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 teamwork.

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 classes 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10. It is essential that you keep up with the readings so as to enhance participation, as well as avoid excess reading before assignments. Participation will be evaluated based on the quantity and quality of comments, and familiarity with the readings. Responsibility encompasses all aspects of participation in the course: attendance, timeliness in giving in assignments and coming to class, corresponding in a timely manner, supporting an equitable load in group projects, and all
other expectations related to the responsible execution of duties connected to this course. Papers are due in hard copy at the start of class. Late papers will be accepted, but without a doctor’s note, each late day will reduce the grade by about 1/3 (e.g., from B+ to B).

Grades will be assigned based on the following weights:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memos</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</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. Disability Resources

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860/685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

V. Course Outline
1. **Introductory Class: Theories and Processes of High-level Decision-making**  
   *(Sept 7)*


   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**  
   *(Sept 14)*

   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**  
   *(Sept 21)*

   Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*

4. **Development Diplomacy: Negotiations on Development in UNCTAD**  
   *(Sept 28, Oct 5)*

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

   Marguerite Robinson, *The Microfinance Revolution*, Chapter 1

5. **Environmental Diplomacy: OECD and the Third World**  
   *(Oct 12,19)*

   Julian Simon, “The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources”

   Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”

   Adil Najam, “The View from the South”
6. First Report on Projects and Class Feedback 
   (October 26)

7. Strategies for Promoting Global Health 
   (Nov 2)

   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”

8. Policies for Embracing Globalization 
   (Nov 9)

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

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

9. Building Institutions for Human Rights 
   (Nov 16)


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

10. Solving World Hunger 
    (Nov 30)

    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

11. Final Presentation on Projects
(Dec 7)