

Diplomacy and Diplomatic Law

Course

Cyril Svoboda: Diplomatic Law

Foreign Policy and Diplomacy – Basic Concepts

Politics as promotion of public interest
National interests and national security
Alliance and Union relations
Bilateral and multilateral relations
Export promotion and human rights

Understanding Politics

Politics is the process of making collective decisions that affect society.

It involves power, authority, conflict, and cooperation.

Why Politics Matters

Shapes laws, rights, and daily life.

Decides how resources are distributed.

Maintains order and protects citizens.

Influences international relations and peace.

Political Systems

Democracy – Power belongs to the people.

Authoritarianism – Power in one leader or elite.

Monarchy – Power held by royalty.

Communism – State controls economy.

Hybrid regimes – Mix of democracy and control.

Key Political Ideologies

Liberalism – Individual freedom, democracy, free markets.

Conservatism – Tradition, stability, gradual change.

Socialism – Economic equality, welfare state.

Nationalism – Loyalty to one's nation.

Environmentalism – Protecting the planet.

Global Political Challenges Today

Climate change and sustainability.

Migration and inequality.

Rise of populism and misinformation.

Conflicts (Ukraine, Middle East, Sudan).

Balancing national sovereignty and global cooperation.

Constitutional Framework

President – Head of State

External representation

Negotiation and ratification of treaties

Appointment and recall of heads of missions

Responsibility for Foreign Policy

Government bears responsibility

President not politically accountable

Countersignature requirement

Government responsible for decisions

Concept of Diplomacy

Ancient Greek diploma – sovereign authorisation

Art of negotiation

Maintenance of international relations

Protection of strategic interests

Public and Private Diplomacy

Public diplomacy – state representation

Negotiations with foreign governments

Private diplomacy – NGOs and corporations

Global corporate actors in diplomacy

Methods of Diplomacy

Summits and high-level meetings
Permanent diplomatic representation
Special missions
Secret negotiations
Diplomatic correspondence and media

Types of Diplomacy

Bilateral and multilateral
Economic and cultural diplomacy
Parliamentary diplomacy
Military diplomacy
European External Action Service

Historical Development

15th century Italian city-states

18th century France

Diplomatic corps and hierarchy

Monarchical direction of diplomacy

Vienna Congress (1815)

Vienna Regulation – three classes
Legates, Ambassadors, Nuncios
Ministers and Chargés d'affaires

Vienna Convention (1961)

Principle of seniority

Classes of heads of mission

Codification of diplomatic law

Functions of a Diplomatic Mission

Representation of sending State

Protection of nationals

Negotiation

Reporting

Promotion of cooperation

Immunity and Indemnity

Immunity – procedural protection

Indemnity – substantive non-liability

Diplomatic Immunity

Personal inviolability

No arrest or detention

Duty of respect and protection

Diplomatic Missions under Czech Law

Embassy

Permanent Mission

Consular Post

Special Mission

Liaison Office

Privileges and Immunities

Use of flag

Inviolability of premises

Tax exemption

Diplomatic courier

Limited staff immunity

Duration of Immunity

Begins upon entry

Ends upon departure

Functional immunity persists

Diplomatic Service

Developing foreign relations

Protecting Czech interests

Conducted within Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreign Policy of Donald Trump

Graduate Lecture Presentation
Analytical and Comparative Framework

1. Analytical Framework

Realism vs Liberal Institutionalism
Nationalism and Economic Statecraft
Transactional Diplomacy
Rupture or Structural Continuity?

2. America First Doctrine

Sovereignty over multilateralism

Bilateralism over institutional diplomacy

Alliance burden-sharing

Trade as a security instrument

3. NATO and Alliance Management

Pressure for 2% GDP defence spending
Public criticism of allies
Conditional rhetoric on Article 5
Strategic uncertainty vs fiscal correction

4. China Policy Shift

Trade war and tariffs

Technology restrictions (Huawei, semiconductors)

Indo-Pacific strategic framing

China as systemic competitor

5. Economic Statecraft

Withdrawal from TPP

Renegotiation of NAFTA → USMCA

Section 301 tariffs

Trade as geopolitical leverage

6. Middle East Policy

Withdrawal from JCPOA

Abraham Accords

Jerusalem recognition

Targeted killing of Qasem Soleimani

7. Russia Policy

Ambiguous rhetoric vs sanctions regime

Eastern Europe troop deployments

Helsinki summit controversy

Personal diplomacy vs structural constraints

8. North Korea Diplomacy

Singapore and Hanoi summits
Leader-to-leader diplomacy
Media-driven summitry
Limited denuclearisation progress

9. Multilateral Institutions

Withdrawal from Paris Agreement
WHO withdrawal attempt
UNESCO and UNHRC exit
Critique of liberal international order

10. Sanctions and Executive Power

Expanded sanctions regime

Use of IEEPA authority

Iran, Venezuela, Russia, China

Growth of economic coercion

11. Strategic Outcomes

Continuity in China containment
Disruption in alliance cohesion
Normative rhetoric shift
Acceleration of multipolar realism

12. Comparative Perspective

Obama – Multilateralism

Trump – Bilateralism / Transactionalism

Biden – Alliance restoration

Structural vs personal determinants

13. Academic Debates

Transactional diplomacy vs grand strategy

Erosion of liberal international order

Executive dominance in foreign policy

Populism in international relations

Conclusion

Realist correction?

Institutional damage?

Structural inevitability?

Open debate for advanced analysis