

# Olli Online Course Content Document Spring 2023

## First Five Weeks

### Course Title

“All Joking Aside: The role of humor in international relations.”

Instructor: Nick Simmonds.

The instruction mode will be lecture-style illustrated with Power Point slides and embedded video clips. I will reserve approx. 15 minutes in each class for Q&A, instructor self-congratulation, and audience applause 😊.

Each class will discuss how humor has been used to serve diplomatic purposes such as reducing mistrust, calming tensions, persuading the other party to accept compromises that it might otherwise not be inclined to do, winning over domestic audiences etc.

I anticipate presenting two or three illustrative cases in each class. The primary focus will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but I may also use examples from earlier periods.