Narrative Analysis in International Relations Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The field of International Relations (IR) is undergoing a **"narrative turn,"** moving beyond traditional power politics and quantitative analysis to understand the powerful role of stories in global affairs. Narrative analysis is a qualitative research method that examines how **strategic narratives** are constructed, disseminated, and received by various actors including states, non-state organizations, and the public to shape perceptions, legitimize actions, and influence policy. This course provides a practical and theoretical framework for **deconstructing complex geopolitical narratives** and understanding their impact on everything from diplomatic negotiations to conflict resolution and public opinion.

Narrative Analysis in International Relations Training Course is designed to equip participants with the essential tools to conduct rigorous **narrative inquiry** and apply it to real-world international challenges. We will explore how narratives function as a form of **soft power**, shaping identities, framing conflicts, and building alliances. By mastering this methodology, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the subjective, meaning-making dimension of global politics, enabling you to better analyze, predict, and respond to the **discursive strategies** of key international actors.

Programme Curriculum

Narrative Analysis in International Relations Training Course

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Master the fundamentals of **narrative analysis methodology** in IR.
- Distinguish between different types of **strategic narratives** and their functions.
- Analyze how narratives are used to construct **national identity** and legitimize foreign policy.
- Apply **discourse analysis** techniques to deconstruct political speeches and media narratives.
- Evaluate the role of **soft power** and public diplomacy in narrative projection.
- Conduct an independent **narrative inquiry** on a contemporary global issue.
- Critically assess how narratives frame **conflict resolution** and peace-building processes.
- Understand the interplay between **social media, digital diplomacy, and narrative warfare.**
- Identify the core elements of a compelling and effective **strategic communication** campaign.
- Analyze how **historical narratives** influence present-day geopolitical rivalries.
- Develop **counter-narratives** to challenge or reshape dominant storylines.
- Synthesize qualitative data from various sources to build a coherent **analytic narrative.**
- Apply **narrative theory** to specific case studies in international security and political economy.

Organizational Benefits

- Develop the ability to anticipate and respond to the narrative strategies of geopolitical rivals and non-state actors.
- Improve analytical capabilities for evaluating complex geopolitical situations from a more holistic, narrative-informed perspective.
- Equip teams with the skills to craft persuasive and impactful strategic narratives for public diplomacy, advocacy, and internal communication.
- Gain a deeper understanding of how misinformation and disinformation campaigns leverage narratives to destabilize regions and influence elections, enabling better countermeasures.

Target Audience

- Foreign Service Officers and Diplomats
- International Policy Analysts
- Journalists and Media Professionals
- Graduate Students and Researchers in International Relations
- Military and Intelligence Professionals

- NGO and Humanitarian Aid Workers
- Corporate and Political Risk Analysts
- Strategic Communication Specialists

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of Narrative Analysis

- Introduction to narrative theory and its application in IR.
- Key concepts: grand narratives, master narratives, and strategic narratives.
- Qualitative research methods and ethical considerations in narrative inquiry.
- The relationship between discourse analysis and narrative analysis.
- **Case Study**: Analyzing competing narratives of the Cold War.

Module 2: The Anatomy of a Strategic Narrative

- Deconstructing a narrative: characters, plot, setting, and moral.
- Identifying the narrator, audience, and narrative purpose.
- The role of metaphors and symbols in framing geopolitical issues.
- Methods for data collection: interviews, texts, and visual media.
- **Case Study**: Examining the narrative of the "War on Terror" post-9/11.

Module 3: Narratives in Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

- How states use narratives to project power and build legitimacy.
- The use of historical narratives in shaping alliances and rivalries.
- Public diplomacy and its role in narrative projection.
- Developing and deploying counter-narratives.
- **Case Study**: Russia?ÇÖs strategic narratives regarding its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Module 4: Narratives of Conflict and Security

- Framing of conflicts through narratives of victimhood and aggression.
- The weaponization of narratives in information warfare.
- Narratives in peacebuilding and reconciliation.
- The role of media and social media in amplifying conflict narratives.
- **Case Study**: The narratives surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Module 5: Identity and Narratives in International Politics

- The construction of national and collective identity through stories.
- Narratives of "the self" and "the other" in inter-state relations.
- How non-state actors use narratives to build legitimacy and mobilize support.
- Narratives and the formation of transnational political movements.
- **Case Study**: The role of narrative in the rise of right-wing populism in Europe.

Module 6: Narratives and International Political Economy

- Narratives shaping globalization, trade, and economic policy.
- Stories of development and inequality.
- The narrative power of international financial institutions and corporations.
- Narratives of climate change and environmental governance.

- **Case Study**: China's "Belt and Road Initiative" and its accompanying narrative.

Module 7: Digital Diplomacy and Narrative Warfare

- The impact of new media on the speed and reach of narratives.
- Social media as a battleground for competing narratives.
- Algorithms, echo chambers, and the fragmentation of global audiences.
- Analyzing narrative campaigns on platforms like Twitter and TikTok.
- **Case Study**: Disinformation and narrative manipulation during the 2024 US election.

Module 8: Practical Application and Capstone Project

- Designing and conducting a narrative analysis research project.
- Data analysis and coding techniques for narrative data.
- Writing an analytic narrative report.
- Peer review and presentation of capstone projects.
- **Case Study**: Student-led analysis of a contemporary international issue.

Training Methodology

This course utilizes a **blended learning** approach combining theoretical lectures with practical, hands-on activities. Methods include:

- **Interactive Lectures**: Engaging presentations on core concepts and theories.
- **Case Study Analysis**: In-depth examination of real-world examples.
- **Practical Workshops**: Hands-on sessions for data collection and analysis.
- **Group Discussions**: Fostering critical thinking and peer-to-peer learning.
- **Capstone Project**: A final research project to apply learned skills.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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