

Seton Hall University

eRepository @ Seton Hall

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Spring 2021

DIPL 3115 / 7115 The Washington Experience: Actors, Institutions and the Policy Process

Ray Walser PhD
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Walser, Ray PhD, "DIPL 3115 / 7115 The Washington Experience: Actors, Institutions and the Policy Process" (2021). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 605.
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/605>

**Email: raywalser@msn.com
walserjo@shu.edu
Telephone: 703-402-8369**

**The Washington Experience:
Actors, Institutions and the Policy Process
DIPL 3115/7115**

**Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy
and International Affairs
Washington Program**

**Spring 2021
Ray Walser Ph.D., FSO ret.**

This seminar-like course is focused on the Washington policy process in several dimensions: key actors, institutions and principles that influence the formation of US foreign policy and, more broadly, the conduct of U.S. foreign and domestic policy. With Washington as its laboratory and testing ground, the course will explore the growing number of players engaged in policymaking and the ever-expanding range of challenges faced in a changing domestic and world order. Topics will range from responding to a pandemic and economic crisis to addressing the nation's challenges of polarization and racial division and injustice. The course will focus on the opportunities and constraints Washington policy makers encounter on a daily basis. It will explore the dynamic interaction between domestic and foreign policy in the aftermath of the consequential elections of November 2020.

The course to the extent possible will be conducted in seminar form based on discussions, reflections, debates and interactions between the seminar leader and the students. When possible, outside experts will be invited to address the class. Regrettably COVID-19 limits the ability for in-person meetings and visits to federal buildings, think tanks and other Washington institutions. On-line and virtual contacts will be encouraged.

One caveat: This syllabus is not set in stone, especially in a period of rapid developments on the domestic and international scenes. The seminar leader reserves the right to alter readings and assignments and discussion topics in response to emerging policy challenges and significant events.

Other than the required texts, all readings will be available online.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to help students:

- Understand both the concepts, traditions and the processes that drive U.S. foreign policy, and discern the times and places in which these may converge or conflict;
- Note the objectives and agendas of different actors in the policy process;
- Be able to track foreign policy issues through the decision-making and policy processes, provide scenarios for their outcome and formulate policy recommendations;
- Prepare cogent policy analysis - written and verbal -presented in ways that support the policymaking process.

By semester's end, students should demonstrate improved proficiency in collecting, sorting, and evaluating information; analyzing complex situations and synthesizing information; integrating a spectrum of advice and opinion in the analysis of a complex world; and strengthening effective oral and written skills.

Required readings:

Gates, Robert M. *Exercise of Power: American Failures, Successes and a New Path Forward in the Post-Cold War World*. New York, 2020.

A Policy Maker Memoir – List to be Provided

An In-depth Look – Two policy making studies. Topics to be discussed.

Requirements & Grade Evaluation:

1. Each student will be expected to complete either an exercise, produce a specified format [Presidential Daily Brief, Op-Ed, Decision Memo, Threat Analysis] or complete an exercise on a weekly basis. [30%]
2. Policy maker memoir and policy-making studies [20%]
3. A final policy paper presentation. [25%]
4. A final take home essay [15%]
5. Class participation [10%]

Weekly Topics and Assignments:

See attached matrix

University Policy

Disability Services Statement

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

Citation Formats (some version of the paragraph below)

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

Lesson Plan – See Course Matrix

**Combined Guide for DIPL 3115/7115
& DIPL 3116/7116**

Spring 2021

1] January 29	Introduction – The Present Crisis	None
2] February 5	Fundamental Concepts - International Orders– The Liberal International Order – Myth of Reality? Globalization – Dead or Just Resting?	See Assignment Sheet – Lesson 2 <i>Impact of COVID-19 exercise</i>
3] February 12	American Traditions in Foreign Policy: Four Templates American Exceptionalism: Fact or Myth 1619 vs 1776 – On the Meaning of America – Patriotism vs The Cancel Culture America’s Standing in the World: Measuring Global Opinion	The Constitution 1619 vs 1776 Readings on American Exceptionalism - TBD Pew Foundation Reports <i>Prepare an Op-Ed</i>
4] February 19	The Presidency – Power of the Office Presidential Leadership – The Power of Personality – Case Studies – Obama vs. Trump The Impact of Trump: Foreign and Domestic	Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, pp. 3-58 National Security Strategy – 2017 Global Threat Assessment – 2019

		<i>Threat Assessment – The Greatest Challenge</i>
5] February 26	<p>Executive Decision-Making Foreign and Domestic</p> <p>Focus on the National Security Council and the Interagency Process</p> <p>Setting National Priorities – The National Security Strategy</p> <p>Media – From News to Views and Beyond</p> <p>Movie Night -</p>	<p>Articles - TBD</p> <p><i>A Washington Movie - TBD</i></p>
6] March 5	<p>The Department of Defense – Grand Strategy & War Fighting – Past and Future</p> <p>The Defense Budget: Where Does the Money Go?</p> <p>The Return of Great Power Competition</p> <p>Living in a Nuclear World – Deterrence, Arms Control and Proliferation</p> <p>Handling [or Mishandling] a Rogue Regime – North Korea</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, 118-142, 165-227, 324-352</p> <p><i>Options Memo – North Korea</i></p>
7] March 12	<p>The Department of State – Foreign Service –</p> <p>USAID</p> <p>Public Diplomacy</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p>Gates, Robert – 142-164, 228-248</p>

	Diplomacy for Africa & Latin America	<i>What's the Policy? African Development. Somalia. War on Drugs. Venezuela</i>
8] March 19	<p>The 9/11 Revolution – Department of Homeland Security</p> <p>From al-Qaeda to Proud Boys: Terrorism & Extremism: Foreign & Domestic</p> <p>Immigration Nation: Why is Immigration Reform So Hard</p> <p>Demographics & Global Migration</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>What do jihadist and white supremacist share in common?</i></p>
9] March 26	<p>Someone is Watching You: The Intelligence Community</p> <p>Capitol Hill Conundrum: Our Legislative Body: Healthy or Ailing?</p> <p>Solvency: The Federal Budget and the Deficit</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>The President's Daily Brief</i></p>
10] April 9	<p>American Economic Statecraft – From Free Trade to Protectionism</p> <p>The Global Economy in the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>China: The Economic Dimensions of the Challenge</p>	<p>Articles: TBD</p> <p><i>Has free trade been good to you?</i></p>
11] April 16	China: The Hundred Year Marathon or the Thucydides Trap – Competition or Confrontation?	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power, 353-387</p> <p><i>Complete Policy Maker Book Review and Discussion</i></p>

	Building a Strategy for the Indo-Pacific: From the “Pivot to Asia” to the Quad	
12] April 23	<p>Trouble in the Atlantic: The Transatlantic Partnership</p> <p>Putin’s Russia – Autocracy, Ukraine, Syria, NATO and Cyberwar</p>	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power – 249-323</p> <p><i>A policy assessment – Europe or Russia – what has the Biden Administration accomplished in 3 months?</i></p>
13] April 30	<p>The Global Commons: The Environment, Global Warming and the International Community</p> <p>Who’s Minding the WHO: The challenge of global health in the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Illicit - Transnational Threats – From Cartels to Human Traffickers</p> <p>Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions: Values vs. Realities</p>	<p>Articles – TBD</p> <p><i>No written requirement</i></p>
14] May 7	<p>From Afghanistan to Morocco – Ferment and Opportunity in the world of Islam</p> <p>The Beltway Influencers: Think Tanks, Lobbyists, Associations, etc.</p>	<p>Gates, Robert – Exercise of Power – 77-117, 387-416</p> <p><i>In depth-study due – will discuss</i></p>
15] May 14	<p>Course Review</p> <p>Final Exercises</p>	<p>Final Presentation</p> <p><i>Test Your IR IQ.</i></p>