

Global Challenges: Strategy, Law, and Diplomacy

Adelman and Suri
Wednesdays, 2pm-5pm
SRH 3.221/3.212

Description: Although often separated, the global challenges of our contemporary world have many connections and parallels. They also share common histories that inform contemporary problems and possible opportunities for meaningful reforms. This course will emphasize the value of comparative analysis in framing, analyzing, and addressing contemporary global challenges through strategic analysis, law, and diplomacy. The course will focus on three global challenges: (1) international human rights, including immigration, genocide, human trafficking, and gender discrimination; (2) conventional and nuclear arms control since the First World War; and (3) emerging efforts to address climate change and other transnational environmental problems.

This will be an intensive reading course, emphasizing critical reading, comparative analysis, and group discussion. The assigned readings will include conceptual, legal, and historical materials to provide a comparative framework for examining bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, the striking range of legal mechanisms, and the surrounding strategic contexts. This graduate seminar will bring together students from Law, Public Affairs, History, Political Science, and Middle East Studies

Course Materials: The reading materials for the course include several books, which you can purchase online or through the campus bookstore, and journal articles, which will be made available through the Canvas site for the class.

Grading: Your grade will be based on class participation, weekly one-page response papers, and a final 20-page research paper on a topic related to the class, chosen in consultations between each student and the professors. The breakdown of your grade will be as follows: (1) class participation – **30%**; (2) the weekly response essays – **20%** (see details below); and (3) the final ~20-page paper – **50%**.

The schedule for the research papers will be as follows:

October 6: paper outline & literature review due.

November 10: first draft due in hardcopy and 2-3 page précis due. (Circulate précis online to all students).

December 10: final paper due in hardcopy.

Weekly Response Essays: Each week by **5:PM** on the **Tuesday before class**, all students should post a short response essay on the UT Canvas course website. This response essay should include 3 basic paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize the key arguments in the readings and their significance. The second paragraph should analyze how the week's readings relate to other course and outside texts. The third paragraph should offer the student's critical assessment of the week's readings: What was most persuasive? What was least persuasive? Which are the issues and questions that need more attention? What kind of new research and thinking do the readings inspire?

Students are expected to read each other's weekly essays before class. They are also expected to comment substantively on each other's essays. The weekly essays and comments will provide a starting point for each week's class discussion.

Weekly Reading Assignments

NO CLASS on August 27th

Week 1 – September 3rd: The Atomic Bomb and its Global Reverberations

Reading: Andrew J. Rotter, *Hiroshima: The World's Bomb* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Week 2 – September 10th: History of Arms Control

Readings: James Lebovic, *Flawed Logics: Strategic Nuclear Arms Control from Truman to Obama* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013); Robert Jervis, "The Nuclear Revolution and the Common Defense," *Pol. Sci. Quarterly* 101, no. 5 (1986): 689–703; Paul Boyer, "From Activism to Apathy: The American People and Nuclear Weapons, 1963-1980," *J. Am. Hist.* 70 (1984): 821–44.

Week 3 – September 17th: Contemporary Arms Control

Readings: Philip Taubman, *The Partnership: Five Cold Warriors and the Quest to Ban the Bomb* (New York: Harper Collins, 2012); Condoleezza Rice, *No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington* (New York: Crown, 2011), selected sections.

Week 4 – September 24th: History of International Environmental Law

Readings: Tony Brenton, *The Greening of Machiavelli: The Evolution of International Environmental Politics* (London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1994); Daniel Bodansky, "A Tale of Two Architectures: The Once and Future U.N. Climate Change Regime," *Arizona State L.J.* 43 (2011): 697-712.

Week 5 – October 1st: Contemporary Climate Negotiations

Readings: Daniel Bodansky, “The Durban Platform: Issues and Options for a 2015 Agreement,” *C2SE* (2012): 1-15; Jeff Tollefson, et al., “Awash in Carbon,” *Nature* 49 (2012): 654-55; Navroz Dubash, “Climate Politics in India: How Can the Industrialized World Bridge the Trust Deficit?,” *Stimson* (2009); Tomas Bernauer, “Climate Change Politics,” *Ann. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 16 (2013): 421-48; Scott Barrett, “Rethinking Climate Change Governance and Its Relationship to the World Trading System,” *World Economy* 34 (2011): 1863-82; Elke U. Weber, “Experience-Based and Description-Based Perceptions of Long-Term Risk: Why Global Warming Does Not Scare Us (Yet),” *Climate Change* 77 (2006): 103-120.

Week 6 – October 8th: The History of Human Rights

Readings: Akira Iriye, Petra Goedde, and William Hitchcock, *The Human Rights Revolution: An International History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012); Kassi Tallent & Karen Engle, “A Brief History of International Human Rights Law and Practice” (2013).

Week 7 – October 15th: Contemporary Human Rights in post-conflict areas

Readings: Samantha Power, *Chasing the Flame: Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Fight to Save the World* (New York: Penguin, 2008).

October 16th and 17th afternoons: Individual student meetings with both Professors Adelman and Suri.

Week 8 – October 22nd: Human Rights & Environmentalism as Law and Norms

Readings: Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Week 9 – October 29th: The Global Conjunctures of 1989

Readings: James Wilson, *Triumph of Improvisation: Gorbachev’s Adaptability, Reagan’s Engagement, and the End of the Cold War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014); Audi Koltz, “Norms Reconstituting Interests: Global Racial Equality and U.S. Sanctions Against South Africa,” *Int’l Org.* 49 (1995): 451-78; Peter Haas, “Banning Chlorofluorocarbons: Epistemic Community Efforts to Protect Stratospheric Ozone,” *Int’l Org.* 46 (1992): 187-224.

Week 10 – November 5th: Larger Theoretical Frameworks

Readings: John G. Ruggie, “What makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge,” *Int’l Org.* 52 (1998): 855-885; Robert O. Keohane & David G. Victor, “The Regime Complex for Climate Change,” *Perspect. Polit.* 9 (2011): 7-23; Jeremi Suri, “Non-Governmental Organizations and

Non-State Actors,” in *Palgrave Advances in International History*, ed. Patrick Finney (2005).; John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *Int’l Security* 19 (1994): 5-49; Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change,” *International Organization* 52 (1998): 887–917; Kenneth W. Abbott & Duncan Snidal, “Hard and Soft Law in International Governance,” *Int’l Org.* 54 (2000): 421-56.

Week 11 – November 12th: Discuss student précis submissions in class

Week 13 – November 26th: NO CLASS -- Thanksgiving, work on final papers

Weeks 12-14 – November 19th; December 3rd: TBA