessary. Papers must be at least 8 pages, double-spaced, TNR 12. This assignment is worth 20 percent of the final grade:

5 percent: Outline due April 13, 2023

15 percent (final exam): Final paper due May 18, 2023.

Assignments: Grading Rubrics and Formats

Students can find formats for all assignments as well as grading rubrics in the “Assignments” content folder on Blackboard. All assignments should be submitted to the instructor via email in word format.

Session 1: Thursday, January 26, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“21st Century Diplomacy and World Order:

Part I: Origins and Goals of the Current System”

Assigned readings:

[The UN Charter](#) (Chapters 1-3, Chapter 4 (articles 9-17 only), Chapter 5 (articles 23-26 only), Chapter 6 (article 33), Chapter 7 (articles 39-42), Chapter 9 (article 55), Chapter 11 (article 73), Chapter 14 (article 92-94), Chapter 15 (articles 97-100)

[“At ‘Our Common Agenda’ Talks, Secretary-General Says Summits on Future, Sustainable Development Goals ‘Last, Best Chance’ to Manage, Solve Global Challenges,”](#) remarks by UNSYG Antonio Guterres, August 4, 2022.

Session 2: Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Pillars of the International Order”

Lecture

Situational Citizenship Exercise (ungraded)

Assigned readings (all students):

[“Flags of Convenience,”](#) Law Offices of Charles Naylor, 2-21-2019.

[“The Right To A Nationality Of Refugee Children Born In The EU And The Relevance Of The EU Charter Of Fundamental Rights,”](#) European Council on Refugees and Exiles, February, 2017.

[“Corporations Go Overseas to Avoid US Taxes,”](#) PBS, April 29, 2017.

[“Mexico City Becomes Work from Home Haven,”](#) CNN, August 22, 2022.

[“100 Largest Companies in the World by Market Capitalization in 2022,”](#) Statista, accessed 1-14-2023.

[“100 Largest NGOs by Revenue,”](#) Non-Profit Newsfeed, August 29, 2022.

Session 3: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Power”

Lecture

Comparative Power Exercise (ungraded)

Assigned readings (all students):

[“The Hollow Order,”](#) Philip Zelikow, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2022.

[“Why Nations Rise,”](#) Manjaree Chatterjee Miller, Council on Foreign Relations, April 6, 2022.

[“What the Mighty Miss,”](#) Ngaire Woods, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2022.

[“The Dawn of Drone Diplomacy,”](#) Erik Lin-Greenberg, Foreign Affairs, December 20, 2022

Session 4: Thursday, February 16, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Inclusivity”

Lecture

Case Study #1: Namibia Reparations (Team A)

Assigned Readings (all students):

[“Reparations,”](#) International Center for Transitional Justice, accessed 1-14-2023.

[“Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racial Intolerance: Report of the Special Rapporteur to the UN General Assembly,”](#) 21 August 2019.

[“Germany Rejects New Negotiations Over Namibia Genocide,”](#) Daniel Pelz, DW, September 2, 2022. (watch the video at the bottom of the page as well!)

[“Battle for Namibia Reparations,”](#) Joseph Cotterill, Financial Times, April 28, 2022.

Session 5: Thursday, February 23, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

UN Simulation #1 – Climate Change

Model Diplomacy Registration No. e18e816b65f8ff19a247fcb67fd29451

Session 6: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Economic Statecraft or Warfare?”

Lecture

Case Study #2: Russian Sanctions (Team B)

Assigned Readings (all students):

[“The WTO in Brief,”](#) World Trade Organization, accessed 1-14-2023.

[“The IMF and the World Bank,”](#) International Monetary Fund, accessed 1-14-2023.

[“What is the ‘Washington Consensus,’”](#) Douglas Irwin and Oliver Ward, Peterson Institute for International Economics, September 8, 2021.

[“Russia’s War on Ukraine: A Sanctions Timeline,”](#) Peterson Institute for International Economics, accessed January 14, 2023.

[“The Economic Impact of Russian Sanctions,”](#) Rebecca Nelson, Congressional Research Service, December 8, 2022.

[“ The Big Picture for 2023: Will Economies See Relief from Knock-on Effects of Russia-Ukraine Conflict?,”](#) Dr. Lindsay Newmann, S&P Global Market Intelligence, November 17, 2022.

[“To Deter War, Have a Better Sanctions Plan,”](#) Marine Shagna, Foreign Policy, January 5, 2023. (blackboard)

*****NO CLASS THURSDAY MARCH 9 (Spring Break)*****

Session 7: Thursday March 16, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Transnationalism”

Lecture

Case Study #3: Fat Leonard (Team D)

Assigned readings (all students):

[“Glenn Defense Marine Asia and the US 7th Fleet,”](#) World Peace Foundation, Fletcher School, Tufts University, accessed 1-14-2023.

[“‘Fat Leonard’, a fugitive in a massive Navy bribery case, has been caught in Venezuela,”](#) Associated Press on NPR, September 22, 2022.

[“Transnational Organized Crime: A Threat to Global Public Goods,”](#) Dr. Marina Caparini, Stockholm International Peace Research institute, September 2, 2022.

[“United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto,”](#) UN Office on Drugs and Crime, accessed 1-14-2023. Read “background” only.

Session 8: Thursday March 23, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

UN Simulation #2 – Infectious Disease in Colombia”

Model Diplomacy Registration No. 8db640c144dba212135bbebee195ebd9

Session 9: Thursday March 30 2023, 5:30-8:20 pm

“21st Century Diplomacy and World Order

Part II: Challenges to the Existing World Order”

Lecture and Class Discussion

Guest Speaker: [Ambassador Jeffrey de Laurentis](#), Special Advisor for UNSC Matters, U.S. Department of State

Assigned Readings:

[“Our Common Agenda, report of the Secretary General,”](#) 2021. Please read the full report!

[“War, Peace and the International System,”](#) Amb. Jeffrey Feltman, American Academy of Berlin, February, 2023.

NO CLASS THURSDAY APRIL 6 (Easter Break)

Session 10: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

****Assignment due: Outline of your final paper**

“Tech Tools and Diplomacy”

Lecture

Team Exercise: Foreign Policy via [ChatGPT](#) (ungraded)

Guest speaker (T): [Dan Spokoyny](#), CEO, fp21.

Assigned Readings:

[“We Need to Build Digital Diplomacy,”](#) UNECE Executive Director, December 2, 2022

[“2023 predictions: 12 digital governance and diplomacy trends,”](#) Jovan Kurbalija, Diplo, January 6, 2023.

[“The Era Of ‘Tech Diplomacy’ Is Here,”](#) Mung Chiang, Forbes, July 7, 2021. (blackboard)

[“How AI Could Revolutionize Diplomacy,”](#) Andrew Moore, Foreign Policy, March 21, 2023. (blackboard)

[“From Instinct to Evidence in Foreign Policy Decision Making,”](#) by Dan Spokoyny, Foreign Service Journal, March, 2023.

Session 11: Thursday April 20, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“UN Simulation #3: Cyber Clash with China”

Model Diplomacy Registration No. 2d6b1958417ad43e98987df3d19f25d7

Session 12: Thursday, April 27, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

“Regulating the Global Commons”

Lecture

Case Study #4: Space Debris (Team C)

Guest Speaker: Jennifer L. Davis, Chief of Staff to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Assigned readings:

“[Space is a Great Commons – It is Time to Treat it as Such](#),” by Benjamin Silverstein, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 9, 2021.

Play the [space debris dodger](#) game!

“[Space Junk Removal Is Not Going Smoothly](#),” by Leonard David, Scientific American, April 14, 2021.

“[The Artemis Accords](#),” NASA, accessed January 14, 2023.

Session 13: Thursday May 4th, 2023 5:30-8:20 pm

Guest speaker: Alice Hae-Yeon Jeong, [UN Volunteers](#)

[The Global Nuclear Balance](#), Anthony Cordesman, CSIS, April 14, 2023. (pages 1-10 only -- it's mostly graphs)

“Simulation #4: Nuclear Non-Proliferation”

Session 14: Thursday May 11, 2023 6:00-8:20 pm

(note: class time adjusted to support student participation in the MAIR Book Fair)

“21st Century Diplomacy and World Order:

Part III: What Could the Future Hold?”

Guest speaker: Bettina Hausmann, UN Association

Assigned readings:

“The World Beyond Ukraine,” David Miliband, Foreign Affairs, May-June 2023 (blackboard).

FINAL EXAM: Final paper is due on Thursday, May 18 by midnight.