

Full Course Title: The Independent Diplomat ('ID'): Formulation of a National Security Strategy for the Republic of South Sudan

Course Title for Registration System: ID – South Sudan National Security Strategy

Course Number: SIPAU9000.12

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Meeting Days/Times: Mondays 11:00A – 12:50P

Location: IAB 501B

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Credits: 3

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

Independent Diplomat (ID) is a non-profit diplomatic advisory group that provides integrated advice across the three key pillars of modern diplomacy: political strategy, international law, and public communication.

ID has worked with the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) since 2009 to provide advice and assistance on securing and maintaining the support of the international community for the full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the peaceful holding of the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan, as well as a commitment by all parties to respect and recognize the outcome. Following the January 2011 referendum, ID helped GoSS lay the groundwork for its recognition as a sovereign state, and supported South Sudan during the extensive preparations for its entry into the United Nations as the 193rd Member in July 2011.

ID works to improve GoSS's understanding of the diplomatic processes that affect it; supplement and coordinate its diplomatic intelligence gathering; help it formulate its foreign policy objectives; and devise effective messages and strategies to convey its views to the international community.

Summary of project (one paragraph):

The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) faces a range of national security challenges. GoSS must cement its position as an independent state in a complicated and volatile area that is witnessing renewed insecurity, while also contributing to the promotion of regional peace and security. GoSS must also work to embed and implement the agreements it eventually signs with the Republic of Sudan, and consolidate its relationships with its five other neighbors. The goal of this project would be to develop (or identify) strategies the Republic of South Sudan might adopt to address the country's national security challenges. These strategies could, if desired, be codified in a National Security Strategy document.

Approach – to be refined:

- Assess how other countries develop their national security strategies (best practices)
- Evaluate the national security strategies of neighboring states (to the extent defined – a strategy may need to be elucidated based on state behavior)
- Define South Sudan’s national security challenges based on desk research and interviews with GoSS stakeholders, international partners (e.g., US Department of State), think tanks (ICG, CFR, USIP, CSIS, CNAS, etc.), international organizations (e.g., UN, World Bank), humanitarian agencies and NGOs, and so on.

Draft, prioritize and refine strategies the GoSS might adopt to address national security challenges the country faces. Prepare succinct draft language which might be incorporated into a National Security Strategy document.

Deliverables to client:

Detailed work plan – mid-late January 2012

Interview summaries and draft report outline – mid-March 2012

Draft report – end March 2012

Final report – end April 2012 (and formal presentation or presentations in format to be determined)

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

- Ability to conduct foreign policy analysis, gained through work in government or for an international organization, or through coursework
- Ability to consider foreign policy problems from perspective of foreign governments
- Coursework in security studies and conflict resolution preferred
- Knowledge of East Africa (field experience in the region a plus)
- Knowledge of Arabic useful but not required

Initial meeting(s) with student team in late November or early December, if applicable: Yes. It will be necessary to meet with team in late November/early December timeframe to clarify expectations, begin project planning, assign initial readings, etc. Time for meeting is to be determined (TBD).

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled): TBD.

Field component: Travel to Washington DC indicated to interview international organization, and government officials and think tank and NGO representatives. It will also be necessary to interview officials and representatives in NYC.

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).] *Students wishing further details about this project should feel free to contact Professor Dry at rd2556@columbia.edu.*

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of individual written work (10%)
- Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)
- Feedback from the client (20%)
- Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)
- Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

Readings: There will be extensive readings, articles, commentaries, etc., and students will engage in independent research, as necessary, about national security 'narratives' and strategies and South Sudan and its foreign relations. Books available for purchase:

- Carne Ross, 'Independent Diplomat: Dispatches from an Unaccountable Elite,' Cornell U Press, Ithaca: 2007
- Douglas H. Johnson, 'Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars: Peace or Truce,' REVISED EDITION, James Currey/Fountain Publishers: 2011

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http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

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