I. Course Description

This course represents a hands-on approach to decision-making and diplomacy. It is designed to allow students to take part in diplomatic and decision-making exercises in the context of international political issues and problems. Important historical decisions will be evaluated and re-enacted. In addition, more current international problems that face nations today will be analyzed and decisions will be made on prospective solutions. Finally, various modern day diplomatic initiatives will be scrutinized and renegotiated. The class will essentially function as a working committee, considering a different problem or issue each week. Preparations for decisions and diplomatic bargaining will rely both on assigned readings as well as additional outside materials collected by the students. A significant part of the preparations and class activities will involve team work.

II. Requirements

Final course grades will be based on one paper on a subject to be announced, another project and presentation on team projects, and class participation. Students will be asked to prepare a short position paper (memo) for each class. It is essential that you keep up with the readings so as to enhance participation, as well as avoid excess reading before assignments.

Grades will be assigned based on the following weights:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations and Projects</td>
<td>33%</td>
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III. Readings

All the readings on this syllabus will be required and are on electronic reserve (ERES), except for the books recommended for purchase. The following books will be used extensively and are recommended for purchase:
John Hammond, Ralph Keeney, and Howard Raiffa, *Smart Choices: A Practical Guide to Making Better Life Decisions* (this book is also available online in ERES)

Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*

Michael Oldstone, *Viruses, Plagues and History*

### IV. Course Outline

1. **Introductory Class: Theories and Processes of High-level Decision-making**  
   *(Jan 23)*


   Richard Haass, “Making Your Case: Writing the Persuasive Memo”

   Russett, Starr and Kinsella, “Individuals and World Politics”

2. **Revisiting the A-bomb Decision: Optimal Strategies for Concluding the Pacific War**  
   *(Jan 30)*

   William O’Neil, “The Destruction of Japan”

   Melvyn Leffler, “Truman’s Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb”

   Gar Alperovitz, “Hiroshima: Historians Reassess”

3. **Revisiting the Cuban Missile Crisis: Effective Brinkmanship Strategies**  
   *(Feb 6)*

   Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*

4. **Development Diplomacy: Negotiations on Development in UNCTAD**  
   *(Feb 13)*

   Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Chapters 1,2

   Marguerite Robinson, *The Microfinance Revolution*, Chapter 1

5. **Environmental Diplomacy: OECD and the Third World**  
   *(Feb 20)*

   Julian Simon, “The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources”

   Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”

   Adil Najam, “The View from the South”
6. Strategies for Promoting Global Health  
(Feb 27)

Laura Gaydos and James Veney, “The Nature and Etiology of Disease”

Michael Oldstone, *Viruses, Plagues and History*

Brian Doherty, “Who Cares? The World Health Organization Cares More about Its Own Life than the Lives of the Poor”

7. Nuclear Diplomacy in the Security Council  
(Mar 6)

Michael Mandlebaum, *The Nuclear Future*, Chapters 2,3

8. Reforming the International Monetary Fund  
(Mar 27)

Graham Bird, “The International Monetary Fund and Developing Countries”

Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, “The Inadequacy and Loss of Legitimacy of the IMF”

9. Policies for Embracing Globalization  
(April 3)

Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*, Chapters 3,4

Martin Khor, “The Global Economy and the Third World”

10. Building Institutions for Human Rights  
(April 10)


Seyom Brown, *Human Rights in World Politics*, Chapters 1,2,5

11. Solving World Hunger  
(April 17)

Lester Brown, “The New Geopolitics of Food”

Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, “More Than One Billion People Are Hungry in the World”
Raymond Hopkins, "Reform in the International Food Aid Regime"

Foreign Policy Association, "Farmers, Food and the Global Market"

Frances Moore Lappe, Joseph Collins, and David Kinley, Aid as Obstacle, Chapters 12-17, 20

12-13. Presentation of Team Projects
(April 24, May 1)