

PS355 War, Peace, and Mediation: Theory and Cases

Seminar Leader: **Dr. Nassim Abi Ghanem**

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Office Hours: **Wed 12-1 and 3-4pm or by appointment**

Course Description

How and why do violent conflicts erupt and how are they resolved? Why do some states help in resolving conflicts? When are conflict and war amenable to the possibility of being ‘managed’? When is intervention essential or a mediation by third party merited? Why do attempts at conflict resolution have a mixed record of success? Why do contexts with peace agreements relapse into violent conflict? This course covers the basic concepts in conflict life cycles from prevention to reconciliation. The course also exposes students to theoretical and empirical conceptualization of conflict management and mediation, featuring a combination of scholarly, policy and practitioner perspectives on international relations in conflict management contexts. Moreover, we will also explore how local civic engagement and mediation by civil society are becoming more prominent in intra-state conflict management processes. In doing so, we pay attention to issues in contemporary debates on the various post-conflict processes—such as disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR)—analyzing their relevance to creating sustainable and durable peace.

Requirements

All assignments will be discussed at length in class well ahead of their deadline.

- 1) Op-ed (25%): This assignment consists of a written opinion piece regarding a current ongoing conflict in the world. In no more than 500 words describe the status of the conflict and the prospects of peace. Make sure to try and add something original to your piece that one would not get from usual media/analysis coverage.
- 2) Midterm (25%): The midterm will consist of an in-class exam for 1hr15min with some basic questions on the material. The exam will include two short answer questions (about 500-700 word) selected from possible three questions given.
- 3) Final Paper (35%): The final paper consists of a longer written essay (2500 words) on a topic of your choice from the reading material and class discussion. You **MUST** consult with course leader before you commence your work on the final paper.
- 4) Attendance and participation (15%): The course is very much based on discussion and class engagements. The grade includes regular attendance and active engagement in the discussions. It also reflects on your preparedness to that class and that you read the material beforehand. **Moreover, you will be assigned to provide synopsis on the class readings (max twice for each student).**

General observations

Please do not be late to class, make sure you are on time and respectful of your colleague's time. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be counted as absent for the day (check attendance policy below). It is expected that you read all the required readings before the class. You may be randomly asked to provide a synopsis of the reading at the beginning of

the session. The due papers need to be of your own work, and researched material should be properly cited. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic fail grade on the assignment (see Academic Integrity section below).

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Kindly make sure you are on time and respectful of your colleague's time. If you are more than five minutes late to class, you will be counted as absent for the day.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2023: Please notify the University administration and myself if you are unable to start the semester due to travel restrictions caused by the on-going pandemic. Accordingly online sessions will also be arranged for those not physically in Germany. In the event that we go into another lockdown, all sessions will migrate to Zoom. Details will be provided in such a case.

Please refrain from in-person attendance if you feel you are ill.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Assessment Deadlines

Due Dates:

- 1) Midterm Exam: March 16 at 11:59pm to be uploaded on course website.
- 2) Final Paper/Proposal: May 17 at 11:59pm to be uploaded on course website.
- 3) Op-ed: April 8th at 11:59pm, to be uploaded on course website.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers: Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown: Rubrics for the assignments will be provided with detailed requirements sheet uploaded on the course website at least 4 weeks before the paper is due. There you will be able to also see how the grades will be allocated and against what criteria you will be assessed.

Schedule

Week 1. Introduction and Theories of Conflict

Jan 31: Introduction

Feb 2: Greed vs. Grievance; Types of War

- Readings: Collier, P. and Hoeffler, A. (2004). Greed and Grievance in Civil War, Oxford Economic Papers, Vol. 56 (4), pp. 563-595.
- ***Large N cases***

Week 2.

Feb 7: Ethnic Fears and Grievances

- Readings: Petersen, R. (2002). Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chaps. 1-2.
- ***Small N cases***

Feb 9: Conflict Prevention and Conflict Life-cycle

- Readings: Lund, M (2009). Conflict Prevention: Theory in Pursuit of Policy and Practice.

Week 3.

Feb 14: Spillover

- Readings: Collier, P. and Sambanis, N. (2002). Understanding Civil War: A New Agenda, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 46 (1), pp.3-12.

Feb 16: Spillover (Cont'd)

- Readings: Carreras, M. (2012). Civil Wars and Criminality: The Spillover of Violence, International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory, Vol. 5 (1), pp.837-852.
- ***The case of Syria***

Week 4. Conflict Management: Analysis and Tools

Feb 21: Overview of Conflict Management

- Carment, D. and James, P. (1996). Two-level Games and Third-Party Intervention: Evidence from Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans and South Asia, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 29 (3), pp.521-554.

Feb 23: Conflict Management Tracks

- Lederach, J.P. (1999). "Chapter 4: Structure: Lenses for the big picture," in Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies. Washington DC: USIP Press, pp.37-61.

Week 5. Liberal Peace Approaches

Feb 28: Theoretical approach to Liberal Peace

- Readings: Doyle, M. and Sambanis, N. (2000). International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. *American Political Science Review*, 94 (4), pp.779-801.

Mar 2: Liberal Peace (Cont'd)

- Readings: Doyle, M. (2005). Three Pillars of the Liberal Peace, *American Political Science Review*, 99 (3), pp.463-466.
- Readings: Paris, R. (2010). Saving Liberal Peacebuilding, *Review of International Studies*, 36 (2), pp.337-365.

Week 6. Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding

Mar 7: **No Class!**

Mar 9: The Local Turn

- Readings: Mac Ginty, R. and Richmond, O. (2013). The Local Turn in Peace Building: a critical agenda for peace, *Third World Quarterly*, 34 (5), pp.763-783.

Week 7. New understandings to Peacebuilding

Mar 14: Hybridity

- Readings: Mac Ginty, R. (2010). Hybrid Peace: The Interaction Between Top-Down and Bottom-up Peace, *Security Dialogue*, Vol 41 (4), pp.391-412.

Mar 16: The Everyday in Peacebuilding

- Readings: Mac Ginty, R. (2014). Everyday Peace: Bottom-up and Local Agency in Conflict-affected Societies, *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 45 (6), pp.548-564.

Week 8. Civic Engagement and Civil Society

Mar 21: Civil Society and Ethnic Conflict

- Readings: Varshney, A. (2001). Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond, *World Politics*, 53 (3), pp.362-398.
- *Case of India (Muslims and Hindus)*

Mar. xx: Mid-Term Exam!

Week 9. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

Mar 28: Civil Society Organizations and Peacebuilding

- Readings: Spurk, C. (2010). Understanding Civil Society in Paffenholz, T (eds.), *Civil Society and Peacebuilding: A Critical Assessment*, Lynne Rienner: USA.
- *Recommended: Paffenholz, T. and Spurk, C. (2006). Civil Society, Civic Engagement, and Peacebuilding. Social Development Papers: Conflict*

Prevention and Reconstruction, 36 (2006). Pp.10-55.

Mar. 30: Macro and Micro DDR

- Readings: Humphreys, M. and Weinstein, J. (2007). Demobilization and Reintegration, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51 (4), pp.531-567.
- *The case of Sierra Leone*

Week 10. Transitional Justice

April 11: Second Generation DDR

- Readings: Muggah, R. and O'Donnell, C. (2015). Next Generation Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*, 4 (1), pp.1-30.

April 13: Amnesty or Justice?

- Readings: Sriram, CL. And Herman, J. (2009). DDR and Transitional Justice: Bridging the Divide? , *Conflict, Security and Development*, 9 (4), pp.455-474.

Week 11. Mediation

April 18: Political Ripeness

- Readings: Zartman, W. (2001). The Timing of Peace Initiatives: Hurting Stalemates and Ripe Moments, *The Global Review of Ethnopolitics*, 1 (1), pp.8-18.

April 20: Comprehensiveness and Leverage

- Readings: Forster, R. (2017). Toward a Comprehensive Solution? Yemen's Two-Year Peace Process, *The Middle East Journal*, Vol 71 (3), pp.479-488.
- Readings: Reid, L. (2017). Finding a Peace that Lasts: Mediator Leverage and the Durable Resolution of Civil Wars, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 61 (7), pp.1401-1431.
- *Case of Yemen*

Week 12. Mediation Continued

April 25: To keep or not to keep

- Readings: Nathan, L. (2020). The International Peacemaking Dilemma: Ousting or Including the Villains?, *Swiss Political Science Review*, 26 (4), pp.468-486.

April 27: *Guest Speaker: TBA*

Week 13. Post-conflict Systems

May 2: Competing Methods of Management

- Readings: Byman, D. (1997). Divided They Stand: Lessons about Partition from Iraq and Lebanon, *Security Studies*, Vol. 7 (1), pp. 1-29.
- *Case of Iraq and Lebanon*

May 4: Power-Sharing and Consociationalism

- Readings: Lijphart, A. (1990). "The Power-Sharing Approach" in Joseph

Montville (ed.) *Conflict and Peacebuilding in Multiethnic Societies*.
Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, pp.491-509.

Week 14. Gender in Peacebuilding

May 9: Exclusion amid inclusion

- Readings: Goetz, AM and Jenkins, R. (2015). Agency and Accountability: Promoting Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, *Feminist Economics*, Vol 22 (1), pp.211-236.

May 11: Wrap-up and future prospects

- Readings: Goddard, S. (2012). Brokering Peace: Networks, Legitimacy, and the Northern Ireland Peace Process, *International Studies Quarterly*, 56, pp.501-515.
- ***Multiple cases***

Week 15.

May 16-May 20th: **Completion Days, No Classes**