History, Theory and Practice of Diplomacy

Course Syllabus

Developed by Tatiana Zonova, 2018

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The course “History, Theory and Practice of Diplomacy” is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Relations (program track “Government and International Relations”).

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Director of MGIMO Library____________________ Marina Reshetnikova
The program is approved by the Department of Diplomacy on
__________________________
Head of Department_______ Prof. Alexander Panov
PART 1:
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information

- Full course title: History, Theory and Practice of Diplomacy
- Type of course: Elective
- Level of course: [B.A.]
- Year of study: [2nd]
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 3
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
  Tatiana Zonova, Dr.SC.pol.habil.
  Professor, Department of Diplomacy
  Office hours: Thursday 10.00 AM-17.20 AM, office 2177
  E-mail: zonova-tatiana@mail.ru

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with foundational knowledge and sound understanding of modern diplomacy. The course is planned for one semester with purpose to show that in the modern post bipolar world characterized by increasing intensity of disputed situations, which are developing into armed conflicts and terrorist acts, – the art of diplomacy still remains one of the most effective tools for peace resolution of disputes and for dialogue between various cultures.

The course starting point is a comparative approach supposing comparison between national models of diplomacy throughout their evolution with all features inherent in them and universal features as well. At the same time the systemic analysis will help to define diplomacy as a function of international relations system.

The main goals of the course are to:

- identify new forms of diplomatic activities in the process of globalization, integration and regionalization;
- analyze the rise of the modern diplomacy pattern from the point of view of radical transformation of legal and social institutions;
- examine the impact of sovereignty concepts on diplomacy;
- identify the influence of the balance of power theory on diplomacy;
- explore historic circumstances, which determined appearance of some new theories of diplomacy.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- work with theoretical knowledge about politics;
- comprehend the ethical dimensions of diplomatic functions;
• understand methods and methodologies in diplomacy;
• undertake analysis of complex areas of knowledge;
• critically evaluate existing trends in diplomacy;
• engage in academic and professional communication orally and in writing;
• acquire independent learning ability required for continuing professional study.

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements
Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is compulsory. Students will also be required to prepare one essay and hand it in time.

Grading plan

• Class participation - 5%
  Students are expected to attend all lectures, seminars and participate in class discussions; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day’s class.

• In-class tests – 10%
  Students will write three tests during the semester. Dates of test classes are defined by the instructor and communicated to the students at the first class of the respective course.

• Essay – 10%
  During the course each student is expected to write an essay (minimum 15,000 characters, up to 20,000 characters, Times New Roman font, size 14, 1.5 interval) on one of the topics proposed. The essay should demonstrate the level of student’s knowledge of publications on the subject. The work is to be presented at least 2 weeks before the end of the course.

• Response papers – 10%
  The students are expected to submit response papers to the readings at least one day before the seminar class. Such papers should include descriptions of the reading’s main points, hypotheses, research strategies, and student’s own point view on a topic or problem concerned. Response papers help substantially to improve discussion quality at seminars.

• In-class issue presentation – 10%
  Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed by each student at least once in the term. The presentation will be based on the week’s additional readings. The presenter should supply a brief summary of the argument but offer a critical interpretation of the reading by drawing out the key ideas of the text, linking them with others already covered, and registering agreements and disagreements. The presenter should also attempt to consider how the given argument could be framed differently. A few critical questions should further be offered for the class to discuss collectively. The presenter will be given a short written feedback after the
presentation, including the grade, which can be followed up by consultation during office hours.

- Essay in-class presentation – 5%
  The essay is to be presented and consequently discussed at a seminar.
- Oral exam – 50% (in class, 30 minutes).
PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for lectures, seminars</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written tests and/or exam</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written and oral home assignments</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Course content and readings by topic

**Topic 1. Diplomacy as a discipline: methodology, history, basic concepts**

Lecture 1.1. Comparative and systemic analysis as a method for creating models of diplomacy

*Summary:*
- Interdisciplinary approach to the subject;
- The modern diplomacy pattern from the point of view of radical transformation of legal and social institutions;
- The impact of the new concept of secular sovereignty on the diplomatic model.

Seminar 1.1. Applicability of models of diplomacy

- **Compulsory readings:**

- **Further readings:**

- **Internet resources:**
  [http://www.diplomacy.edu](http://www.diplomacy.edu)
Lecture 1.2. Diplomacy and civilizations

Summary:
Models of diplomacy which exist in different civilizations;
Ancient diplomacy and its legacy for the modern world;
Egyptian, Indian, Chinese diplomacy;
Particular features of interaction of Greek polises and Roman external relations.

Seminar 1.2. Comparative analysis of diplomacy and foreign affairs in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome

• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:
  4) Internet resources:
     http://www.diplomacy.edu
     http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
     http://www.fsjournal.org
     http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/
     http://www.cfr.org/
     http://www.ecfr.eu/
     http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/
     http://russiancouncil.ru/en/

Lecture 1.3. Medieval theories of diplomacy

Summary:
Byzantine diplomacy;
The Holy See and its role in international relations;
Canon Law vision of Europe as the Christian Republic;
Vatican diplomatic service: history and the modern practice.
Seminar 1.3. The “religious dimension” of diplomacy

• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:

• Internet resources:
  http://www.diplomacy.edu
  http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
  http://www.fsjournal.org
  http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/
  http://www.cfr.org/
  http://www.ecfr.eu/
  http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/
  http://russiancouncil.ru/en/

Topic 2. Modern model of diplomacy: theoretical and practical framework, distinctive features, genesis

Lecture 2.1. Secularization process and transformation of diplomatic service

Summary:
Renaissance secular concept of sovereignty;
Emergence of a new type of States and the transformation of the system of international relations;
Balance of power theory and the formation of permanent diplomatic service as branch of government policy;
Russian diplomatic service and the main phases of its modification.

Seminar 2.1. Russian and European diplomatic practices: a comparative analysis

• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:
  4) Internet resources:
      http://www.mid.ru
      http://www.diplomacy.edu
      http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
      http://www.rieas.gr/
      http://smallwarsjournal.com/index.php
      http://www.ciponline.org/

Lecture 2.2. Spreading of the modern model of diplomacy as globalization ante litteram

Summary:
Universal characteristics of the new model of diplomacy which appeared in a specific historical and territorial context;
Diplomatic institutes’ transformation in a branch of the government executive system;
Interrelation between the model of diplomacy and evolution of the theory and practice of international relations;
The theory of balance of power, the theory of the world government, theories of multipolar and unipolar world.

Seminar 2.2. Balance of power: theory and practice
• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:
  2) Tatiana Zonova.
• Internet resources:
  http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
http://www.fsjournal.org
http://www.rieas.gr/
http://smallwarsjournal.com/index.php
http://www.ciponline.org/

Lecture 2.3. “Secular religions” challenging the balance of power theory

Summary:
Ideological trends such as nationalism, socialism and liberalism, their vision of the old theory and practice of balance of power;
National principle and the formation of nation-states;
Radical socialist denying ‘bourgeois institution’ of foreign policy;
Free trade theory and liberal vision of the future of diplomacy.

Seminar 2.3. The “ideological dimension” of diplomacy

• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:

• Internet resources:
  http://www.diplomacy.edu
  http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
  http://www.rieas.gr/
  http://smallwarsjournal.com/index.php
  http://www.ciponline.org/

Topic 3. Diplomacy in a Global World

Lecture 3.1. Transformation of the state sovereignty understanding and its impact on diplomacy

Summary:
Diplomacy within the globalization, regionalization and integration processes;
The increasing role of multilateral institutes of diplomacy, economic diplomacy in the foreign policy activity;
The concept of humanitarian diplomacy, the new approach to cultural diplomacy and the art of negotiating process.
Seminar 3.1. Economic diplomacy and soft power

**Compulsory readings:**

**Further readings:**

**Internet resources:**

Zonova Tatiana. The language of sport is as universal as the language of music [http://russiancouncil.ru/en/inner/?id_4=656#top](http://russiancouncil.ru/en/inner/?id_4=656#top)


http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
http://www.ecfr.eu/
http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/
http://russiancouncil.ru/en/

Lecture 3.2. Integration trends and their impact on traditional diplomacy

Summary:
Diplomatic network of the European Union;
Common foreign and security policy;
European external action service, EU delegations;
Inter-European relations;
The future of European diplomacy after Lisbon.

Seminar 3.2. Diplomatic aspects of the “acquis communautaire”

**Compulsory readings:**

• Further readings:

• Internet resources:
http://www.esteri.it
http://www.fco.gov.uk
http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de
http://www.europa.eu
http://www.cor.europa.eu
http://www.eustudies.org
http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
http://www.fsjournal.org

Lecture 3.3. Regionalization process and its impact on traditional diplomacy
Summary:
The phenomenon of “paradiplomacy”;
The role of subnational actors in external relations;
Representations of the regions in Brussels;
Legal basis for regional activities;
The Committee of Regions and its role after Lisbon.

Seminar 3.3. “Regional diplomacy” in different states
• Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

• Internet resources:
  http://www.esteri.it
  http://www.fco.gov.uk
  http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de
  http://www.europa.eu
  http://www.cor.europa.eu
  http://www.eustudies.org
  http://www.diplomacy.edu
  http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
  http://www.fsjournal.org

**Topic 4. The Future of Diplomacy**

Lecture 4.1. New actors of diplomacy

Summary:
The significant role of the diplomacy developed by nongovernmental actors given the current geopolitical juncture;
New type of diplomatic activities, the so-called “catalytic diplomacy”;
Close interaction and mutually beneficial cooperation between governmental and nongovernmental actors;
Changes caused by the influence of the IT revolution having a significant impact on the developments of world politics.

Seminar 4.1. “Catalytic diplomacy” and “digital diplomacy”

• Compulsory readings:
Further readings:

Internet resources:
http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/
http://russiancouncil.ru/en/

Lecture 4.2. New theories of international relations and the ethical dimension of diplomacy
Summary:
New theories of international relations: neorealism, neoliberalism, constructivism, neomarxism;
The practical policy and ethical dimensions of diplomacy;
The limits and potential of the emerging diplomatic polylateral relationships between different entities.

Seminar 4.2. Diplomacy: back to the future?
Compulsory readings:
Further readings:

**Internet resources:**
http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.foreignaffairs.org/
http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/
http://www.cfr.org/
http://www.ecfr.eu/

### 2.2. Exam Questions
1. Methodological framework of history, theory and practice of diplomacy
2. Applicability of models of diplomacy
3. Variety of models of diplomacy which exist in different civilizations
4. Ancient diplomacy and its legacy for the modern world
5. Egyptian, Indian, Chinese diplomacy – distinctive features
6. Particular features of interaction of Greek polises and Roman external relations
7. The Holy See and its role in international relations
8. Canon Law vision of Europe as the Christian Republic
9. Vatican diplomatic service: history and the modern practice
10. Emergence of a new type of States and the transformation of the system of international relations
11. Balance of power theory and the formation of permanent diplomatic service as branch of government policy
12. Russian diplomatic service and the main phases of its modification
13. The theory of the world government, theories of multipolar and unipolar world
14. Ideological trends such as nationalism, socialism and liberalism, their vision of the old theory and practice of balance of power
15. National principle and the formation of nation-states
16. Radical socialist view upon diplomacy
17. Free trade theory and liberal vision of the future of diplomacy
18. Public diplomacy and soft power
19. Economic diplomacy and commercial diplomacy in different countries
20. The impact of globalization on diplomacy
21. The impact of integration on diplomacy
22. The impact of regionalization on diplomacy
23. Diplomatic network of the European Union
24. The future of European diplomacy after Lisbon
25. The role of subnational actors in external relations
26. The phenomenon of “paradiplomacy”
27. The concept of “catalytic diplomacy”
28. Digital diplomacy, new challenges for Foreign Service such as hacktivism and “leaks”
29. Practical politics and ethical dimensions of diplomacy

2.3. Exam timing
• Spring semester tests – last week of May; exams June 1-25

2.4. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)
• Compulsory readings:
• Further readings:

- **Internet resources:**
  7) Zonova Tatiana. The language of sport is as universal as the language of music [http://russiancouncil.ru/en/inner/?id_4=656#top](http://russiancouncil.ru/en/inner/?id_4=656#top)

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de
http://www.cfr.org
http://www.ciponline.org
http://www.cor.europa.eu
http://www.diplomacy.edu
http://www.ecfr.eu
http://www.esteri.it
http://www.europa.eu
http://www.eustudies.org
http://www.fco.gov.uk
http://www.foreignaffairs.org
http://www.fsjournal.org
http://www.mid.ru
http://www.rieas.gr
http://www.russiancouncil.ru/en
http://www.smallwarsjournal.com/index.php
http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat
http://www.usinfo.state.gov/usinfo
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org
PART 3. FINAL REMARKS

• Plagiarism is considered as a severe violation and as an indication of incompetence in the course. Plagiarism is understood as making of one’s text using compilation method for other people’s publications, even connected with own phrases and sentences. Collective performance of individual tasks is also unacceptable. Proved plagiarism an F-mark is given regardless of the fulfillment of all other requirements.

• Assignments are to be handed in on the due date. Late submissions will translate into the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a grade for each day of delay.

• Students are asked to keep a copy of all work submitted for evaluation.