Foundations of Diplomacy

Critical Reading 1

Course Content

This course (taught over two terms) considers key aspects of critical reading in an academic context, including critical thinking skills, paying attention to approaches to gaining meaning from texts, and developing effective note-making.

Recognition of reliable text features, sources, collocations, syntax, referencing, register, intended purpose(s) and audience(s) are also developed.

The course combines both theory and practice and aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills to speculate on text approaches and types to develop effective reading strategies.

You will gain confidence in commenting on reliability, timeliness and potential bias in a range of written texts.

Your classes will be organic in nature in the sense that they will not adhere to a rigid, prescribed programme of study, but will focus on the developing needs of the group.

There will be close readings and evaluation of selected academic texts and you will be expected to read, prepare and comment on texts on a weekly basis.

The aspects listed below will be discussed and developed during the course and, while skills and concepts may initially be presented and practised discretely, they will also be discussed, recycled and synthesised throughout.
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Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should be able to employ reliable strategies to identify reliable sources and to engage in academic discussion by demonstrating:

▪ a developing ability to employ appropriate and effective reading strategies
▪ a growing awareness of the structure of written texts
▪ the ability to make effective use of a range of dictionaries
▪ sound critical thinking skills
▪ an ability to learn from critical feedback