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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2021

Master's Research Project

Margarita M. Balmaceda Ph.D.

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**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DIPL 6311NA
MASTER's RESEARCH PROJECT
FALL 2021**

**Instructor: Dr. Margarita M. Balmaceda
Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations**

Dr. Margarita M. Balmaceda
McQuaid Hall 117

Class: T 7:35-9:45 pm
Muscarelle Hall 09 (formerly Stafford)

Tel. (973) 303-6202
e- mail: Margarita.Balmaceda@shu.edu

Student hrs: Wed: 11:30-12:30 noon
Th 4:00-5:00 pm
or by appointment

Course description:

The main goal of this course is to accompany students along the process of completing the Master's Research Project by the end of the semester. This course and the Master's Research Project you will produce this semester are designed as a capstone experience: the goal is to use the knowledge you have gained throughout your graduate program in order to produce an original, well designed, well-researched and well-written piece of research, which, with some additional work, may be publishable. Your work for the Master's Project will build upon the work you have completed in DIPL 6310 (Research Methods). The course will include a combination of group meetings, one-on-one meetings with the instructor, and optional peer meetings.

Student learning objectives for this class include:

1. Fostering knowledge and understanding of the key concepts, models, theories and debates involved in the study of contemporary international relations.
2. Fostering knowledge and understanding of the social science research process.
3. Providing and supporting the development of the following skills:
 - a) Collect, sort, and evaluate information
 - b) Analyze complex situations and synthesize information
 - c) Integrate different fields of study in analysis of a complex world
 - d) Communicate effectively in oral and written form

Required Readings (for all students irrespective of topic):

Jean Johnson, The Bedford Guide to the Research Process (Boston: Bedford Books, 1997) ISBN: 0-312-11967-4.

Recommended:

Wayne C. Boot et. al. The Craft of Research (Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1995), ch. 2 (pp. 26-27), ch. 3 (pp. 35-47), ch. 4 (pp. 48-63)

Michael Ross, *Timber Booms and Institutional Breakdown in Southeast Asia* (New York: Cambridge U. Press, 2001) (Read introduction, conclusion, and possibly one or more case studies, for an excellent example of how to organize a research project as to make it clear and reader-friendly.) (available on www.amazon.com or inter-library loan.)

Robert Yin, *Case Study Research: Design and Methods* (Sage U. Press, 2003) (Consult if you are using case studies as part of your research project.)

Grading Policies

Will be graded on a letter grade basis (i.e., not pass/fail).

Grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Project Idea/Proposal presentation	10%
Project Proposal (max 10 pages/2500 words)	10%
Draft of Research Project (max c. 20 pages/ 5,000 words)	30%
Final Copy of Research Project (c. 25-30 pages, 7,000-8,000 words)	40%

Please Note the following University and School of Diplomacy policies:

Coronavirus Safety:

As of right now, our mask mandate is mandatory for indoors (unless you're alone or eating) and in effect until further notice. The language was clear last year: No mask, no class. Updates can be found here: <https://www.shu.edu/health-intervention-communication/>

CAPS:

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>

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.

Policy on Incompletes

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course

Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

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>. Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard page.

Citation Formats

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.

Additional information pertinent to this course:

Expected dedicated work time commitment needed to complete the MRP

Based on the experience of students from previous semesters, completing the MRP successfully requires a minimum of 10-15 hrs. work per week on most weeks. The work load, however, will be lighter or heavier depending on the week. For example, the week immediately after submitting the full draft of the MRP, and before receiving feedback, will be much lighter than other weeks. Similarly, the week(s) between submission of the final version of the project and your presentation will be lighter than other weeks. In total, in order to complete the project successfully, you will want to allocate and schedule at least 150 hours of time to the endeavor.

Optional peer group meetings

During the third week of the semester, the instruction will make some suggestions about possible peer groups/ peer pairings based on shared research interests. On the basis of such shared interests, students are encouraged (but not not required) to form informal, optional peer groups to comment on each others' work. For example, during weeks when there is no assigned large-group meeting, you may want to meet in person or online with your peer group to accomplish specific tasks related to the progress of your project; you may also act as surrogate readers of each others project proposals, project drafts, and full drafts before these are submitted to the instructor. While highly beneficial. Participation in such peer groups is optional and is not graded nor evaluated.

Data Support services for students using Stata or SPSS

Students may use a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods methodology for their projects. For those using Stata or SPSS, please note : Ms. Samah Alshrief from University Libraries can offer individual data consultations for students' research projects, in particular software training or and

consultations related to the the Stata or SPSS programs. To request an appointment For appointments with Ms Alshrief, [Click here](#).

Submission of assignments:

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due on or before 9:45 pm of the deadline date

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard through the SafeAssign protocol.

Please make sure each page of any assignment includes full class, assignment, date and name information in the first page, as well as a “header” on each page with your name and short assignment name, as well as page numbers. Please use 1” margins and 12 point fonts, with 10 pts. for footnotes.

Files submitted by e-mail should be labeled clearly, using the following format:

YourName_DIPL6311_SHORTASSIGNMENTNAME_day.mo.year.doc

So, for example: JohnEdwards_DIPL6311_OUTLINE&BIBLIO.15.09.2009.doc

Page numbers must be included!

Late or Incomplete Assignments. Students who anticipate not being able to complete an assignment on time should inform me as soon as possible. Absent prior communication, failure to complete an assignment on its due date will result in a grade penalty. All late assignments will be penalized by one-third letter grade per day (i.e., an A assignment turned in one day late is an A-, two days late a B+, etc.) except in cases of medical/family emergency or COVID-related issues. See COVID Ground Rules.

COVID Ground Rules

We’re in a global pandemic. These are scary times. If you tell me you are struggling, I am not going to judge you or think less of you. If you have to miss a class, need extra help, or more time on an assignment, just ask -- I will work with you. There are many campus resources (both virtual and in-person) available; use them. So, let’s agree on some ground rules: I will try my best and you will try your best. some slack, provided you communicate with me about your constraints. And I expect you to cut me some slack, too.

E-mail communications:

Please submit electronic versions of course assignments at the same time as the hard copy; both copies must be identical. Please label electronic copies as noted above.

For other e-mail communication, to assure efficient communications, please keep in mind to:

1. **include a clear and fully self- explanatory subject line, including any action requested.**

Examples of *self- explanatory subject lines* are: “Special appointment needed to discuss draft due October 30,” “Cannot make meeting March 15, special appointment requested,” etc. Non-explanatory Subject lines such as “DIPL 6311” or “Class” are not useful and will delay getting an answer.

2. My Spam program deletes e-mails from unknown (non-Seton Hall) accounts that do not include the name of a student in the class, as well as e-mails with short, not explanatory headings, no headings, or no greeting. Please use your SHU account.

Schedule of class meetings:

Week 1: Tuesday, August 30

Group meeting:

Introduction: the power of presenting your ideas clearly
Choosing the right topic and the right angle on the topic
What is an appropriate research question for a MRP?
From Topic to Research Question: Issues of Methodology
Individual Exercise #1 (in-class)
Individual Exercise #2

Assignment: start working on research idea for 9-minute (maximum) power-point presentation on September 7 or September 14 (by alphabetical order)

Week 2: Tuesday, September 7

Group meeting

Research idea proposal PPT presentations (9-minute maximum) and discussion (first group, students 1-9 in alphabetical order please be prepared to present)

In your presentation, focus on:

- 1) What is the central question?
- 2) Why is this question important for theory and policy?
- 3) How have other scholars sought to answer the question (or closely related ones)? What have these other scholars conceptualized (and operationalized) their dependent variable?
- 4) How would you go about answering this question? How would you conceptualize and operationalize the dependent variable?

Readings: Jean Johnson, The Bedford Guide to the Research Process, chs. 1 (“Choosing Your Topic”) 2 (“Planning your search,”), 6 (“Re-searching, Developing a Thesis Statement, and Outlining”)

Week 3: Tuesday, September 14

Research idea proposal PPT presentations (9-minute maximum) and discussion (second group, students 10-16 in alphabetical order or any left from last week please be prepared to present)

Week 4: Tuesday, September 21

No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)

Jean Johnson, The Bedford Guide to the Research Process, chs. 3 (“Compiling your Working Bibliography,”) 4 (“Recording Information from Print and Electronic Sources”), and 5 (“Gathering Information from Other Sources.”)]

Week 5: Tuesday, September 28

Group meeting

Literature review

Methodology and proposals

Week 6: Tuesday, October 5

**No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)**

***** PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE *****
(max 2500 words/ 10 double-spaced pages)

Written proposal should address the same issues as your proposal presentation, but in more detailed and academically-substantiated manner, and consider the feedback you received during your oral proposal presentation.

Feedback on the proposal can be expected by Friday, October 15

***** FALL BREAK *****

Week 7: Tuesday, October 19

**No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)**

Week 8: Tuesday, October 26

**No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)**

Week 9: Tuesday, November 2

**No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)**

Week 10: Tuesday, November 9

**No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)**

Week 11: Tuesday, November 16

Individual work on draft- no meeting.

***** Full draft of Project DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 9:45 PM*****

Jean Johnson, The Bedford Guide to the Research Process, ch. 7 (“Writing your First Draft,” and 8 (“Revising”)] Process, ch. 9 (“Preparing your final copy”)

Week 12: Tuesday, November 23
No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)

Week 13: Tuesday, November 30
No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD)

Week 14 Tuesday, December 7
No group meeting – available for one-on-one- consultations by appt
(Teams/phone/in person TBD) for last-minute consultations

***** FINAL COPY OF RESEARCH PROJECT DUE**
Monday, DECEMBER 13, 9:45 PM ***

***** PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME FOR FULL CREDIT *****

- 7,000 to 8,000 words total, including title, text, notes, bibliography, and tables (roughly 25-30 pages)
- Typed, double spaced, one-inch margins
- Must incorporate suggestions from draft and other instructor feedback
- Must use an appropriate citation method; all sources in bibliography must be cited in the text (and vice-versa)

***** ALL CLASS REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEC. 13*****
Monday, December 27: Final grades will submitted by the Instructor on or before this date

Summary of meetings (see detailed schedule above for readings, assignments, and due dates)	
Tuesday, August 31	Group meeting
Tuesday, September 7	Group meeting
Tuesday, September 14	Group meeting
Tuesday, September 21	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, September 28	Group meeting
Tuesday, October 5	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, October 12	No class – Fall Break
Tuesday, October 19	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, October 26	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, November 2	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, November 9	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, November 16	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, November 23	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, November 30	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)
Tuesday, December 7	No group meeting – available for one-on-one-consultations by appt (Teams/phone/in person TBD)