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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2021

Seminar on Global Policy Challenges

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**Seminar on Global Policy Challenges
DIPL 3116 /7116**

**Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy
and International Affairs
Washington Program**

Fall 2021

Ray Walser Ph.D., FSO ret.

This seminar-like course is focused on global challenges facing not just U.S. policy makers but statesmen, diplomats and citizens around the world. The primary focus will be upon the successes and failures encountered in global development in a period marked by numerous positives – overall reductions in violence, longer lives, poverty reduction, improved education – balanced against a daunting array of unresolved global challenges and threats, ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainty, climate change/global warming and nuclear proliferation to racial tension, ethnic conflict and international terrorism. Central to the ongoing the debate is reflection upon the ability of national leaders to preserve an international order capable of rising above mere anarchy and clashing national interests to promote peace, stability and mutual benefits. The ongoing transition from former President Donald Trump’s America First approach to international affairs to a more traditional assertion of American global leadership under President Joseph Biden provides an opportunity for in-depth reflection. The course will examine cooperative efforts aimed at advancing shared interests, securing international cooperation and protecting the global commons. Particular attention will be paid to multilateral agreements and institutions in a period when both face considerable headwinds and structural constraints.

Washington, D.C. is a very cosmopolitan, international city. Serious effort will be made to understand how the people who reside here, American and otherwise, are shaped by the international environment and how they in turn undertake to influence and shape developments on the global stage. When possible, students will be given the chance to interact with present and past policy makers.

The course to the extent possible will be conducted in seminar form based on discussions, reflections, debates and interactions between the seminar leader and the students.

Where possible and pertinent, lectures, readings and seminar discussion will be supplemented with in-class discussion with policy practitioners. Sadly, the persistence of COVID-19 limits our ability to visit centers of decision-making and influence that will include government offices, the Congress, think tanks, NGOs, multilateral and regional organizations and foreign embassies.

One caveat: This syllabus is not set in stone, especially in a period of rapid developments on the domestic and international scenes. The seminar leader reserves the right to alter readings and assignments and discussion topics in response to emerging policy challenges and significant events.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to help students:

- Identify and investigate the major challenges and trends, positive and negative, shaping future global development.
- Relate the ways in which the structure and functioning of the international system – anarchic, hegemonic, communitarian – shape responses to an ever-widening array of national and transnational challenges.
- Analyze hotspots and flashpoints, examine crisis management scenarios and predict outcomes for some of the world’s most contentious issues.
- Prepare cogent policy analysis - written and verbal -presented in ways that support better understanding of the ways to tackle global challenges.

By semester’s end, students should demonstrate improved proficiency in collecting, sorting, and evaluating information; analyzing complex situations and synthesizing information; integrating a spectrum of advice and opinion in the analysis of a complex world; and strengthening effective oral and written skills.

Required readings:

Gates, Robert M. *Exercise of Power: American Failures, Successes and a New Path Forward in the Post-Cold War World*. New York, 2020.

A Policy Maker Memoir – List to be Provided Separately

An In-depth Look – Two policy making studies. Topics to be discussed.

Requirements & Grade Evaluation:

1. Each student will be expected to complete either an exercise, produce a specified format [Presidential Daily Brief, Op-Ed, Decision Memo, Threat Analysis] or complete an exercise on a weekly basis. [30%]
2. Policy maker memoir and policy-making studies [20%]
3. A final policy paper presentation. [25%]

4. A final take home essay [15%]
5. Class participation [10%]

Weekly Topics and Assignments:

See attached matrix

University Policy

Disability Services Statement

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>
Citation Formats (some version of the paragraph below)

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

**Combined Guide for DIPL 3115/7115
& DIPL 3116/7116**

Spring 2021

1] January 29	Introduction – The Present Crisis	None
2] February 5	Fundamental Concepts - International Orders– The Liberal International Order – Myth of Reality? Globalization – Dead or Just Resting?	See Assignment Sheet – Lesson 2 <i>Impact of COVID-19 exercise</i>
3] February 12	American Traditions in Foreign Policy: Four Templates American Exceptionalism: Fact or Myth 1619 vs 1776 – On the Meaning of America – Patriotism vs The Cancel Culture America’s Standing in the World: Measuring Global Opinion	The Constitution 1619 vs 1776 Readings on American Exceptionalism - TBD Pew Foundation Reports <i>Prepare an Op-Ed</i>
4] February 19	The Presidency – Power of the Office Presidential Leadership – The Power of Personality – Case Studies – Obama vs. Trump The Impact of Trump: Foreign and Domestic	Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, pp. 3-58 National Security Strategy – 2017 Global Threat Assessment – 2019 <i>Threat Assessment – The Greatest Challenge</i>

<p>5] February 26</p>	<p>Executive Decision-Making Foreign and Domestic</p> <p>Focus on the National Security Council and the Interagency Process</p> <p>Setting National Priorities – The National Security Strategy</p> <p>Media – From News to Views and Beyond</p> <p>Movie Night -</p>	<p>Articles - TBD</p> <p><i>A Washington Movie - TBD</i></p>
<p>6] March 5</p>	<p>The Department of Defense – Grand Strategy & War Fighting – Past and Future</p> <p>The Defense Budget: Where Does the Money Go?</p> <p>The Return of Great Power Competition</p> <p>Living in a Nuclear World – Deterrence, Arms Control and Proliferation</p> <p>Handling [or Mishandling] a Rogue Regime – North Korea</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, 118-142, 165-227, 324-352</p> <p><i>Options Memo – North Korea</i></p>
<p>7] March 12</p>	<p>The Department of State – Foreign Service –</p> <p>USAID</p> <p>Public Diplomacy</p> <p>Diplomacy for Africa & Latin America</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p>Gates, Robert – 142-164, 228-248</p> <p><i>What's the Policy? African Development. Somalia. War on Drugs. Venezuela</i></p>

8] March 19	<p>The 9/11 Revolution – Department of Homeland Security</p> <p>From al-Qaeda to Proud Boys: Terrorism & Extremism: Foreign & Domestic</p> <p>Immigration Nation: Why is Immigration Reform So Hard</p> <p>Demographics & Global Migration</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>What do jihadist and white supremacist share in common?</i></p>
9] March 26	<p>Someone is Watching You: The Intelligence Community</p> <p>Capitol Hill Conundrum: Our Legislative Body: Healthy or Ailing?</p> <p>Solvency: The Federal Budget and the Deficit</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>The President's Daily Brief</i></p>
10] April 9	<p>American Economic Statecraft – From Free Trade to Protectionism</p> <p>The Global Economy in the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>China: The Economic Dimensions of the Challenge</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p><i>Has free trade been good to you?</i></p>
11] April 16	<p>China: The Hundred Year Marathon or the Thucydides Trap – Competition or Confrontation?</p> <p>Building a Strategy for the Indo-Pacific: From the “Pivot to Asia” to the Quad</p>	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, 353-387</p> <p><i>Complete Policy Maker Book Review and Discussion</i></p>

12] April 23	<p>Trouble in the Atlantic: The Transatlantic Partnership</p> <p>Putin's Russia – Autocracy, Ukraine, Syria, NATO and Cyberwar</p>	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power – 249-323</p> <p><i>A policy assessment – Europe or Russia – what has the Biden Administration accomplished in 3 months?</i></p>
13] April 30	<p>The Global Commons: The Environment, Global Warming and the International Community</p> <p>Who's Minding the WHO: The challenge of global health in the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Illicit - Transnational Threats – From Cartels to Human Traffickers</p> <p>Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions: Values vs. Realities</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>No written requirement</i></p>
14] May 7	<p>From Afghanistan to Morocco – Ferment and Opportunity in the world of Islam</p> <p>The Beltway Influencers: Think Tanks, Lobbyists, Associations, etc.</p>	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power – 77-117, 387-416</p> <p><i>In depth-study due – will discuss</i></p>
15] May 14	<p>Course Review</p> <p>Final Exercises</p>	<p>Final Presentation</p> <p><i>Test Your IR IQ.</i></p>