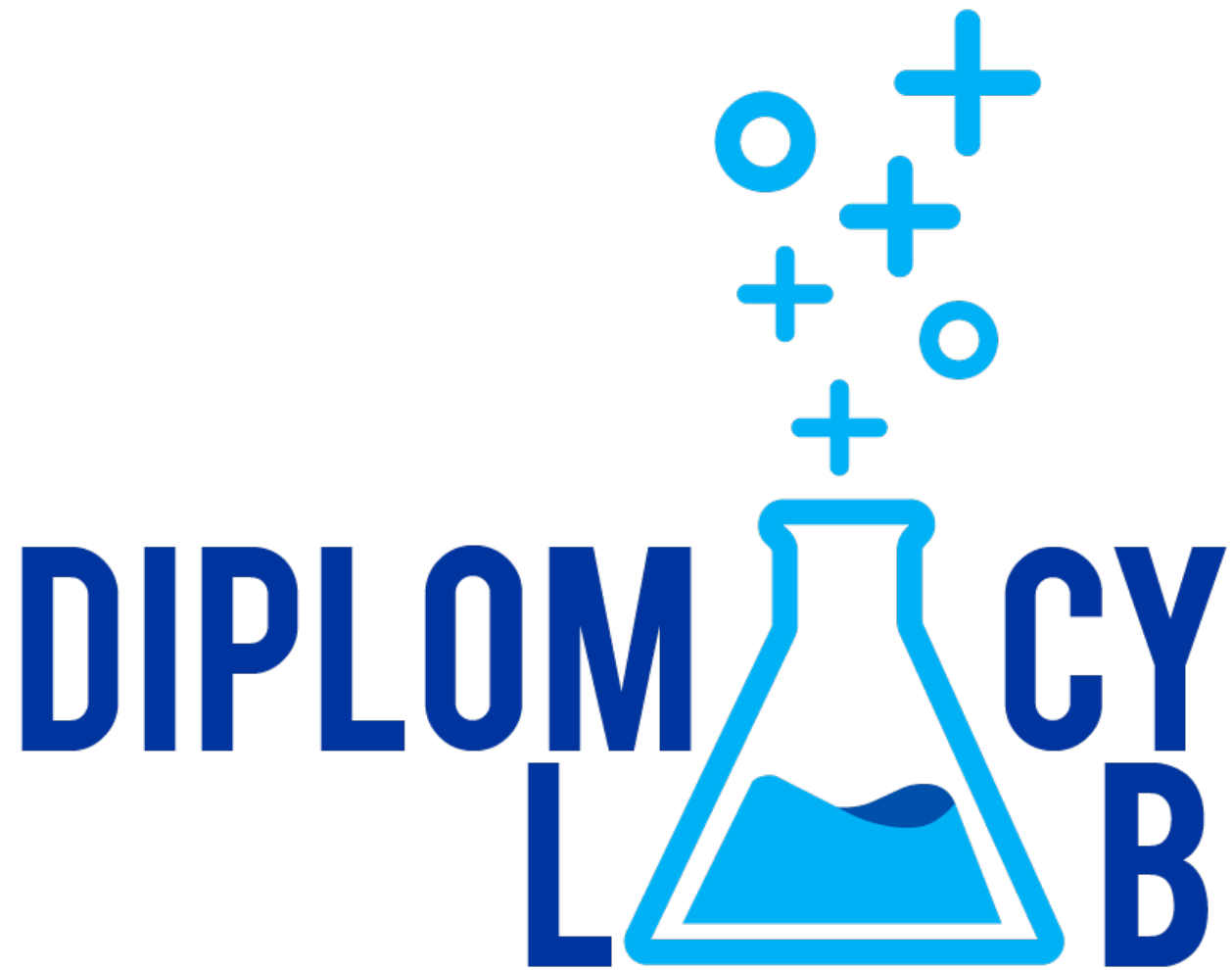


Diplomacy Lab Information Session

January 29, 2024

The partnership consists of Ohio State students assembled into "Diplomacy Lab Teams," each guided by a faculty member, to undertake research projects identified by the Department of State and approved by OSU. The projects explore current, real-world diplomacy issues in an academic environment.



Sample projects from SP24 Menu

(Full SP24 menu on request. New menu for Autumn 24 semester projects should be available in February.)

Title	DipLab2311305
Project Name	Americans in the Arctic - Understanding Greenlandic cruise ship travel and what to do when things go wrong....
Office	U.S. Embassy Copenhagen
Embassy	Denmark
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>If there is any issue that keeps the American Citizens Services team in Mission Denmark up at night, it is the worry of what could happen if something goes wrong on a cruise ship full of Americans visiting Greenland – a sinking boat, a fire, the death of an American, etc. Greenland is one of the most remote places in the world and tourism is increasing every year. This same remoteness creates risks with the closest help often days away. One month ago, the Ocean Explorer ran aground in a remote fjord in a national park in eastern Greenland. This event was resolved with minimal problems, but it highlights the need for our team to develop a deeper knowledge about what is going on with these cruises so that we can prepare better for the next time when things could be much worse.</p> <p>What we are looking for is a team that can help us to better understand and visualize the Greenlandic cruise industry and the potential dangers. The website visitgreenland.com has data on Greenlandic cruise ships travel, but we need a team to dig deeper into the data - Where are the ships and passengers coming from? where are they going? who owns the ships? how many Americans are on board? Once we have that data, then the next step is to dig a bit deeper and ask what are the risks that we are missing? Finally, we need to put all this information into a format that will be useful to the stakeholders that will use this information. We want you to use your creativity and produce whatever deliverables you think can help our team understand this issue!</p>
Final Product Format	Presentation, maps, infographics, etc. Whatever you think is the best way to visualize the issue!
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change; Oceans; International Development
Additional Information	The United States engages with all parts of the Kingdom of Denmark, both in terms of geography and demography. In addition to the Embassy in Copenhagen, the United States is represented by the Consulate in Nuuk, Greenland. Denmark is unique in that it is one of the only countries that are Arctic nations, EU members, and NATO members. This means that our two countries work together very closely on many of the most important and pressing issues of our time. The American Citizen Services Unit is a small team responsible for assisting Americans in need in Denmark, The Faroe Islands, and Greenland.

Title	DipLab2031331
Project Name	Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design
Office	Overseas Buildings Operations
Bureau	PDCS/DE/AD
Project Description	<p>Zero-Energy design has emerged as an attainable goal for United States embassies and consulates around the world. Rapid progress in building systems design, energy capture and water conservation technologies, and passive site and building approaches can address the increasing challenges of global water scarcity and energy resource depletion. The Overseas Building Department Architectural Design Division invites graduate and undergraduate proposals from accredited schools of Architecture and Engineering for a net-zero, resilient embassy design studio.</p> <p>Proposals should include: Studio level (I.e. 4th year, advanced graduate). Interdisciplinary initiatives and formal participation by other academic disciplines Studio course curriculum description, including studio structure and pedagogy Proposed design studio schedule Curriculum vitae of lead studio critic/professor</p> <p>OBO will work with the successful proposer to select an appropriate project program and site.</p>
Final Product Format	Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Architecture
Additional Information	N/A

Title	Diplab2392620
Project Name	Reducing carbon emissions in agricultural and forestry sectors of Kazakhstan
Office	Regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health Office, Embassy Astana
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The goal of this project is to study the U.S. experience in measuring and inventory of greenhouse gasses in agriculture and forestry to implement such practices in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This project would help Kazakhstan's EcoMuseum and its partners in Central Asia develop and implement the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for such an inventory, as well as to determine which aspects are most applicable to countries in Central Asia. This could also further the implementation of Kazakhstan's nationally determined contributions on climate change.</p> <p>Although Kazakhstan has adopted legislation regulating greenhouse gas inventories, the legislation is not transparent. In Central Asia more broadly, almost no data are collected for monitoring, assessment and verification of greenhouse gasses, leaving GHG inventory incomplete.</p> <p>EcoMuseum and its partners hope the development of an MRV system in the forestry and other land use sectors would also help Kazakhstan or other Central Asian countries better address global sustainable development challenges as well as various international climate commitments.</p>
Final Product Format	Multiple teams can participate in this project. Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings on the analysis of the monitoring system, assessment, and verification of data on greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors in the United States to implement such practices in Kazakhstan.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Food Security, Water Security
Additional Information	<p>Questions for the research team;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What legislation regulates the monitoring of emissions in the agricultural or forestry sectors? 2. Who is responsible for conducting this at sub-national levels? 3. What institutions or enterprises are required to report on greenhouse gas emissions, depending on the field of activity, volume of production or other factors? 4. Which methods or methodologies are used for calculating emissions from various sectors of forestry and agriculture? 5. How transparent is the inventory of information on emissions in different spheres of forestry and agriculture and in different regions of the country? How accessible is this information to experts or the public?

Title	Diplab2392621
Project Name	Serbia: Investigating Consumer Choices to Improve Energy Efficiency
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	<p>Serbia is facing serious challenges in its energy sector. Overcoming them presents opportunities for a transition to a more efficient and greener economy. Policy makers and international development agencies are working to advance effective approaches that address the lack of incentives for investments in energy efficiency, inefficient use of existing energy resources, the low level of renewables in the country's energy mix, and the government's lack of capacity to design and implement energy efficiency strategies.</p> <p>Much of Serbia's energy transition can be framed as a "liberalization" of the energy sector, which includes key changes in the structure of state-owned energy companies and more focus on the role of competition to enhance efficiency. A sustainable energy path in Serbia, however, also requires consumer-level behavior changes - a challenging prospect in a middle-income country accustomed to subsidized energy, with few official incentives to adopt cleaner and more efficient technologies, and where coal mining directly employs 30,000 people.</p> <p>We propose forming a team that takes an innovative, research-based approach to investigate how changing energy consumer' mindsets in this post-Yugoslavia economy can contribute to the success of Serbia's energy transition. The outcome of the research will include recommended policy interventions that can facilitate positive outcomes in energy efficiency investment, given current social-economic conditions in Serbia. The team that undertakes this task can approach the challenge using a variety of methodologies, including literature reviews, thematic studies, experimental approaches, in-person interviews, and surveys.</p>
Final Product Format	A presentation to the U.S. Embassy Belgrade and USAID/Serbia, in addition to a 15-page written report (references are not included in the page count). If the university partner has full funding for travel, the partner is welcome to visit the country for a better understanding of the situation on the ground.
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues, Energy Security, European & Eurasian Studies, Science and Technology, Climate Change, Behavioral Economics, Post-Yugoslavia economy and culture, Survey and/or experiment design and implementation, Thematic analysis
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392626
Project Name	Researching Allegations of Violence Linked to Security Forces in Senegal
Office	Political
Embassy	Senegal
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	U.S. Embassy Dakar invites research into allegations of violence linked to security forces in Senegal. This project would involve in-depth, open-source research into past allegations of abuse of force to ascertain the possible involvement of Senegalese security forces and to identify the specific units which might have been involved. Sources could include local media reporting from the time of the incident, social media, and reporting by NGOs or other civil society observers, with priority given to Senegalese primary sources.
Final Product Format	The final product could include a detailed summary of any incidents allegedly involving Senegalese security forces where there are recent allegations of abuse of force, along with an opinion on the credibility of the reporting. The research team could create data visualization or maps of the geographic areas of operation for individual units, combined with information on unit-level involvement in allegations of abuse of force.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Human Rights, Security Studies
Additional Information	

OSU Diplomacy Lab Process

(Inaugural
semester is
AU24)

During spring semester:

- Autumn 2024 menu released by Department of State Office of Global Partnerships (GP)
- Menu sent out to interested faculty by OSU coordinator
- Two week deadline to submit “bids”
- Response from GP
- Plan syllabus for course
- Access data for use in class
- Recruit students for Diplomacy Lab teams // sign them up for course(s)

Beginning of autumn semester:

- Paperwork (student authorization, Gratuitous Services Agreement)
- Potential third party collaborators vetted by GP
- Conflict of interest vetting of students
- Coordinator will help with all of this!

Across autumn semester:

- At least two video/tele-conferences with project Department office to be scheduled
- Team works on product
- Work product submitted
- Final video/tele-conference scheduled
- If in-person briefing in DC requested, faculty should seek funding for travel and accommodation
- Mershon Center also standing by to assist

OSU curriculum options

Already existing courses:

- Senior seminars
- MA seminars
- PhD seminars
- Group Studies numbers

Possible new curricula:

- 4 credit UG courses in the new GE:
 - GE Integrative Practice: Research and Creative Inquiry
 - GE Integrative Practice: Interdisciplinary Team-Taught Courses
- ASC grad number?

Questions?

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