Course Goals:
This course will explore the application of international relations theory through game theory and games. Game theory allows us to formalize assumptions made by various theories in international politics and play out how those assumptions might affect decisions. The game of diplomacy illustrates various aspects of international politics including balancing short term and long term goals. Diplomacy forces students to think about issues of power, and balance of power, alliances, deterrence and reputation in order to be successful in the long term and the short term. This course will use diplomacy to illustrate the concepts we learn in game theory.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:
No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Students will demonstrate oral communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Critically distinguish between the main theoretical perspectives in international conflict and peace
- Demonstrate an ability to analyze different actions and how those actions help maximize particular utilities
- Understand the mechanics and choice structures of basic games and long form games
- Critically examine how power, alliances, deterrence, and incomplete information shape choices.
**Course Requirements**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Papers (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Grading:**
You will have a midterm and a final exam, which will focus on the elements of game theory you learn in the course. You will also have three analytical papers which will focus on applying theories to the game Diplomacy. As this course is based on applying game theory to actual game play, nearly a third of your grade will be based on your participation in the course.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. That means that if you are late to class, your assignment is counted late. If you know you are going to be absent due to a university excused event, notify your instructor in advance and you will be allowed to schedule a substitute assignment **EARLY.** Exceptions **MAY** be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor in advance.

If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is **your responsibility** to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. You should also always make a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me.

**Analytical Papers:**
There will be 5 analytical paper assignments throughout the semester, and students must complete 3. Each of these papers will be worth 10% each. These must be word processed, single spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font, and no more than one inch margins.

**Course Participation and Attendance:**
The largest portion of your grade will come from the class participation grade. In order to do well in this class, you must be here. It has been my experience that poor attendance will result in a poor grade in the class. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Poor attendance will be reflected directly in-class assignment grade and indirectly in your exam grade. Please be on time to class and plan to stay, as entering a class late or leaving early is always disruptive. Such a disruption is unfair to the rest of the class, and will result in you being counted absent.

This is particularly true for days we are scheduled to play Diplomacy. **Attendance during game days is mandatory.** Every Diplomacy class you are absent, you will lose 10 points on your participation grade. In addition, your participation grade will reflect your level of engagement. Participation grades will reflect whether you are actively engaged in the game (or any assigned activity). Students who are, for example, checking social media or talking about non-game related topics, will see their participation grade lowered.
Other Important Policies:
Assignments are always due at the beginning of class and are considered late if you are late to class. Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade per day.

Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in any way possible. I may be able to help you study more effectively or recommend other assistance. Remember – I want you to do well in this course.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester. Class information, including changes of dates, study aides, changes in assignments due to weather days or other information will be posted on the class D2L page.

The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 restricts release of certain student information, such as grades. In accordance with the law, I will not be able to give grades out over the phone or e-mail. Please – DO NOT ASK.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
Course Schedule:

August 29th
September 3rd & 5th
September 10th - 17th
September 19th
September 24th
September 26th & October 1st
October 3rd
October 8th
October 10th
October 15th & 17th
October 22nd
October 24th
October 29th
October 31 and November 5th
November 7th – 12th
November 14th
November 19th & 21st
November 26th & 28th
December 3rd - 5th
Final Exam

Course Schedule

IR Theories
Introduction to Game Theory; Expected Utility
**Diplomacy
Setting up a Game
Prisoner’s Dilemma
**Diplomacy
Chicken and Stag Hunt
Other Games: Deadlock, Harmony
*No class
**Diplomacy
Power
Exam #1
Deterrence
**Diplomacy
Incomplete Information
**Diplomacy
Thanksgiving Holiday
War and Terrorism
**Diplomacy
Diplomacy/Debrief
Final Exam