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  

**Week 2 – September 10th:** History of Arms Control  

**Week 3 – September 17th:** Contemporary Arms Control  

**Week 4 – September 24th:** History of International Environmental Law  
Week 5 – October 1st: Contemporary Climate Negotiations  

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

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

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  

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

Week 10 – November 5th: Larger Theoretical Frameworks  

**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