

COURSE SYLLABUS CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Spring Semester, A.Y. 2021-2022

Class meeting times: Tuesday (10.15-12.00), Wednesday (8.30-10.15), Thursday (8.30-10.15)

Class Location: Presidio Mattioli, Via Mattioli 10

Course Mode: in person

Instructor: Dr. Alessandro G. Lamonica

Office location: Via Mattioli, 10 (first floor, on the left half-way through the corridor)

Office Hours: Wednesday (10.30-11.30); by appointment

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Material Course Webpage: Google classroom

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course offers students an analysis of cultural diplomacy in its contemporary and historical dimensions, with a focus on both theory and practice. After examining the theoretical foundations underlying the role of culture in international relations, the course offers an account of the main historical developments in cultural diplomacy. This is followed by an analysis of the main tools and institutional arrangements and approaches. Finally, cultural diplomacy practices, policies and strategies will be explored through a series of case studies in historical and contemporary perspective. The course will close with a critical reflection on the role of cultural diplomacy in addressing the major global challenges of our time, from sustainable development to postcolonialism.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will:

- develop an in-depth understanding of the core conceptual and theoretical tenets that underpin the study of cultural diplomacy;
- accumulate in-depth knowledge of the historical and contemporary approaches to cultural diplomacy;
- acquire the ability to apply approaches of cultural diplomacy to specific real-life examples;
- enhance independent thinking and ability to formulate arguments based on solid evidence;
- develop appropriate academic writing skills;
- and strengthen the ability to compare, contrast, evaluate, analyze, and apply a variety of different perspectives.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course is organized in five modules:

- In Module 1, the theoretical foundations necessary to understand the concept of cultural diplomacy and its application in the real world will be covered.
- Module 2 will focus on a historical examination of the evolution of the idea of cultural diplomacy between the late Nineteenth century and the early part of the Twenty-first century, with a particular focus on the European scenario.
- In Module 3, historical reflection will give way to a careful review of the main tools, approaches and institutional arrangements used in the exercise of contemporary cultural diplomacy.
- Module 4 will help us to understand the dynamics and effects of the theoretical approaches, instruments and institutional arrangements studied in previous modules. This will be done through the exploration of policies, strategies, and practices in a set of case studies. Cases will differ in historical and geographical location and the nature of the actors involved, e.g., superpowers, international organizations, and small states.
- Finally, module 5 will adopt a reversed perspective on the capacity of contemporary cultural diplomacy to address some of the major challenges of today's world, from sustainable development and human rights to data-driven policymaking. The instructor and students will be asked to apply what they have seen together critically. Based on an examination of the actions of key actors in international relations, they will imagine creative and viable alternatives.

This course has multiple formats (e.g., lectures, discussion, group learning, presentations, guest speakers' seminars). Therefore, I expect an active and challenging participation in class.

GRADING POLICIES

Attending students

Oral presentation: Each student must present at least a reading	20%
A written exam to be taken at the end of the course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the exam will cover the topics discussed in class and readings distributed during the course • 2 hours, 6 questions to be chosen out of 9 proposed questions 	40%
A term paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum 2,000 words • on a topic chosen in agreement with the instructor among those covered in Module 5 	40%
Bonus for ACTIVE participation in classroom (e.g., contribution to discussion, questions or comments).	
Total	100%

Non-attending students

A written exam to be taken at the end of the course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hours, 9 questions • the exam will cover the material presented in class lectures and additional readings, available online 	60%
A term paper of maximum 3,000 words, on a topic chosen in agreement with the instructor	40%
Total	100%

Please consider that, according to the local and national epidemiological context, the Academic Board of the University of Siena established that from April 1st 2022, all exams and graduation exams would take place exclusively in the face to face mode. Therefore, it will no longer be possible to carry out these exams remotely. These are the guidelines currently in force. If they change, it is the responsibility of the instructor to inform the students as soon as possible.

CLASS MATERIAL

There is no required book for the course. The instructor will circulate and discuss in class a set of readings that will be used throughout the course. All readings for the sessions, homework assignments, data sets, and presentations used during the lectures will be made available by the instructor via Google Classroom. Reading in advance and getting prepared for both lectures and seminars is, therefore, a fundamental. Course material marked as ‘suggested readings’ and ‘additional sources’ is helpful for research and to gain an increased understanding but is not mandatory. This material can be found online or will be made available upon individual request. Students are expected to visit Google Classroom regularly to keep abreast of course evolutions. The instructor is expected to upload relevant material in a timely manner.

REQUIREMENTS

No formal prerequisite is required. However, basic knowledge of modern and contemporary history and acquaintance with international relations theories are recommended.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is strongly recommended. Students that cannot attend the lectures must contact the instructor in advance to arrange a specific programme as non-attending students. Attendance will be recorded by your signature on the sheet passed around in class each day or via online monitoring. Absences will be excused only if communicated to the instructor before the class. You are solely responsible for making sure you sign the attendance sheet before leaving class. If you do not, your name cannot be added at a later point. Any student involved in the forgery of signatures will receive a zero for that entire portion of their grade and will, in addition, be subject to the university’s policy on academic honesty.

*With reference to the COVID-19 health regulations, the Academic Board of the University of Siena recently reiterated the obligation for teachers to hold the lectures in presence, and the **warm invitation to all students to attend the lectures in the lecture rooms of the University.** At the same time, however, for all students who show a proven reason **related to the COVID-19 situation** for not being physically present in class, the possibility will be offered to follow the lectures at-distance in synchronous mode. **Students who wish to take classes online and be considered attending must contact the lecturer as soon as possible and explain the reasons for their inability to attend.** These are the guidelines currently in force. If they change, it is the responsibility of the instructor to inform the students as soon as possible.*

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

The following classroom behavior rules are strongly recommended:

- Students and instructors are expected to attend and be prepared for all regularly scheduled classes.
- Students and instructors are expected to arrive on time and stay in class until the class period ends. If a student knows in advance that s/he will need to leave early, s/he must notify the instructor before the class period begins.
- Students and instructors are expected to be active in learning and teaching.
- Students and instructors are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. For example, students must not disrupt class by leaving and reentering during class, must not distract class by making noise, and must be attentive to comments being made by the instructors and by peers. Instructors will respond swiftly and effectively to student concerns and sensitive in examining content from multiple cultural perspectives.
- All students attending class must have a functioning UNISI e-mail address and check it regularly.

Behavior that departs from these guidelines as well as any additional guidelines specific to the individual course is not acceptable and may be detrimental to your final performance.

ASKING FOR HELP

You are warmly encouraged to meet with the instructor independently to discuss individual questions, concerns, and ideas. Here is how:

- I am generally available for quick Q&A in my office right after class.
- I hold office hours on a first-come, first-serve basis every **Wednesday from 10.30 to 11.30**. To be sure you really meet me, I suggest you ask for an appointment via email.
- I check e-mail on a regular basis. Allow me a couple of days to respond. If you do not get an answer by then, try again or remember to me in class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University Code of Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior which in any way violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing, submitting the same or essentially the same papers for more than one course without the consent of all instructors concerned, misappropriating library materials, or the destroying of or tampering with computer files. Also included in academic dishonesty is knowingly or intentionally helping another violate any part of this policy.

Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of any material from outside sources, including the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to: verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation; submission of a paper, prepared by another person, as one's own work; using the ideas, facts, words, photographs, pictures, graphics, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own; or not documenting ideas, facts, words or data gathered during research. Plagiarism is among the gravest forms of academic dishonesty, and it will be severely repressed in the preparation of all papers and assignments. Students who will commit plagiarism, beside any action undertaken by the University, will be immediately considered as failed in the class.

INCLUSIVITY

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Our department is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- be open to the views of others.
- honor the uniqueness of their course mates.
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.

- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course syllabus is a general plan. Therefore, the calendar below may change to accommodate unforeseen issues. Calendar adjustments will be announced in class, posted on the announcement page of our Google classroom, and disseminated via email.

Class	Date
L1. Introduction to the course	Thursday, May 5
L2. Foundations: Culture	Tuesday, May 10
L3. Foundations: Diplomacy	Wednesday, May 11
L4. Foundations: Power	Thursday, May 12
<i>Seminar session [tbc]</i>	Friday, May 13
L5. Cultural nationalism, Cultural propaganda, Cultural diplomacy, and New forms of international cultural relations	Tuesday, May 17
L6 Instruments and institutional arrangements in contemporary cultural diplomacy	Wednesday, May 18
L7. Superpower Cultural Diplomacy: The USA and USSR	Thursday, May 19
<i>Seminar session [tbc]</i>	Friday, May 20
L8. International organizations in Cultural Diplomacy: The cases of UNESCO and the European Union	Tuesday, May 24
L9 China's Cultural Diplomacy	Wednesday, May 25
L10 Small States' Cultural Diplomacy: The case of Gulf countries	Thursday, May 26

<i>Roundtable discussion</i> [tbc]	Friday, May 27
L11 Sustainable development	Monday, May 30
L12 Cultural heritage protection	Tuesday, May 31
L13 Human rights, Conflict prevention and resolution	Wednesday, June 1
<i>Seminar session</i> [tbc]	Monday, June 6
L14 Decolonization and cultural imperialism	Tuesday, June 7
L15 The civilization debate	Wednesday, June 8
L16 Data-driven cultural diplomacy: Empirical foundations of evaluation	Thursday, June 9