Course Description

The course aims to attain a better understanding of the phenomenon of international conflicts and wars and the conditions that might enable their ending by peaceful means. We begin with a brief review of the theoretical literature explaining the causes of war and the conditions determining the forms and patterns of their management and settlement. The course employs a critical approach to existing theories of ripeness, international mediation and incentives; cultural, social, and psychological obstacles. The second part of the course examines two main foci of conflict and war namely, the Arab-Israeli and the Persian Gulf conflicts which have been marked by life-long American involvement in wars as well as in conflict management and peacemaking. The course assumes a regional approach which examines the ability of individual Arab and Muslim states to act autonomously of supra-state pan-Arab and pan-Islamic ideologies.

Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and Participation (30 percent). You are expected to attend classes regularly and take an active role in class discussions.

2. Submitting critical reports on the on-going reading bibliography for each class.

3. Submitting a Research Paper (70 percent). You are required to submit a research paper (20-25 double-spaced pages). Topics and methodology should be coordinated with the instructor. Papers due 21 November, 2011, by 5 p.m. at the PS Dep.’s office.

Reading Bibliography

Required Bibliography


**Recommended Bibliography**


Fen Osler Hampson and David M. Malone (eds.), *From Reaction to Conflict Prevention: Opportunities for the UN System* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002).


**Topics and Reading Assignments**

Items marked by * are only recommended for reading. Items marked by (M) can be downloaded from the Moodle System.

**Week 1 (13-15 Sep. 11): International Conflicts as a Field of Research**

**Tue - 13 Sep.**

Hugh Miall, Oliver Ramsbotham and Tom Woodhouse, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999), Ch. 2, 39-64. (M)

Chester Crocker, Fen O. Hampson and Pamela Aall (eds.), *Leashing the Dogs of War*, Ch 1, 3-13.

**Thu - 15 Sep.**


Week 2 (20-22 Sep. 11): Approaches to the Study of International and Intra-National Conflicts

Tue - 20 Sep.
Jack S. Levy, "International Sources of Interstate and Intrastate War," in: Chester Crocker et. al. (eds.), Leashing the Dogs of War, Ch. 2, 17-38.


Thu - 22 Sep.
Geller and Singer, Nations at War, Ch. 1-2.

John A. Vasquez, The War Puzzle (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), Ch. 5. (M)


* Geller and Singer, Nations at War, Ch. 3-6.


Week 3 (27-29 Sep. 11): Social-Psychological and Cultural Dimensions of Conflicts
Tue - 27 Sep.


Thu - 29 Sep.

Raymond Cohen, “Negotiating Across Cultures,” in: Crocker et. al. (eds.), *Turbulent Peace*, 469-481. (M)


**Week 4 (4-6 Oct. 11): Explaining the Transition from War to Peace: Ripeness, Learning & Legitimacy**

Tue - 4 Oct.


Thu - 6 Oct.


Tue – 11 Oct.


Fen O. Hampson, “Parent, Midwife or Accidental Exectioner?” The Role of Third Parties in Ending Violent Conflict,” in: Crocker et. al. (eds.), Turbulent Peace, 387-406. (M)

Thu – 13 Oct.


* Vasquez, The War Puzzle, Ch. 8, 9. (M)

Week 6 (18-20 Oct. 11): Civic/Unofficial Diplomacy

Tue – 18 Oct.
R. Langhorne,"The Diplomacy of Non-State Actors," Diplomacy and Statecraft, 16 (2), (June 2005), 331-339. (M)

B. Hocking,"Privatizing Diplomacy?," International Studies Perspectives 5 (2), (May 2004), 147-152. (M)


**Week 7 (25-27 Oct. 11): Failed States and International & Humanitarian Intervention**


Kegley and Raymond, *From War to Peace*, Ch. 8, 214-242.


* Chester Crocker, "Engaging Failing States," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, no. 5 (2003), 32-44. (M)

**Week 8 (1-3 Nov. 11): War Ending and Ethnic Conflict Resolution**

**Tue – 1 Nov.**
Geller and Singer, *Nations at War*, Ch. 7.

Kegley and Raymond, *From War to Peace*, Ch. 7.

**Thu – 3 Nov.**

Daniel L. Byman, “Divided They Stand: Lessons about Partition from Iraq and Lebanon,” *Security Studies* 7, no. 1 (autumn 1997), 1-29. (M)


* Chaim Kaufmann, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars,” *International Security* 20, no. 4 (spring 1996), 136-75. (M)

**Week 9 (8-10 Nov. 11): Peace Implementation, Peace Stabilization, and Reconciliation – The Significance of Discourse and Collective Narratives**

**Tue – 8 Nov.**


Kegley and Raymond, *From War to Peace*, Ch. 9, 243-274.

**Thu – 10 Nov.**


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**Week 10 (15-17 Nov. 11): Past Crimes, Truth and Reconciliation in Latin America & Africa**

**Tue – 15 Nov.**

Margaret Popkin and Nehal Bhuta, “Latin American Amnesties in Comparative Perspective: Can the Past Be Buried?,” Ethics & International Affairs 13, no. 1 (March 1999), 99-122. (M)

**Thu – 17 Nov.**
