

Diplomacy: Impact and Strategies

The course will be based on lectures with active class discussion. Reading assignments will include Wikipedia articles, which will provide a short historical background for each lecture.

The first half of the course will focus on five key diplomatic negotiations that will show how the Western world evolved from a universal state and universal religion at the time of Charlemagne's coronation in the year 800 into today's global political and economic system.

The five key negotiations are the Peace of Augsburg (1555), the Peace of Westphalia (1648), the Congress of Vienna (1815), the Versailles Treaty (1919) and the Atlantic Charter (1941). Each agreement is associated with a major advance in the world order.

The second half of the course will analyze first the distinct diplomatic strategies of four countries: Britain, France, Russia and the United States. Secondly we will review three non-traditional diplomatic initiatives with which the lecturer is personally familiar.

Finally the last class will give each participant the opportunity to propose what America's foreign policy priorities should be for the next generation based on what has been learned in the course.

LEADER: Robert Ross was raised in a diplomatic family. His career involved the Cold War and the economic development of the Third World. He has lived, studied, worked, or hiked in 90 countries.

TUESDAYS: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 8 weeks: February 25 through April 14

LOCATION: PSRC, Maximum 18 seats