

It was extremely useful to participate in the Chesapeake Project and have intensive interactions with the facilitators and the other participants. This gave me an exposure to various new trends in the field of environmental sustainability, and its increasing relevance in the world we live in. It gave me an opportunity to reflect upon the importance of increasing the focus and emphasis on this aspect in the course which I teach on “Development Diplomacy and Leadership”.

I would want my students to learn about the following:

1. To study some big projects which have been executed as part of aid projects, by a donor country in a recipient country, and analyse it from the viewpoint of whether they were compatible with the concepts of sustainability, and ecological protection; or there were deficiencies in these aspects.
2. To analyse what sort of interventions can be made to improve upon these projects
3. Draw upon these learnings, and other available knowledge in this area, to lay down certain ground principles which could be used as templates for conceptualising and executing new projects.

In my course, I set out a list of topics for students to write short papers during the semester, and one major term paper at the end of the course. I will increase the number of topics in the area of environmental sustainability so as to foster a greater amount of reflection by the students in this area.

In the syllabus, I will include the following:

PUAF 688N:

This course will foster a better appreciation and understanding of the importance of ecological issues and environmental sustainability particularly in the area of developmental projects being executed by donor countries around the globe.

This course will encourage students to reflect upon how these principles can be applied in the conceptualization and execution of such projects.

Conclusion:

These revisions will help me to add further emphasis on an important aspect already present in my course. I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts being made by The Chesapeake Project to foster an understanding and appreciation in this important area, and encourage both teachers and students to reflect upon it for making the world a better place for the future. I am very enthused and encouraged by this workshop and I will be happy to participate and contribute in the Chesapeake Project as a speaker or facilitator.

Revised syllabus

Course Overview:

This course provides an understanding of the underlying principles of international relations and the formulation and practice of foreign policy from the perspective of a practicing diplomat. Looks at tenets that guide nations' diplomacy. Equips students with the knowledge and skill sets required to understand the complexities and diversities from the geo-political, strategic, economic, socio-cultural and historical perspectives, and to analyse possibilities of cooperation and conflict.

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Addresses questions such as how soft-power diplomacy has evolved over the centuries and how international development diplomacy can be conducted on a sustainable basis, paradigms of inspired leadership, and issues of cross-cultural sensitivities. Analyses case studies, best practices and projects in the fields of health, education, energy, and infrastructure, in bilateral, third country and multilateral frameworks. Draws extensively on instructor's experiences as a practitioner of diplomacy, particularly in the South Asian and South East Asian context.

This course is intended for those who have an interest in working in federal organisations (Department of State, DOD, Department of Agriculture, Energy, USAID); national and international NGOs; international organisations (WB, IFC, MF, IDB, IADB); or in the MNCs in their international cooperation, projects, or CSR aspects.