Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations

COURSE OUTLINE

INRL 5009
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF DIPLOMACY

Dr. Georgina Chami
georgina.chami@sta.uwi.edu
Course Description
This course will provide students with a theoretical understanding of diplomacy and a pragmatic sense of the actual practice of diplomacy. This is done through an exploration and analysis of various concepts of diplomacy, of the environment within which diplomats operate, and the historical evolution of diplomacy from traditional to contemporary. It will incorporate formal lectures supplemented by guest presentations, student discussions, group assignment and other materials to enhance students’ analytical skills and understanding of the international diplomacy.

Course Rationale
The primary objective of this course is to give students a sense of the challenges of twenty-first century diplomacy. To do so, students must also appreciate the complexities of the global, regional and national environments within which diplomatic activity is undertaken. Traditional diplomacy was secretive and exclusive and always occurred in the context of state to state relations. However, today, diplomacy is much more public and multidimensional; involving a multitude of actors and stakeholders. In this regard, contemporary diplomacy is no longer the exclusive domain of the Ministries of Foreign Relations with the increasing engagement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Regional Organizations, Inter Religious Organizations, Multinational Organizations (MNOs) and individuals.

Course Aims
The aim of this course is to give the students of International Relations a comprehensive knowledge of the historical development, achievements and changes in the practice of diplomacy. Consequently, this material has been prepared to:

- Introduce students to the complex historical development of modern diplomatic practice.
- Analyze and explain the reasons and consequences of the changes in diplomatic relations over the years.
- Cultivate a sophisticated understanding of the use of diplomacy in contemporary international relations.
- Enlighten students on the characteristics of diplomats and appropriate diplomatic practice.
- Equip students with practical skills applicable to professional work in government, civil society and international organizations.
Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the evolution of diplomatic practice and its contemporary employment.
- Explain the dimensions of modern diplomacy
- Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding and a clear appreciation of the past and present development of diplomacy
- Identify the main players, functions and tools in contemporary diplomacy.
- Demonstrate professional presentation skills