

## PS355 War, Peace, and Mediation: Theory and Cases

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

Email: [n.abighanem@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:n.abighanem@berlin.bard.edu)

Office Hours: **Wed 12-1 and 3-4pm or by appointment** <https://calendly.com/nabighanem>

### Course Description

How and why do civil 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 of civil wars 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 me 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 2024: 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 21, 2024.
- 2) Final Paper: May 10 at 11:59pm to be uploaded on course website for **Graduating Students**. May 20 at 11:59pm to be uploaded on course website for non-graduating students.
- 3) Op-ed: April 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Part I – Introduction and Theories of Conflict***

Jan 30: Introduction

Readings: Greed vs. Grievance, Types of War

Required:

- Keen, D. (2012). Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *International Affairs* 88, 4, p.758-777.

Recommended:

- Original text: Collier, P. and Hoeffler, A. (2004). Greed and Grievance in Civil War, *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 56 (4), pp. 563-595.
- Berdal, M. (2005). Beyond greed and grievance- and not too soon..., *Review of International Studies*, 31,4, pp.687-698.
- ***Large N cases***

Feb 1: 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***

### ***Week 2.***

Feb 6: Causes of War

Readings:

- Barash and Webel, Chapter 6 and 7

Feb 8: Just War?

Readings:

- <https://iep.utm.edu/justwar/>

### ***Week 3.***

Feb 13: Conflict Life- Cycle

Readings:

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

Feb 15: 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. Part II - Conflict Management: Analysis and Tools***

Feb 20: Overview of Conflict Management

Readings:

- 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 22: Conflict Management Tracks

Readings:

- 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.
- **Bring your own case!**

#### ***Week 5. Liberal Peace Approaches***

Feb 27: 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.
- Paris, R. (2010). Saving Liberal Peacebuilding, Review of International Studies, 36 (2), pp.337-365.

Feb 29: 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 6. Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding***

Mar 5: The Trouble with Congo How Local Disputes Fuel Regional Conflict - Séverine Autesserre

Mar 7: 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.

#### ***Week 7. New understandings to Peacebuilding***

Mar 12: 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.
- ***The case of Northern Ireland***

Mar 14: 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)*

**Week 8. Civic Engagement and Civil Society**

Mar 19: Case Study Analysis

**Mar. 21: Mid-Term Exam!**

**Mar. 26 and Mar. 28 → Spring Break!**

**Week 9. Part III – Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration**

April 2: 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.

April 4: 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 9: 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 11: 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. Part IV - Mediation**

April 16: 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 18: 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.
- 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 23: 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 25: *Guest Speaker: TBA*

**Week 13. Post-conflict Systems**

April 30:

Readings:

- **Mediation Simulation Case**

May 2: Power-Sharing and Consociationalism

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*
- 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 7: 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.

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.
- *Northern Ireland and Congo*

May 9: Public Holiday **No class!**

**Week 15.**

May 14-May 16<sup>th</sup>: **Completion Days, No Classes**