

Georgia Institute of Technology
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Fall 2026

INTA 2803: Diplomacy
Class Time: MW 11:00-12:15
Classroom: Ford L1125

Instructor:

Dr. Mikulas Fabry
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E-mail: mfabry@gatech.edu
Office hours: by appointment, Thursdays 3:00-5:00 PM

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the idea and practice of diplomacy — the conduct of relations between states and other entities with standing in international affairs by official agents and by peaceful means. It will examine the rationale for diplomacy; the evolution of diplomatic practice from early statecraft to contemporary multilateral diplomacy; the different diplomatic norms, institutions, practices, skills, and actors; and the various facets of diplomacy today.

The course has the following intended learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with different perspectives on the role of diplomacy in foreign policy and international affairs.
2. Students will show the ability to explain the role of different norms, institutions, practices, skills, and actors in diplomacy.
3. Students will be able to analyze important diplomatic facets and issues in the contemporary world.

Required Texts:

The following textbook is required:

Nicholas Kravlev (ed.), *Diplomatic Tradecraft* (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

It is available for purchase in the GT Barnes & Noble Bookstore. It is also available electronically in the GT Library. In addition, the students will be asked to purchase one case study commissioned by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University at <https://isd-georgetown-university.myshopify.com> for the policy memorandum project. Other readings will be available directly online or on Canvas/Files.

Course Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading:

- Two closed-book in-class exams (25 % each), on September 28 and November 4

- Policy memorandum project (40%) – in-class presentation (10%) and final policy memorandum of 4-5 single-spaced pages (30%) due at **12:00 PM on December 14, 2026**
- Class participation (10%) + Extra credit for outstanding class contributions up to 5%

You must take both closed-book exams on their assigned dates and times. The two exams can be appealed to the instructor within one week of their return. Students must attach a typed explanation to the exam, explaining why their grade should be increased. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire assignment (i.e., not just the appealed part) and to increase, affirm, or decrease the originally assigned grade.

The policy memorandum will ask you to analyze the options facing US diplomacy in one major post-1945 case. You will learn about the case from the relevant study commissioned by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. You will have a choice of one of seven cases: Strategy or Crisis Management: The 1973 War, U.S.-Egypt Relations, and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process (ISD case # 367); The United States, Great Britain, and Mossadegh (case # 127); The Cuban Missile Crisis: U.S. Deliberations and Negotiations at the Edge of the Precipice (case # 129); The Making of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242: Centerpiece of Arab-Israeli Negotiations (case # 178); Yugoslavia, 1991-1992: Could Diplomacy Have Prevented a Tragedy? (case # 179); Values Versus Interests: The U.S. Response to the Tiananmen Square Massacre (case # 224); Anthony Lake and the War in Bosnia (case #213).

You **must attend classes** and have the assigned readings completed **before** each class. Doing the assigned reading before each class is important, as class time will often feature discussion. You should also follow diplomacy-related news and analysis by reading respectable publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Economist*.

In addition to being present in every class, you are expected to **participate actively**. We will have frequent discussions in various formats. Bring 3"x5" index cards to every class – I will repeatedly ask you to write brief discussion summaries or other written exercises, and hand them to me at the end of the class. On occasion, I may only take class attendance and count it in the same way as written index-card exercises. We may also have online discussions on topics via the course's Canvas Discussion board. Your participation grade will be determined by the ratio of the discussions you participated in (provided they show familiarity with the course material) to the total number of these exercises. If you participated in 90%-100% of the total number of exercises, your participation grade will be 10/10; if you participated in 80%-90%, your participation grade will be 9/10, etc. Students can earn **up to 5 % extra credit** by making both **regular** and **informed** verbal contributions in class.

Grading Scale:

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

Class Absence and Penalty Policy:

Class absence is justified only for documented medical or family emergencies, or for other cases approved by the GT Office of the Dean of Students. Late policy memorandums will incur a 10% penalty per day unless a valid justification for missing the due date/time is provided before the due date/time.

Academic Integrity:

Georgia Tech strives to foster a community founded on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/, and for the Student-Faculty Expectation Agreement, go to <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/>.

Final policy memos submitted on Canvas will be screened for plagiarism via Turnitin, **which now also checks for AI-generated content**. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment will be reported to the GT Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and determine an appropriate penalty.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the GT Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also email me as soon as possible so that I know of your learning needs.

Additional Student Resources:

The GT Center for Academic Success (success.gatech.edu) offers a variety of academic support services to help students succeed academically (e.g., tutoring, peer-led study groups, study skills, writing lab). The Division of Student Life (studentlife.gatech.edu) in the Office of the Dean of Students offers resources and support for all students in the Tech community. The Counseling Center (<http://counseling.gatech.edu/>) offers free mental health services, as well as stress management and wellness workshops, to all currently enrolled students. They are located at Smithgall, Suite 210, and offer virtual and in-person resources.

Communications Policy:

As your official GT email is the only way the instructor can reach you outside the classroom, you are responsible for checking it **daily**. You are also asked to **enable all** course-related notifications on Canvas.

Tips for Success in the Course:

1. Attend every class.

2. Come to class having read and reflected on the assigned readings and prepared to engage in discussion.
3. Participate in class by both asking and answering questions and sharing your perspectives. There is no such thing as a bad or stupid question.
4. Make sure you understand the material for each class before attending the next class.
5. Form study groups with your classmates, both to compare notes and to get feedback on your grasp of the course material. Where relevant, study the material/concepts comparatively and with reference to empirical examples.
6. Make use of all available resources, including but not limited to the library and the instructor's office hours. Reach out if you need additional assistance or support.
7. Follow diplomacy news and analysis in reputable sources and reflect on them with reference to the course material.

Outline of Classes and Readings:

[N.B. The schedule is subject to revision; I will provide ample notice.]

August 24: Course Introduction

Krlev, Foreword and Chapter 1

August 26: What is Diplomacy and Why Have It?

Hedley Bull, "Diplomacy and International Order," in *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, 4th ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012).

August 31: Diplomacy as an Instrument of Statecraft

Krlev, Chapter 2

September 2: Diplomatic Skills and Virtues

Krlev, Chapter 3

September 7: Labor Day (NO CLASS)

September 9: The Historical Evolution of Diplomacy

K.J. Holsti, "Diplomacy," in *Taming the Sovereigns: Institutional Change in International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024), pp. 180-210.

September 14: The Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Policy Process

Krlev, Chapter 4

September 16: The Embassy and the Consulate

Krlev, Chapters 5, 6, and 10

September 21: Documentary Watching: *America's Diplomats*

September 23: Review Session

September 28: In-Class Exam 1

September 30: Diplomatic Communication, Reporting, Protocol, Privileges and Immunities

Krlev, Chapters 8 and 11.

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963)

October 5: Fall Recess (NO CLASS)

October 7: Multilateral Diplomacy

Krlev, Chapter 12

October 12: Diplomatic Negotiations

Krlev, Chapter 15

October 14: Economic Trade and Commercial Diplomacy

Krlev, Chapter 7

October 19: Case Study: Negotiating Namibian Independence and Cuba's Angola Withdrawal (Amb. Lawrence Silverman)

Stuart Eizenstat, *The Art of Diplomacy* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024), pp. 163-173.

Interview with Amb. Chester Crocker on Negotiating Namibian Independence and Cuba's Angola Withdrawal (2014), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHLtiZ-D9cI>.

October 21: Public Diplomacy (Amb. Lawrence Silverman)

Krlev, Chapter 9

Daniel F. Runde and Phillip Arceneaux, "Refocusing U.S. Public Diplomacy for a Multipolar World," CSIS Brief (November 2024).

October 26: Diplomacy and Coercive Economic Tools (Peter Harrell, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions)

October 28: Health and Science Diplomacy

Kralev, Chapter 13

November 2: Review Session

November 4: In-Class Exam 2

November 9: The Role of Intelligence in Diplomacy (Amb. Lawrence Silverman)

William Burns, “The Role of Intelligence at a Transformational Moment,” address delivered at GT on April 22, 2022, available at <https://www.cia.gov/static/Director-Burns-Speech-and-QA-Georgia-Tech.pdf> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVWzer7TTP0>

Emily Harding, “Intelligence in a Transparent World, Center for Strategic and International Studies Audio Brief, available at <https://www.csis.org/analysis/chapter-7-intelligence-transparent-world>

November 11: How to Write a Policy Memo (Amb. Lawrence Silverman)

Luciana Herman, “Policy Memos,” Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2012).

November 16: Diplomacy and Counterterrorism (Amb. Elizabeth Richard)

November 18: Natural Disaster and Foreign Policy: An Analysis and Comparison of the Political Impact of Two Earthquakes -- El Salvador in 1986 and Venezuela in 2026 (Amb. Charles Shapiro)

November 23: Future of Diplomacy

Kralev, Afterword

James M. Lindsay, “The 10 Best and 10 Worst in U.S. Foreign Policy Decisions,” available at <https://www.cfr.org/ten-best-ten-worst-us-foreign-policy-decisions/>

November 25: Thanksgiving Recess (NO CLASS)

November 30: Policy Memo Presentations

December 2: Policy Memo Presentations

December 7: Policy Memo Presentations