Module Aims and Learning Objectives

Strategic aims of the course

The general aims of this module are to: (a) provide a good grasp of the specialized language of diplomacy, and especially negotiation; (b) emphasise that while the world diplomatic system has many tasks, its chief one is the negotiation of agreements; and (c) examine the purposes and problems of each of the main stages through which negotiation normally proceeds.

By the end of this module students should:

- have understood and assimilated some of the main features of the landscape of modern diplomatic practice;
- have a more sophisticated understanding of the specialised language of diplomacy;
- be able to think critically, analytically and conceptually about the subject matter;
- have a strong grasp of the limits as well as the possibilities of diplomacy.

Key skills

By the end of this module students should:

- have improved their skills in written presentation;
- have experience of learning through online discussions and independent study;
- be able to access the University catalogue;
- be able to word process their essays.

Module Texts

The recommended textbook to accompany this course is:


Also important are:


Good historical companions are:


All are available in paperback. Those who have not previously studied post-1945 international politics would also be well advised to equip themselves with


Useful journals are:

- Diplomacy and Statecraft
- Negotiation Journal
- Foreign Affairs
- International Negotiation
- Hague Journal of Diplomacy

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**Week 1: Key Concepts of Diplomacy**

*Summary of topic*

This introductory topic will begin to address the fundamental tenets of diplomacy and establish what your own views are. The main aim of the week’s reading is to provide students with a conceptual foundation in understanding diplomacy. It will introduce you to the following topics areas:

- recognition of states
- recognition of governments
- diplomatic relations/consular relations
- representation
- ambassador (and other ranks)
- diplomats/diplomatists
- diplomatic service/diplomatic corps
- negotiation

*Guiding question*

What do you understand by diplomacy?

*Recommended reading*

Berridge, G.R., *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice* is the key work to be familiar with.

There is also Berridge, G.R., et al (eds), *Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger* and his 2nd edition of *A Dictionary of Diplomacy*. 
Pop quiz

1. Who was Machiavelli?
2. Who was Guicciardini?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic

**Week 2: Richelieu**

*Summary of topic*

This week deals with Richelieu's concept of négociation continuelle and whether or not he exaggerated its value. What does Richelieu mean by 'continuous negotiation'? Why does he value it so highly? What drawbacks of 'continuous negotiation', if any, does he overlook? These are the key questions considered here.

*Guiding question*

To what extent is Richelieu considered the founder of modern diplomacy?

*Recommended reading*

**Key Reading**


Berridge, G. R. et al, Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger (2001), ch. 4

**Background Reading**


Bergin, J. and L. Brockliss (eds), Richelieu and his Age (1992), ch. by Weber - 'Une bonne paix': Richelieu's foreign policy and the peace of Christendom'

Church, William F., Richelieu and Reason of State (1972)

Elliot, J. H., Richelieu and Olivares (1984)

Faber, Richard, The Brave Courtier: Sir William Temple (1983), ch. 4

Hill, David Jayne, A History of Diplomacy in the International Development of Europe (1905), vol. II, ch. 7

Knecht, Robert, Richelieu (1991)

Mandrou, R., Introduction to Modern France 1500-1640 (1975)
New Cambridge Modern History, vol. IV, chs. 11 and 16
Nicolson, Harold, The Evolution of Diplomatic Method (1954), chs. 3 and 4
O'Connell, D. P., Richelieu (1968)
Treasure, G. R. R., Cardinal Richelieu and the development of absolutism (1972), ch. 19

Pop quiz
1. What did Richelieu mean by ‘continuous negotiation’?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this négociation continuelle?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic

**Week 3: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Summary of topic**
In most states today the MFA must formally share influence over the conduct as well as the making of foreign policy with other ministries and executive agencies as they engage in 'direct dial diplomacy'. Nevertheless, in many of them the influence that it retains is considerable. The chief tasks of the student responsible for this session, therefore, are (a) to examine the reasons for this and in the process (b) to establish the nature of the role of the MFA today.

**Guiding question**
What influence does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have on the conduct of diplomacy?

**Recommended reading**
For Berridge's explanation of the MFA please see the pdf Berridge Chapter 1 in the next item down.
Boyce, Peter J., Foreign Affairs for New States (1977), chs. 6-8

Clapham, Christopher (ed), Foreign Policy Making in Developing States: A Comparative Approach (1978) [sections on 'The decision making process']


Dickie, John, Inside the Foreign Office (1992)

Hennessy, Peter, Whitehall (1990)

Herman, Michael, Intelligence Power in Peace and War (1996)


Hocking, Brian (ed), Foreign Ministries: Change and Adaptation (1999)


Kennan, George F., Memoirs, 1925-1950 (1967), pp. 325-7, 426-7, 465-6 [on formation of policy planning staff in the State Department]

Merillat, H. C. L. (ed), Legal Advisers and Foreign Affairs (1964)


Rana, Kishan S., Inside Diplomacy (2000), chp. 11 [on the Indian MFA]


The Political Testament of Cardinal Richelieu: the significant chapters and supporting selections, trsl. H. B. Hill (1965), Part II only [written circa 1646; first publ. 1688].

Simpson, Smith, Anatomy of the State Department (1967)

Steiner, Zara, The Foreign Office and Foreign Policy, 1898-1914 (1969)


Many Ministries of Foreign Affairs have their own web sites, and these are steadily becoming more numerous and improving in quality. Most provide at least a list of the different departments (sometimes even an 'organigram'), while a few go so far as to give a detailed history of the ministry. In the last regard, the web site of the Canadian MFA is outstanding. The back copies of State Magazine, available via the US State Department's web site, are also extremely useful. The easiest way to locate these sites is to use the Mediterranean Diplomatic Academy's Diplo Directory, the URL of which is http://diplo.diplomacy.edu/directory/.
For additional references on the role of the legal adviser in the MFA, see the bibliography compiled and updated by Hans Corell, the UN's own legal adviser: 'The Role of the Legal Adviser: List of Literature', http://www.un.org/law/counsel/litlist.htm.

Pop quiz

1. What are the typical attributes of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

2. Who is in charge of the MFA?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic

Week 4: Strategy and Tactics

Summary of topic

The student taking this seminar should: (a) discuss the concept of the 'ripe moment' with particular reference to Guicciardini and Richelieu; (b) examine the concept of 'stages of negotiation'; and (c) consider whether it is best to make concessions incrementally or in one fell swoop.

Guiding question

How far can one stick to a plan in deciding upon a course of action in diplomacy?

Recommended reading

For Berridge's explanation of the MFA please see the pdf Berridge Chapter 1 in the next item down

Cohen, R., Negotiating across Cultures, (2nd edn, 1997), pp. 67-82


Iklé, Fred C., How Nations Negotiate (Harper and Row, 1964)

The Political Testament of Cardinal Richelieu: the significant chapters and supporting selections, trsl. H. B. Hill (1965), Part II only [written circa 1646; first publ. 1688].


Pop quiz

1. What do you make of the temporal nature of diplomacy with particular reference to Guicciardini and Richelieu and the "ripe moment"?

2. What are the merits of the "stages of negotiation"?
Week 5: Prenegotiations

Summary of topic

Prenegotiation is the whole range of activity conducted prior to the first stage of formal substantive, or 'around-the-table', negotiation. It is directed at achieving agreement on three matters. The first of these is agreement on the possibility that negotiation may prove advantageous to all parties concerned. The second is agreement on an agenda for talks. And the third is agreement on the manner in which the talks should be conducted - questions of procedure. The student doing this session should examine the difficulties confronted in achieving each of these aims and how their pursuit is affected by different circumstances.

Guiding question

How important is preparatory work?

Recommended reading

Alexander, M., Managing the Cold War (2005)

Cohen, R., Negotiating across Cultures, (2nd edn, 1997), pp. 67-82

Cradock, P., Experiences of China (1994), chs. 16-18


Quandt, W. B., Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics (1986), chs. 3-7

Zartman, I. W. and M. Berman, The Practical Negotiator (1982), ch. 3

Pop quiz

1. How are agendas set and procedures agreed upon?

2. What are the potential pitfalls?

Week 6: 'Around-the-table' Negotiations

Summary of topic

If prenegotiations are successfully concluded, the next task for the negotiators is to move into 'around-the-table' mode. This is generally more formal and there is usually more public awareness of what, in broad terms, is going on. First comes the task of trying to agree on the basic principles of a settlement: the 'formula stage'. If a formula is achieved, the details then have to be added. The
students responsible for the presentation on this subject should: (a) recapitulate the concept of a formula (from Session 6); (b) provide some examples of well known formulas; and - most importantly - (c) compare the problems of achieving a sound formula with those of filling in its details.

Guiding question

How important is it to be seen to be ‘negotiating’?

Recommended reading


Cohen, R., Negotiating across Cultures, (2nd edn 1997)


Lee, D., Middle Powers and Commercial Diplomacy: British Influence at the Kennedy Trade Round (1999)

Quandt, W. B., Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics (1986), chs. 8-12


Vance, C., Hard Choices: Critical Years in America's Foreign Policy (1983)

Webster, Sir C., The Art and Practice of Diplomacy (1961)

Zartman, I. W. and M. Berman, The Practical Negotiator (1982), chs. 4-6


Pop quiz

1. What are the priorities in around-the-table negotiations?

2. How important are individual relationships in around-the-table negotiations?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic
Week 7: Diplomatic Momentum

Summary of topic

The momentum of a negotiation may falter even if the parties are serious about proceeding. This was a recurring problem with the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, which started in September 1986 and was not finally completed until April 1994.

Guiding question

What creates and maintains momentum in Diplomacy

Recommended reading


Cradock, P., Experiences of China (1994), chs. 16-20, 23 [on the negotiations in 1983-4 for the transfer of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty]


Harrison, S., 'Inside the Afghan talks', Foreign Policy, 1988 [Leicester E-link]

Lakoff, G. and M. Johnson, Metaphors We Live By (1981), esp. chs. 1-3, 11, 16 and 23

Quandt, W. B., Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics (1986)


Pop quiz

1. How does tempo affect negotiations?

2. Why might momentum falter? Why is it serious? And what might be done to prevent it?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic
Diplomatic agreements vary in form to an almost bewildering degree. They vary most obviously in title or style: 'treaties', 'final acts', 'protocols', 'exchanges of notes' - even 'agreements', for example. However, they also vary significantly in textual structure, language, and whether or not they are accompanied by 'side letters'. They also vary - though they should not - in whether they are publicised or kept secret.

**Guiding question**

What influence a) does and b) should politics play in 'final' agreements?

**Recommended reading**

Barston, R. P., Modern Diplomacy, (2nd edn 1997) ch. 10

Cohen, R., Negotiating Across Cultures, rev. ed (1997) ch. 9

Cradock, P., Experiences of China (1994), chs. 19, 20, 23

Franck, T. M. and E. Weisband, Foreign Policy by Congress (1979)


**Pop quiz**

1. Explain the variation in the types of final agreements?

2. Explain what form an agreement might take depending on its subject matter and the political needs of its authors?

Go to the relevant forum to discuss this week's topic

**E-tivities**

**E-tivity 1: Access and Socialisation**
Purpose

Introduce yourself to your peers and familiarise yourself with the use of our forums.

Task

Tell us about something you have done on the Internet (maximum 10 lines) that you couldn’t have done in any other way, or could not have done within the same timescale or the same budget. One example might be locating and buying a particularly obscure book.

'Sign’ your message with the name you’d like to be called during this course (e.g. Billy or Catherine), and post it to the E-ivity 1 forum.

Respond

Please comment on at least one other person’s description.

Outcome

You will be able to post messages to a forum and post replies thereby engaging with your fellow students.

(We recommend you spend a minimum of 30 minutes on this e-ivity, although you are encouraged to continue to converse with your peers.)

E-ivity 2: Information Retrieval at the Library (5%)

Purpose

To access e-resources and use a bibliographic database to find an article from an academic journal.

Task

1. Watch this tutorial on the Expanded Academic ASAP database. (The tutorial will last approximately 7 minutes 30 seconds and will open a new window.)

2. Discover how to access e-resources off campus (opens in a new window).

3. Go to your subject room. Choose an appropriate database to find an article from any academic journal on: The "founding fathers" of Diplomacy (opens in a new window).

4. Go to the E-ivity 2 forum and post the full bibliographic details by Sunday 10pm of Week 2. Remember, be precise and accurate, as your colleagues will need to find the article through Leicester E-link.

Respond
After this, return to the forum and please provide a brief analysis (400 words maximum) of the major argument in an article someone else has posted, before partaking in any subsequent discussion in the relevant forum.

Outcome

You will be able to search the university’s databases, identify and access an article, and post the required bibliographic information, as well as beginning to analyse its content and share your thoughts.

E-activity 3: Text Critique I (5%)

Purpose

To analyse this well-known article and identify its major attributes:


Task

Please follow the link above and read the article. Then provide a brief analysis of it (maximum 400 words) to the E-activity 3 forum by Monday of Week 4.

Respond

In the E-activity 3 forum please post comments on your peer’s assessments by way of sharing your own articulation on the article, between Monday of Week 4 and Sunday of Week 4.

Outcome

You will be able to analyse the content of a scholarly article and share your thoughts on it.

(We recommend you spend as much time as is necessary to read the article; up to 2 hours composing your analysis; and as much time as you are able participating in the forum).

E-activity 4: Essay Plan (15%)

Purpose

To provide you with bespoke guidance to complete your module essay.

Task

Please compose a plan of between 800-1000 words (not including suggested bibliography of a minimum of 10 sources) for an essay chosen from the list of module essay questions.
Examples of essay plans can be found on the DL site. This will also provide you with broader guidance ahead of the essay.

Please submit your plan by 10pm Sunday Week 7 by submitting as an attachment in an email to your Associate Tutor.

Where relevant be aware of the sources identified in the weekly readings.

Respond

Mindful of the need to avoid plagiarism, and that everybody will have their own take on this, please feel free to spend as much time as you are able discussing your approach in the E-tivity 4 forum.

Outcome

You will have a clear idea as to the strengths and weakness of the approach you intend to undertake for your essay. Further you will have been notified of a particular source that you should consult for E-tivity 5.

(We recommend you spend a minimum of 6 hours researching amongst sources relevant to your essay topic; up to 2 hours composing your plan.

We aim to return to your essay plan to you within a week so you can begin the next e-tivity.

**E-tivity 5: Text Critique II (5%)**

*Purpose*

To analyse a well-known article and identify its major attributes.

Your source will be identified in the feedback to your essay plan for E-tivity 4.

*Task*

This e-tivity has two parts.

First, please read the suggested source, then post its full bibliographic reference and a brief analysis of it (maximum 400 words) in the E-tivity 5 forum as soon as you are able.

*Respond*

Second, please post comments on how you think your reading of this article informs your essay. Of course your wider reading will also be relevant here, especially if the source that has been recommended represented a different school of thought from your initial reading.

*Outcome*

You will be able to analyse the content of a scholarly article in relation to your own essay and share your thoughts on it.
(We recommend you spend as much time as is necessary to read the article; up to 2 hours composing your analysis; and as much time as you are able participating in the forum).

**E-ivity 6: Module Essay (70%)**

*Purpose*

Capstone exercise bringing together elements of the weekly readings and building upon the e-tivities to illustrate you have understood key aspects of the field of Diplomacy.

*Task*

Write a 5000 word essay at the MA level illustrating your analytical abilities from a list of questions below.

Your essay questions:

1. How far do you agree Diplomacy is a dying art?
2. To what extent is Richelieu the architect of modern diplomacy?
3. Outline, with more than one example, the attributes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conducting Diplomacy historically and with reference to contemporary affairs?
4. How far do you agree that it is best to make concessions incrementally or in one fell swoop? Answer with reference to at least two case studies.
5. How far do you agree that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages in pre-negotiating?
6. Analyse the potential difficulties for parties in agreeing upon the basic principles of a settlement in the ‘Formula stage’? Please support your answer with specific examples.
7. Explain strategies for maintaining momentum in negotiations, and in what ways the tempo of negotiations affects the ultimate outcome?
8. What is the importance of the form of the final outcome to the negotiations process? Answer with reference to more than one particular example.

*Outcome*

You will have met the learning objectives of the module in complete this aspect of the module.

Further details on the essay requirement for this module can be found under Module Information.

**Forum References**


Mallett, Michael, 'Italian Renaissance Diplomacy', Diplomacy and Statecraft, 2001, 12 / 1, pp. 61


