COURSE SYLLABUS

 U.S Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

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| Global Diplomatic Forum E-learning Course |  |

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## Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please familiarise yourself carefully with the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents made available on this course’s platform prior to commencing the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of the Global Diplomatic Forum on-line learning environment and acknowledgement of those organisations and associated experts for their authorisation to use text, audio and visual transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

## Course Presentation

In This online course provides a comprehensive overview of U.S. foreign policy and the role of the U.S. Diplomatic Service in shaping and implementing that policy. Students will explore the historical development of U.S. foreign relations, key principles, major diplomatic events, and the functions of the U.S. Diplomatic Service. The course will also analyze contemporary challenges and issues in U.S. foreign policy.

Embark on a captivating journey into the intricate world of international relations, diplomacy, and the shaping of global affairs with our online course, "Understanding U.S. Foreign Policy and Diplomacy." If you've ever been curious about the forces that steer the United States on the global stage or have an interest in pursuing a career in international relations, this course is your key to unlocking a wealth of knowledge.

Participants in the online course will gain a deeper understanding of the key aspects of U.S Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, giving them a competitive edge and the necessary foundations for success in both academic and professional pursuits.

Developed and delivered by leading experts who will share their expertise and experiences with participants in an engaging platform, the course follows the latest trends for diplomatic education and aims to train the next generation of diplomatic leaders to succeed in a 21st Century diplomatic environment.

Seize the opportunity to elevate your diplomatic skills with our online course. Navigate the complexities of international relations, understand the art of negotiation, and emerge as a confident and adept diplomatic negotiator. Enroll today and take the first step towards mastering the diplomacy of tomorrow! Your journey into the captivating world of diplomatic negotiations awaits. Sign up now!

**What You Will Learn:**

1. **Historical Foundations:** Dive deep into the historical roots of U.S. foreign relations, understanding how key events have shaped the nation's global outlook.
2. **The Diplomatic Service:** Uncover the inner workings of the U.S. Diplomatic Service, exploring the roles and responsibilities of diplomats and the fascinating world of diplomatic missions.
3. **Decision-Making Processes:** Gain insights into the decision-making processes that guide U.S. foreign policy, exploring the roles of key actors, interagency coordination, and the influence of public opinion.
4. **Diplomatic Tools and Instruments:** Explore the tools at the disposal of diplomats, from embassies and consular services to multilateral diplomacy and international organizations.
5. **Economic Diplomacy:** Delve into the complexities of economic diplomacy, examining trade agreements, economic statecraft, and the role of foreign aid in shaping global relationships.
6. **Security and Defense Policy:** Understand how alliances, military interventions, and counterterrorism strategies contribute to the U.S. security and defense policy.
7. **Contemporary Challenges:** Analyze current challenges, including cybersecurity, climate change, and emerging threats, and explore the evolving role of diplomacy in addressing these issues.
8. **Future Trends:** Peer into the future and examine how technological advancements and changing global dynamics will influence the trajectory of U.S. foreign policy.

**Why Choose Our Course:**

* **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Our meticulously designed curriculum covers a wide spectrum of topics, ensuring a holistic understanding of U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy.
* **Expert Instructors:** Learn from seasoned experts in the field who bring real-world experience and academic rigor to the virtual classroom.
* **Flexibility and Accessibility:** Access course materials from the comfort of your home or on-the-go, with a flexible schedule that fits your lifestyle.

**Enroll Today and Shape Your Understanding of Global Affairs!**

Don't miss the opportunity to unravel the complexities of U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy. Enroll now to gain a comprehensive understanding of the forces that shape the world we live in. Whether you're a student, professional, or simply an enthusiast eager to delve into the intricacies of global affairs, this course will empower you to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of international relations. Secure your spot today, and let the journey begin!

## Course Outline and Contents



The U.S Foreign Policy and Diplomacy online course provides a comprehensive guide to navigating the complex environment and capitalizing on several opportunities that it offers.

Through eight modules and delivered by a world-leading authority in U.S Foreign Policy and geopolitics, the online course provides an in-depth understanding of the region:

**Module 1 :**

**Introduction to U.S. Foreign Policy**

**( Week 1)**

* Historical foundations of U.S. foreign relations
* Evolution of U.S. foreign policy doctrines
* Key actors and institutions in shaping foreign policy

**Module 2 :**

**The U.S. Diplomatic Service**

**( Week 2)**

* Overview of the U.S. Department of State
* Roles and responsibilities of diplomats
* Recruitment and training of Foreign Service officers
* Diplomatic missions and embassies
* Consular services and citizen diplomacy

**Module 3 :**

**The U.S Diplomatic Process in Action**

**( Week 3)**

* Stages of diplomatic negotiations
* Conflict resolution and crisis management
* Multilateral diplomacy and international organizations
* Case studies of successful diplomatic efforts

**Module 4:**

**U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making**

**( Week 4)**

* The role of the President and key advisors
* Interagency coordination
* Public opinion and its impact on foreign policy
* U.S Soft Power

**Module 5 :**

**U.S Economic Diplomacy**

**(Week 5)**

* Trade agreements and negotiations
* Sanctions and economic statecraft
* Foreign aid and development assistance

**Module 6 :**

**Security and Defense Policy**

**(Week 6)**

* Alliances and defense treaties
* Military interventions and peacekeeping
* Counterterrorism and homeland security
* Global health and pandemic response
* Environmental diplomacy

**Module 7 :**

**U.S – China Rivalry**

**(Week 7)**

* Trade Rivalry
* Tech Competition
* Geopolitical and world order
* South China and Taiwan issues
* Pivot to Asia

**Module 8 :**

**Contemporary Challenges and Future Trends in U.S. Foreign Policy**

**(Week 8)**

* Cybersecurity and digital diplomacy
* Climate change and international cooperation
* Emerging threats and non-state actors
* Shifts in global power dynamics
* The role of diplomacy in a changing world

## The Course Outcome

Upon successfully completing the online course on Understanding U.S. Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, participants will achieve the following outcomes:

1. **Comprehensive Knowledge:** Develop a profound understanding of the historical, political, and social foundations that have shaped U.S. foreign policy over the years.
2. **Diplomatic Expertise:** Acquire a thorough knowledge of the U.S. Diplomatic Service, including its structure, functions, and the roles and responsibilities of diplomats.
3. **Decision-Making Skills:** Analyze the complex decision-making processes involved in U.S. foreign policy, gaining insights into the roles of key actors, interagency coordination, and the influence of public opinion.
4. **Effective Use of Diplomatic Tools:** Learn to navigate and utilize various diplomatic tools and instruments, including embassies, consular services, and multilateral diplomacy, for effective international relations.
5. **Economic Diplomacy Proficiency:** Understand the intricacies of economic diplomacy, including trade negotiations, economic statecraft, and the role of foreign aid in shaping global relationships.
6. **Security and Defense Policy Understanding:** Gain insights into U.S. security and defense policy, exploring the significance of alliances, military interventions, and counterterrorism strategies.
7. **Global Issues Competence:** Navigate global issues with confidence, particularly in the areas of human rights, environmental diplomacy, and the United States' involvement in addressing international challenges.
8. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Develop critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate the complexities of contemporary challenges, such as cybersecurity, climate change, and emerging threats.
9. **Problem-Solving Abilities:** Hone problem-solving abilities by engaging with real-world diplomatic scenarios and case studies, applying knowledge gained during the course.
10. **Future Trends Awareness:** Anticipate and comprehend future trends in U.S. foreign policy, considering the impact of technological advancements and evolving global dynamics.
11. **Communication Proficiency:** Enhance communication skills in a diplomatic context, including negotiation techniques, public diplomacy, and effective representation of national interests.

## Learning Objectives

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| **Module** | **Learning objectives**  At the end of each module, the participants will be able to: |
| **Module 1 (week 1)**  **Introduction to U.S. Foreign Policy** | * Have an indepth understanding Historical foundations of U.S. foreign relations * Examine Evolution of U.S. foreign policy doctrines * Assess Key actors and institutions in shaping foreign policy |
| **Module 2 (week 2)**  **The U.S. Diplomatic Service** | * Analyse the U.S. Department of State * Understand Roles and responsibilities of diplomats * Assess Recruitment and training of Foreign Service officers * Understand diplomatic missions and embassies * Examine Consular services and citizen diplomacy |
| **Module 3 ( week 3)**  **The U.S Diplomatic Process in Action** | * Understanding the various functions of diplomacy and their applications in the context of US foreign relations. * Examining diplomatic tools employed by the US, including treaties, negotiations, and international agreements. * Understanding The U.S Diplomatic Process in Action |
| **Module 4 ( week 4)**  **U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making** | * Analyse The role of the President and key advisors * Understand Public opinion and its impact on foreign policy * Assess U.S Soft Power |
| **Module 5 ( week 5)**  **U.S Economic Diplomacy** | * Explore Trade agreements and negotiations * Assess Sanctions and economic statecraft * Examine Foreign aid and development assistance |
| **Module 6 ( week 6)**  **Security and Defense Policy** | * Analyse Alliances and defense treaties * Examine Military interventions and peacekeeping * Understand further issues of U.S foreign policy |
| **Module 7 ( week 7)**  **U.S – China Rivalry** | | * Study Trade Rivalry * Assess Tech Competition * Understand Geopolitical and world order * Examin South China and Taiwan issues and Pivot to Asia |
| **Module 8 ( week 8)**  **Contemporary Challenges and Future Trends in U.S. Foreign Policy** | | * Analyse Cybersecurity and digital diplomacy in U.S Foreign Policy * Understand US perspective of Climate change and international cooperation * Explore Emerging threats and non-state actors and shifts in global power dynamics |

## Methodology

The course will be delivered via the [e-Learning platform](https://academy.gdforum.org/) (instructions on using this platform will be emailed to you with course invitation to the platform). This didactic tool will allow the students to view the course contents and thus achieve the course’s learning objectives through a self-paced learning routine supported by various multimedia content (hosted and linked videos and podcasts), optional and required readings, discussion boards, assessments, and a wealth of other materials. Designed to fit the busy schedules of full-time professionals specifically to diplomatic personnel, participants will acquire knowledge through multi-faceted methodology comprising traditional reading materials, external sources of information in form of videos and podcasts, interactive discussion board allowing for communication with other participants and experts alike and webinars with guest lecturers.

**The course content and materials will be available online** (see Course Outline and Contents section for more details). The course is divided into 6 modules

All four modulescontain the same structural elements:

Contents

Learning Objectives

Lesson Material (text, video, documents, and lexicon terms)

Assessment

Discussion Board

## Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

**At least 70% passing grade on EACH of the four module-based assessments** (7 out of 10 questions answered correctly); you may take each assessment **three times** (questions will be randomly drawn from a predefined question bank and therefore the content of assessment will change with each attempt);

**Before moving to the next module**, you should:

**(a)** carefully go through all of the core module texts,

**(b)** take the module-based assessments, and

**(c)** participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. ( optional)

**(d)** you will be also encouraged to read/view/listen to the optional external links to further develop your knowledge on the given module’s topic (e.g. links to articles, webinars, podcasts or websites and additional documents).

Global Diplomatic Forum's e-learning Committee is responsible for the final decision regarding certificates in consultation with the module leaders (experts). Global Diplomatic Forum reserves the right to award certificates of completion only to those participants who will be deemed “eligible” through the aforementioned pre-requisites. Global Diplomatic Forum urges all participants to take a clear note of the above requirements. Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team.

## Study Planning

Below table provides guidance on which parts of the course are deemed mandatory.

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| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Mandatory** |
| Interactive Course | Yes |
| External Links and Readings | No,  though highly recommended |
| Module Assessments | Yes |
| Discussion Forums | Yes |

The distinctive feature of this learning course is that it is an entirely **online based** learning experience. As such it can not only be accessed from any part of the world but also at any point of time (within allocated availability period specified above in the Course Outline and Contents section) thus creating a true self-paced learning environment. Upon start of the course, training materials will be gradually made available to you through Global Diplomatic Forum’s partner portal - FutureLearn. The course contents will also provide links to external web resources such as references, documents and multimedia.

The Global Diplomatic Forum’s team will be at your disposal to provide guidance and help you participate and **contribute actively** to the discussion forums, which are an important learning opportunity of this course. You will also be able to communicate with the course manager who will moderate the discussion board as well as answer module-related questions (through both the posts on the Discussion Board and e-mail).

The online training provides numerous **advantages** over traditional learning methods. Particularly it allows for:

* the adjustment of the schedule and pace of your learning according to your specific requirements
* complete freedom in choice of the study location - as long as you are able to access internet connected computer
* expanding your network through engaging in discussion with fellow participants and module leaders
* having lectures with the world’s leading experts

Online courses require more self-discipline and pro-active preparation in order to successfully meet the course’s requirements and learning objectives.

Another important characteristic of the online course that needs to be duly noted is that it is asynchronous. What that effectively means is that the interaction between course participants and module leaders will take place intermittently and may incur a time delay – thus it is imperative to establish a course study routine that suits best individual work schedule, family commitments, internet connection speed, etc.

## Learning Content

The complete set of modules and respective course materials **will be made available instantaneously on the FutureLearn portal. Modules and materials will be released on a weekly basis and will become available to participants regardless of successful completion of previous module and passing the assessment.** Learning materials are organised as follows:

The course matdrial constitutes the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain main course text as well as links to external websites (e.g. with relevant articles, publications etc.) documentation, videos and podcasts, questions and case studies. All modules have few lectures with the module leader and a guest lecturer. The course and individual module contents have been designed to be accessible and approachable by wide demographic of participants, regardless of their level of knowledge on the topic providing opportunity to both acquire the basics and further elaborate on existing expertise.

## Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team by sending a message through the FutureLearn platform.

You may also contact us by email. Email support is available 24/7. Given the global scope of the course emails will be answered within 24 hours.

**Global Diplomatic Forum Team**

Jon Rendall and Mr Marcin Dadura

Programme Manager

E-mail: [events@gdforum.org](mailto:events@gdforum.org)

Support hours: 8am to 5pm (GMT)