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 Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Leiden University College, The Hague

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
World Politics

Course Last Reviewed

Print