

# Words Matter! Building Innovative Professional Diplomacy through Diplomatic Communication and Language Skills

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## Abstract:

In this presentation I will introduce a new model of infusing social science non-language courses with language infusion. “Words Matter” is the development of an interdisciplinary International Relations with a foreign language component focusing on diplomatic language skills. The Objectives are threefold: to strengthen the International Relations and Diplomacy Curriculum; to Expand foreign language offerings to include *language professionalization* in the official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish); and to provide enhanced qualifications (Training) in foreign languages and diplomatic fluency. While classical diplomacy focuses on the formal evolution of diplomacy in the West, the "integration" of language of regional diplomatic cultures, the professionalization of diplomatic services through language, "summit" diplomacy and the use of special envoys and formalization of vernacular, the standardization of diplomatic ceremony and protocol, the nuances of diplomatic language, public diplomacy and social media, educational exchanges and intercultural dialogues, engagement with non-state actors, and the question of the future of formal diplomacy in a networked global society, all constitute *language professionalization*.

**Keywords:** Teaching, Learning, Language, International Relations, Diplomacy