UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

HONORS DIPLOMACY
INR 4030H
BHC 126

Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas
Spring 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Burnett Honors College- Room 126

Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Phillips Hall- Room 204
Harriet.Elam-Thomas@ucf.edu

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"Diplomacy is to effect the communication between one's own government and other governments or individuals abroad and to do this with maximum accuracy, imagination, tact, and good sense." --- George Kennan

The above observation holds true today. In the current global community in which we live, work, worship and relate to one another, diplomatic skills will become critical to the United States, and other world powers.

The course will highlight the significantly different approach of modern diplomacy with the traditional diplomacy practiced until the last three decades. Special emphasis will be placed on Public Diplomacy. The aftermath of the Cold War and the 9/11 attacks, forced the world community to review, revise, and reconfigure a host of the standard strategies, which existed at that earlier time. The United States increasingly recognizes that other nations are becoming world players in the international arena and must adapt to this new reality. We will examine the effect of the new technology on the advocacy and implementation of foreign policy.

This course is not a traditional one with formal lectures. Rather, it features a combination of informal discussions and simulations with an emphasis on interactive learning. Presentation material – including talks by guest speakers – is often not found in specific reading assignments. Through simulations and student presentations, students will practice and develop the skills critical to success in public service and the private sector. Knowledge of these core issues combined with analytical thinking, effective writing skills and the ability to make clear and **succinct oral presentations** will be essential for all global citizens.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students enrolled should come to class having done the readings as well as the domestic and international media coverage of international events. There will be active class discussion with students routinely called upon to join in. Each student will be assigned to a small group early on in the course. A different group, based on random selection, will brief the class on the reading assignments each day. Additionally, each group will prepare a short presentation of 5-8 minutes on one assigned class topic. These presentations will give you the chance to practice the kind of cogent and focused briefings common in the professional environment. Students will be asked to prepare concise policy memoranda on two of the foreign policy crises we will study in the course. In addition, there will be a final policy paper.

Class Discussion/Simulation participation & Group Presentation	30%
Two Concise Policy Memoranda (max. 1000 words)	30%
Final Exam	40%

Grades will be determined as follows: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

III. SCHEDULE:

NOTE: All assigned readings must be completed prior to class.

Handouts as well as links to appropriate materials will be provided prior to each class. It is the student's responsibility to obtain all materials and references to electronic links should the student be absent from class.

CLASS SCHEDULE - January 8 – April 24, 2013

January 8, 2013 - Course Overview – General Requirements

January 10 – Zetkulic Reading – Country Research Results

January 13 – Role of Secretary of State in the 21st Century

January 17 – Functions of American Embassies/Consulates

January 22 – Role of Diplomats - Nicholas Kralev Excerpt

January 24 – Political Appointees – Career Ambassadors – Atwood Article

January 29 – Role of Public Diplomacy in Foreign Policy

January 31 – Diplomacy as Representation – Cultural Influences

February 5 – Diplomacy of Reason – **First Policy Paper Due**

February 7 – Diplomacy as Communication – Reporting/Analysis

February 14 – First Group Presentation

February 19 – Soft- Hard – Smart Power

February 21 – Media and Foreign Policy

February 26 – Countering Anti-Americanism

February 28 – Second Group Presentation

March 4 – 9, 2012 – SPRING BREAK

March 12 – Third Group Presentation

March 14 – Improving Reach of American Diplomacy

March 19 – Diplomacy as Negotiation

March 21 – Diplomacy 2.0 – Use of New Technology – **Second Policy Paper Due**

March 28 - Fourth Group Presentation

April 4 – Changing landscape of conflicts– Peacekeeping – Democracy Building

April 9 - Peace Module (Part I)

April 11 – Peace Module (Part II)

April 16 – Diplomacy in the 21st Century

April 18 – Inside the State Department – National Geographic

April 22 – Review for Final Exam

April 25 – Final Exam (Honors College Computer Laboratory)

IV. CLASS POLICY:

Disabled students registered with Disability Services should inform the professor of needed accommodations.

I expect professional and ethical behavior from students in my class and on tests and assignments. I enforce the UCF policies pertaining to academic honesty and students should familiarize themselves with the Golden Rule. Also, please be courteous to fellow students by being on time (be unobtrusive if you are late), turning off cell phones (no texting), paying attention and staying on task if you have a laptop (no random browsing and e-mailing) and by remaining quiet when others are speaking. Thank you.