

DIPLOMACY IN TIMES OF GLOBAL CRISES: THEORY & PRACTICE

Professor: **Charles TENENBAUM**

Session: **June 2026**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **36h**



Objective of the Course

Times of renewed global crises and growing instability call for renewed Diplomatic efforts and creativity as the only alternative to international relations solely based on power relations and the use of force. Building on the history of diplomacy, its actors and practices, this course will provide students with the necessary tools to better understand and analyze the contemporary issues and challenges of the “art of negotiation”. Lectures will cover key developments in the ancient and modern diplomatic activity, from good offices to crisis negotiation and the role of intermediaries. Encounter with diplomats at the national and EU level, debates in class and students’ assignments will focus on the use of specific techniques of diplomatic negotiation and help the students understand the work and missions of today’s diplomats. Diplomatic strategies involving a wide variety of actors (States, Multilateral organizations, NGOs, “Independent Diplomats”, etc.) will be analyzed and their respective roles discussed throughout this course.



Main themes

- ✓ Irrelevant Diplomats? Diplomacy challenges in times of War & Global Crises
- ✓ The historical foundations of modern Diplomacy
- ✓ Multilateral Diplomacy: Still relevant?
- ✓ Appeasement or Use of force? When to negotiate, when to fight?
- ✓ Great Power Diplomacy
- ✓ Diplomacy in the digital Era
- ✓ Negotiation across cultures
- ✓ From Negotiation to Mediation: Dynamics of Third-Party Intervention

- ✓ The European Union Foreign Policy and Security Strategy: Wakeup Call?
- ✓ Global Governance Diplomacy: The End or the renewal of Multilateralism?
- ✓ Building an open & Inclusive Diplomacy



Bibliography

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- Cooper Andrew Fenton, Heine Jorge et Thakur Ramesh, 2013, The Oxford handbook of modern diplomacy, Oxford, U.K., Oxford University Press.
- Kissinger Henry, 2015, World Order, Penguin Press, 2015.
- Lequesne, Christian, Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the World: Actors of State Diplomacy. Diplomatic Studies, vol. 18, 2022.
- Pierre Buhler, "About European Sovereignty", Survival, 65:2, 2023, pp. 55-74.
- The Palgrave Handbook of EU Crises. Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.
- Zartman, I. Peacemaking in international conflict: methods & techniques. Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997.
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Professor's Biography



Dr. Charles Tenenbaum

Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Charles Tenenbaum specializes in the study and practice of Diplomacy, conflict resolution and international mediation. At Sciences Po, he teaches Peace Mediation and Conflict Resolution at the graduate level along with courses on Diplomacy and International Organizations. His research interests currently focus on European Union and

Peacemaking, Multilateralism, and the influence of religious actors in international relations.

Charles Tenenbaum's publications include The European Union and Peace (2017) and "Negotiations and Mediations in the resolution of Conflicts" in: Placidi-Frot, Delphine, Petiteville, Franck, Négociations internationales (2013).

Dr. Tenenbaum was a Fulbright Visiting Fellow at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (George Mason Univ.) and at the International Peace Institute in New York. Consultant for United Nations programs and expert NGOs, he trains civil servants at the National Institute for Public Service. He was a trainer and facilitator for the Wilson Center facilitative initiative in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a member of the French UN Association Academic board and has gained experience on African, Middle East and Eastern European issues.