

COURSE DETAIL

DIPLOMACY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Leiden University College

Program(s)

Leiden University College

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

104

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

DIPLOMACY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

UCEAP Transcript Title

DIPLMCY INTL CNFLCT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This research-led course enables students to answer vital questions about the role of diplomacy in inter-state conflicts, and to formulate practical policy advice by examining the diplomacy of inter-state conflict in-depth. The course studies concrete cases – comprising both historical case studies of inter-state conflict and present-day rivalries (e.g. NATO-Russia, USA-Iran, Israel-Palestine) – in order to understand (a) the geostrategic, political, economic, symbolic, and psychological dynamics that enable or constrain diplomatic solutions and (b) the scope conditions for the successful application of non-coercive diplomatic strategies. Throughout the course, students pay particular attention to the ways in which diplomacy can contribute to the management, de-escalation, and transformation of inter-state conflict. In doing so, the focus is on what is arguably the trickiest diplomatic process of them all: the diplomacy of first steps also known as “ice breaking”. After years, sometimes decades, of intense rivalry, how can enemies initiate a process of diplomatic engagement? Often, formidable obstacles exist to breaking the ice between adversaries, including the strategic risk of getting exploited by your adversary, domestic resistance (divided party politics, bureaucratic opposition, civil society resistance) and psychological pathologies (misperception, enduring enemy images). Nonetheless, spectacular successes of engagement – including the rapprochements between France and Germany after World War II, Egypt and Israel in the 1970s, and the Soviet Union and the USA at the end of the Cold War – provide a glimmer of hope. Upon successful completion of the course, students are able to: examine and critically evaluate the role that diplomacy plays in world politics; analyze key diplomatic options of conflict management, de-escalation and transformation; compare and contrast cases of diplomatic engagement past and present; formulate policy proposals for the diplomatic solution of enduring rivalries.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

8003WP99Y

Host Institution Course Title

DIPLOMACY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Host Institution Campus

Leiden University College, The Hague

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

World Politics

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