

HIST 367-002
Diplomacy and International Law:
Origins, Evolution and Application

Spring 2025

Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 12– 12:30 pm
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Cullimore 332

Class times: Monday and Wednesday
1 pm – 2:20 pm
Faculty Memorial Hall 213

Course Description:

International law is primarily concerned with legal norms that operate among nation/states, but also addresses legal norms that operate between a nation and persons within its jurisdiction and with the norms that regulate the transboundary relationships of individuals. Unlike national law, international law is decentralized: there is no single legislative, judiciary or executive responsible for the initiation, interpretation or enforcement of international law, though the latter, in various ways seeks to perform these functions. Diplomacy is the normative and practical mechanism whereby official relations between nations and states are conducted. Essentially it is a process of communication: the formal means whereby states, as conflictual entities, articulate their interactions, mediate clashing interests along normative lines and regulate the ever-shifting configurations of power within the larger system they comprise i.e. make possible international cooperation.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the integral synergy between diplomacy and international law—resting on common political dynamics within international society—from their origins to the present. Topics include the rise of modern diplomacy in Renaissance Italy, the emergence of international law and professionalization of diplomacy in early Modern Europe; the development and actualization of both legal norms and diplomatic theory in the 18th and 19th centuries; the codification of international law and adaptation of international law to transnationalism and globalization in the 20th century, the abiding issue of conflict resolution at the interstate level.

Ultimately, the course seeks to identify and illuminate the political, diplomatic and socio-economic factors shaping international law and its applications.

Course Goals: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

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- Understand the complex synergy between state interest, diplomacy, and ever widening global interactions tested against historical evidence.
- Have a deeper appreciation of the normative/moral/ethical dimensions of international politics.
- Appreciate historical conflicts as a reservoir of information and judgment against which modern strategic confrontations can be tested.
- Be able to distill the wisdom that enables us to better understand public affairs worldwide.
- Appreciate the complex nature of interstate relations and the limits of normative regulations.
- Have a better understanding of contemporary problems in world politics and how diplomats deal with them.
- Write effective papers that critically analyze in fluent prose the complexities driving the modern international system set within an in-depth historical context.

Assignments and Marks:

Written Assignments:	40%
Midterm Quiz	20%
Final Quiz:	30%
Class Attendance and Participation:	10%

Grading Scale for Assignments and Participation:

A = 85 – 100	B+ = 80 – 84.5	
B = 75 – 79.5	C+ = 69.5 – 74.5	
C = 65 – 69.5	D = 50 – 64.9	F = 49.9 – 0

Course Requirements

- There will be 4 in-class written assignments throughout the course and each will be 4 to 5 pages in length.
- These assignments will be based on class lectures, assigned readings, class handouts and occasional online links.
- No computers, phones, or other electronic devices as well as written or printed material will be permitted.
- Absence and makeup arrangements will only be permitted with an official notification from the Dean of Students.
- The assignments will equal 40% of the final class grade.
- Students taking the class acknowledge that they have carefully read and understand the entire syllabus (i.e. required reading, mark distribution, in-class writing assignments, etc.)

Course Assignments:

1. Wednesday, February 5: First In-Class Assignment
2. Monday, February 24: Second In-Class Assignment
3. Monday, March 24: Third In-Class Assignment
4. Wednesday, April 16: Fourth In-Class Assignment

Grading Scale for Assignments and Participation:

A = 85 – 100	B+ = 80 – 84.5	
B = 75 – 79.5	C+ = 69.5 – 74.5	
C = 65 – 69.5	D = 50 – 64.9	F = 49.9 – 0

Class texts: (required readings)

M.S. Anderson, *The Rise of Modern Diplomacy 1450-1919* (London, 1993).
 Jan Klabbbers, *International Law* (Cambridge, UK, 2021).
 G.R. Berridge, M. Keens-Soper, T.G. Otte, *Diplomatic Theory from Machiavelli to Kissinger* (London, 2001).

Semester Schedule:

Wed. Jan. 22, Mon. Jan 27, Wed. Jan 29: Introduction

- 1) Why Study Diplomacy and International Law
- 2) Theoretical Approaches to International Relations
- 3) Sovereignty and the Nation State
- 4) State Interests: Security, Autonomy, Status, Cumulativity

Readings: Anderson, Intro.; Klabbers, ch. 1; Schweizer, "International Systems" (to be supplied); Berridge, intro.

Mon. Feb. 3; Wed. Feb. 5: The Italian System

- 1) Origins of Resident/Organized Diplomacy
- 2) Types of Diplomacy
- 3) Diplomatic Theory
- 4) Diplomacy and Interstate Conflict

Readings: Schweizer, "Diplomacy," (to be supplied); Anderson, ch. 1.

Wed. Feb. 5: First In-Class Written Assignment

The Italian System *continued from Monday.*

Mon. 10; Wed. Feb. 12: Balancing the System: Problems of Force and Diplomacy

- 1) Negotiation
- 2) Conflict Management
- 3) Coercive Diplomacy
- 4) Deterrence
- 5) Balance of Power

Readings: Anderson, ch. 3; Schweizer, "Deterrence: Coercive Diplomacy and Collective Security" (to be supplied).

Mon. Feb. 17: The Origins of International Law

Readings: Berridge, ch. 2; Klabber, ch. 4.

Wed. Feb. 19; Mon. Feb. 24: Diplomatic Theory and International Law 1648-1815

- 1) International Law in Theory
- 2) International Law in Practice: The Law of Treaties
- 3) International Organizations: Courts and Tribunals

Readings: Anderson, ch. 5; Klabbers, chs. 6, 8; "The Grotius Factor in International Law and Relations" (to be supplied); Berridge, ch. 3.

Mon. Feb. 24: Second Written In-Class Assignment

Diplomatic Theory and International Law 1648-1815 *continued from Wednesday*

Wed. Feb. 26: Review for Midterm Quiz

Mon. Mar. 3: Midterm Quiz

Wed. Mar. 5: The 19th Century: Old Diplomacy and New.

Readings: Schweizer, "Diplomatic Thought, 1648-1815: The Quest for Order," (to be supplied); Herbert Butterfield, "The Great Powers," (to be supplied); Anderson, ch. 4

Mon. Mar. 10; Wed. Mar. 13: War, International Law and the Making of Peace.

Readings: Schweizer, "Justice and Expedience in International Affairs," (to be supplied); Berridge, ch. 7; Klabbers, chs. 6, 8, 9.

Week of March 17: Spring Break

Mon. Mar. 24: Third In-Class Written Assignment

War, International Law and the Making of Peace.

Continued: see above.

Wed. Mar. 26; Mon. Mar. 31: Ethical Imperatives, Foreign Policy and Global Governance.

Readings: Anderson, ch. 4; Klabbers, ch. 17.

Wed. Apr. 2, Mon. Apr. 7: International Theory: The British School.

Readings: Schweizer & Sharp, "The International Thought of Herbert Butterfield, intro." (to be supplied); Bruno Vigizzi, "The British Committee: Introduction," (to be supplied); Berridge, ch. 8.

Wed. Apr. 9; Mon. Apr. 14: Diplomacy and Global Dynamics

Readings: Klabbers, chs. 15, 16; P. Taylor, "The United Nations and International Order," (to be supplied).

Wed. Apr. 16;: Fourth In-Class Written Assignment

International Law Global Patterns.

Readings: Lowe, ch. 4; P. Taylor, "The United Nations and International Order," (to be supplied).

Mon. Apr. 21; Wed. Apr. 23: *continued see above*

Mon. Apr. 28: International Law and the Global Military Dimension.

Readings: Klabbers, ch. 11; Nathan, ch. 5.

Wed, April 30: Review for final quiz.

Monday, May 5: Final Quiz

Policies:

- This is an **intellectually demanding course** and all students will be expected to do all the readings listed in the syllabus.
- Attendance will be taken during each class. Absences will be excused only with documentation from the Dean of Students.
- Plagiarism in any written assignment will result in an automatic failure and will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- There will be no "make-up" quiz. If you miss the final quiz, documentation from the Dean of Students must be provided in order to make up the quiz.
- All submitted work must comply with the NJIT Honor Code. You can view NJIT Honor Code at: NJIT website, just Google: "academic integrity."