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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
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Spring 2023

## **DIPL 3116 The Washington Seminar on Global Policy Challenges**

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**The Washington Seminar on Global Policy Challenges  
DIPL 3116**

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

**Spring 20223**

**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 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 transition from former President Donald Trump's America First approach to international affairs to a more traditional effort to reassert American global leadership under President Joseph Biden provides an opportunity for study and in-depth reflection. These efforts to right the ship of state have encountered strong headwinds that include Vladimir Putin's aggression against independent Ukraine, worsening U.S-China relations and growing economic and financial uncertainty in the post pandemic world. Critical topics to be examined and discussed include: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Great Power Competition, nuclear proliferation, international migration challenges, climate change and the race to dominate cyberspace.

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, international norms and laws and cooperative efforts in a period of international turbulence.

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:**

Students will be expected to acquire the following:

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

Kissinger, Henry. *World Order*. 2014

Readings will be selected and assigned on a weekly basis and they will reflect the issues/problems under discussion. A weekly assignment sheet with key readings, questions and discussion points will be distributed in advance of each class.

Students are also expected to develop a tailored reading list in consultation with their instructor. The reading list will cover topics raised in class, but will also aim to sharpen the student's knowledge base on areas or topics of particular interest.

### **Requirements & Grade Evaluation:**

1. Threat Analysis and Monitoring – The student will identify a global threat or challenge – develop an analytical framework for managing or countering the threat – and recommend policy options. [20%]
2. An identification challenge – Terms everyone should know, aka the Fatal 500. [15%]
3. An international affairs book review. A list of suggested books will be provided. [15%]
4. A Capstone Exercise. The student will analyze, and present policy recommendations aimed at managing or resolving a global or regional policy challenge. Can be combined with research for the Washington Experience [30%]
5. Final take home essay [10%]
6. Class participation [10%]

### **Coronavirus Safety:**

Our host, the United Nations Foundation [UNF] mandates that all students submit vaccination information for access to the building. Masks are now optional. Updates on Seton Hall's policies can be found here: <https://www.shu.edu/health-intervention-communication/>

### **CAPS:**

As part of Seton Hall's commitment to the health and well-being of all students, the University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>

### **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](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

### **Policy on Incompletes**

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

### **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>.

Resources for academic integrity can be provided upon request.

### **Citation Formats**

Papers should utilize the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats. Folders with additional information will be provided.

### **Office Hours:**

I am available for individual consultations in person either before or after Friday class, during the lunch break or at any other time via Zoom, Teams or telephone.

## **Lesson Plan**

### **Global Challenges**

**January 20** - Welcome to a World in Turmoil. Five ways of looking at the international affairs: Geopolitics – Civilizations – Realism – Idealism – Constructivism

**January 27** – The Westphalian Order and Its Problems

**February 3** - The Demise of International Liberal Order & Globalization – Real or Imagined?

**February 10** – The Difficult Quest - Building a Better Order. Is It Possible?

**February 17** – Do Leaders Matter? The Man in the Kremlin: The Rise and Possible Fall of Vladimir Putin

**February 24** – Global Turning Point? The War in Ukraine after a Year: Cost, Consequences and Risks

**March 3** - Pacific Rising – the Multiplicity of Asia and the Ascendancy of China. From the Mandate of Heaven to Xi Jinping

**March 17** - The Thucydides Trap and Great Power Competition. Is War with China Inevitable?

**March 24** - Living in the “Technopolar World” – Can we thrive and survive in a Digital World?

**March 31** – To Serve Humanity and Build Peace Among Nations - International Law – Humanitarian Law – Humanitarian Interventions – R2P

**April 7** – Realms of Disorder. Is the Middle East Still Fundamental to American? Radical Islam – Iran – Iraq -Afghanistan – Israel/Palestine

**April 14** - Does the United States Need Friends and Allies? Can it Keep Them?

**April 21** - Is Climate Change an Existential Threat? What can we do about it?

**April 28** – Managing the Global Commons – Transnational Challenges other than Climate Change

**May 5** – In a global world do regional policies still matter? Latin America – Africa

**May 12** – Final exam and presentations