Course Description

This course is meant to provide students in the Public Diplomacy program with an introductory survey to the history and key concepts, institutions, and debates defining contemporary international relations and diplomacy. The course will address the origins and evolution of modern international politics, key concepts and institutions (including the United Nations system); regionalism (notably the European Union) and identify major emerging trends in the world that are expected to shape international order in the twenty-first century. In the final third of the semester we will focus on several emerging phenomena and trends in the international system, including the (relative) decline in Western power, the proliferation of fragile states and rise of non-state actors, the challenge posed by fundamentalist Islamist ideas to the modern international system, and the ascendancy of China as a global power challenging Western hegemony.
Course Goals

The course provides students in the Public Diplomacy program with a tailor-made introduction to contemporary international relations. The course is intended to familiarize advanced BA students who come from different disciplines with the foundational building blocks of the modern international system, its origin and evolution, its key concepts, rules, and institutions. Moreover, the course seeks to challenge students to critically analyse emerging trends and dynamics in the global environment. By tackling some of the most central questions in contemporary international politics and coming to contact with literature from the fields of International Relations (IR) theory, International Law, International Organizations, Regionalism and others, students will develop conceptual, analytical and presentation skills that will empower them to engage in future diplomatic work within official national, regional, and global institutions, or in the business and NGO worlds.

Grading

Final Examination (100% of the grade)

Learning Outcomes

BA level survey of the international system, familiarity with key concepts, institutions, and debates. Engagement with high-level texts and discussion of texts develop enhanced analytical and research skills. Opportunities for identifying cutting-edge issues and dilemmas for future study and research.

Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment

Tutor Office Hours

By appointment

Teaching Assistant

Adv. Ms. Almog Dayan (dayan.almog@gmail.com)
Additional Notes

While regular attendance and active participation in class are not made formal components for grading purposes, there is little doubt that they greatly contribute to success in the final examination. Students who prepare and regularly attend class sessions tend to perform well, whereas those who do not should expect their performance to suffer.

Reading List

All required reading materials will be available on the course (Moodle) site at the beginning of the semester. Occasional newspaper or other materials may be posted to reflect changing relevant events.