



GENEVA SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY  
& INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

**HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY:  
STRATEGY, POLICY, IMPLEMENTATION**  
**Selective course**

**Syllabus\***

**Master of International Relations**  
**Academic Year 2018/19 (Autumn Semester)**  
**3 September 2018 – 14 December 2018**

**Tuesday, 14:30- 16:30 Kennedy Room**

**PROFESSOR: Stefan G. Ziegler**

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\* Abridged version

## ABRIDGED PROGRAM SCHEDULE & THEMES INCORPORATING BROKEN-THE-FILM.COM\*

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### Session 1

#### Introduction, Course Awareness (Admin and Objectives), Key Concepts in Humanitarian Diplomacy, the Journal and Self Evaluation

**Content:** Setting the scene for the coming lecture series, work schedule and course methodology. Student input for personal growth, including keeping a journal and evaluation/self-evaluation.

What is Humanitarian Diplomacy at a glance, discussions, course outline, burning questions. The importance of case studies through reading, audiovisuals and storytelling.

### Session 2

#### Theory and Methodological Background: Participative Action Research (PAR)

**Content:** The student is exposed to a particular social scientific theory/methodology which deals with meaning or understanding, a bottom up approach which can easily be applied to Humanitarian Diplomacy environments. The student will also be introduced to what humanitarian practitioners call: **the “Contiguum”**. This concept describes the stages from humanitarian **Emergency** interventions to the **Transition Phase** and finally and ideally leading to **Sustainable Development**.

### Session 3

#### Humanitarian Diplomacy in Praxis – Learning through storytelling

**Content:** Theory behind *Humanitarian Action*, distinctive difference from “general” diplomatic approaches, the thinking underpinning efficient humanitarian diplomatic interventions. Discussing the video and other readings. Learning through storytelling: experience in the class with humanitarian diplomacy interventions.

### Session 4

#### The philosophy of law and the applicability of it in humanitarian action

**Content:** What is the philosophy of law and what makes law relevant to humanitarian diplomacy? Discussion. Presentation of applicable law in humanitarian interventions. The ICJ Wall case overview explaining the relevance of and debates in law. Read out aloud to make room for discussion & BROKEN specific moments. The class watches the IFRC commentary about the seven principles of humanitarian action.

## Session 5

### Humanitarian Advocacy

**Content:** Is humanitarian diplomacy the same as humanitarian advocacy? Humanitarian Advocacy lecture and reading materials proposed.

## Session 6

### Communications: Humanitarian Diplomacy tools for support

**Content:** Lecture based on *Communications* PowerPoint. Distinction between Communications and Advocacy. Brainstorming the students' own intentions in applying communications for their case studies reflected in the term paper. Discussion: private vs. public advocacy.

## Session 7

### BROKEN: an illustrated case study of Humanitarian Diplomacy

**Content:** Screening of the film BROKEN followed by a discussion session in groups. Students write and submit a ½ page film critique and answer to the online questionnaire.

Students hand in their Journals ahead of the lecture for marking to **Professor Ziegler via email:**

## Session 8

### Conflict Resolution Mechanisms: Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration.

**Content:** Based on the *Negotiations* lectures series and Third-Party Conflict Interventions. Presentation of Ian Green's storytelling. Prof. Johan Galtung's Conflict Resolution theories.

## Session 9

### Guest Lecture: presentation of a Humanitarian Diplomacy case study from a practitioner

**Content:** The real world meets the student. The onus is on the personality and the organization she or he represents. What is the interpretation of the person vis-à-vis the mandate and modus operandi of the organization.

## Session 10

### Peace- and Confidence Building: Does Humanitarian Diplomacy make a difference?

**Content:** Modes of Action discussed. Presentation of key concepts. A story teller's tale about peacebuilding. Transition from Emergency to Development and Sustainable Development. PowerPoint presentations of chapter summaries by group. Students will be divided into five groups and present one chapter each.

Exercise: in pairs or groups applying all major concepts of the course so far. Serves as recap and brainstorming session in one!

## Session 11

### Role plays: Negotiations Skills in Humanitarian Diplomacy (the Wall case)

**Content:** Acting out case studies. Debriefing the actors and ensuing discussion about the negotiation and negotiation styles; Engaging students through story telling with detailed accounts of field-based humanitarian diplomacy intervention and their strengths and weaknesses. Reflective discussions. Students prepare simulations and draft their term papers.

Peer group brainstorming and outlining term papers.

Closing session with time for reflection and going through course objectives point by point.

## Session 12

### Humanitarian Diplomacy: The simulation of the student's term paper acted out I)

**Content:** Term Paper presentations: students present their findings in acting out the humanitarian case study they describe in their end of term paper. Peer reviews are built in to cast a critical eye on the author's intentions.

## Session 13

### Humanitarian Diplomacy: The simulation of the student's term paper acted out II)

**Content:** Term Paper presentations: students present their findings in acting out the humanitarian case study they describe in their end of term paper. Peer reviews are built in to cast a critical eye on the author's intentions.

## Session 14

### “The Meaning for Live”: Summary of analyses of the Humanitarian Diplomacy course

**Content:** In groups students discuss the key moments of the course and exemplify the use of it in terms of their own careers or lives. What are the transferrable skills this course has taught the student – Market place of ideas! Self-evaluation exercise. Re-visiting the objectives of the course. Cleaning up “the Parking Lot” with residual questions and comments. Term papers are handed in at the end of the session and marking explained.

#### READING LIST BY THEME:

##### Main textbook:

- ...

##### Bibliography:

##### On Humanitarian Diplomacy:

**THE HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS** Marion Harroff-Tavel <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/humanitarian-diplomacy-icrc.pdf>

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##### Theory:

ICRC definition video introduction to humanitarian diplomacy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kz2KbjRln8>

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##### Humanitarian Diplomacy in Praxis:

2 pages of an overview of: *Humanitarian diplomacy policy* by the IFRC: online article: <http://www.ifrc.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-diplomacy/humanitarian-diplomacy-policy/>

**“Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-Governmental Organisations in Disaster relief”.**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/code-of-conduct/>

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Law:

Switzerland's Statement on the ICJ: <http://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/131/1577.pdf>

**"The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross: commentary"**. Thorough discussion of the seven principles by Jean Pictet, IFRC.

<http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/40669/Pictet%20Commentary.pdf>

UN's **"Humanitarian Principles"**, from UNOCHA, illustrating the four principles the UN has adopted to work with in humanitarian relief.

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM-humanitarianprinciples\\_eng\\_June12.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM-humanitarianprinciples_eng_June12.pdf)

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Humanitarian Advocacy & Communications:

**BROKEN background material (trailer and Producer's Statement)** available on [www.broken-the-film.com](http://www.broken-the-film.com) .  
Accessible on Vimeo.

François Golay and Stefan Ziegler, et al. **"Academic Cooperation to Foster Research and Advocacy Competences in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (West Bank)"**, in Jean-Claude Bolay, eds. 2014. *Technologies for Sustainable Development – A way to reduce poverty?*. Springer Switzerland.

My latest article, **"Communicating the Community"** which appeared in the Journal *Humanitarian Advocacy in Western Africa and Beyond* was published in January 2016. The keen student will find this article useful beyond the scope of the lecture:

[http://www.friedensburg.at/uploads/files/Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa Edited Volume.pdf](http://www.friedensburg.at/uploads/files/Humanitarian_Assistance_in_West_Africa_Edited_Volume.pdf)

Humanitarian Negotiations: Refer to the course textbook.