

Building Sustainable Peace  
PS355  
Bard College Berlin  
Fall 2025

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Office Hours: **Wed and Fri 12-4 by appointment**

<https://calendar.app.google/fpPxytG5qrcoqSfF7>

## Course Description

How is peace sustained? Why does peace last in some contexts and break down in others? Armed conflict and state repression continue to dominate contemporary affairs, while systematic challenges hinder processes of just and sustainable peace. In parallel to these developments, a complex range of initiatives arising from civil society and social movements, in search of sustainable peace, have attracted the attention of scholars and practitioners. The aims of this course are, firstly, to introduce the various causes of direct and structural violence. Secondly, we look at the conditions under which peace can be achieved, and the obstacles faced in securing peace in the short- and long-term, while also highlighting the different strategies that can be designed. Thirdly, the course delves into a wide range of armed conflict case studies and examines the peace processes and movements promoting nonviolent social change. In so doing, we reflect on applying theory to current global and local events involving reconciliation processes. Lastly, we examine contemporary debates on the various post-conflict tools - such as power-sharing systems, disarmament and reintegration (DDR), and security sector reforms (SSR) - analyzing their relevance to creating reconciliation between adversaries, along with reconstruction, and a sustainable and durable peace.

## Requirements

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

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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. **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:

- Midterm Exam: , 2025.
- Final Paper: at 11:59pm to be uploaded on course website
- Op-ed: 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.

### Course Schedule

*All readings and assignments should be completed before class on the date listed, unless otherwise noted in the instructions.*

<b>Part I : Introduction and Theories of Conflict</b>	
<b>Sep 2, 2025</b> <b>1a. Introduction : Types of War</b>	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barash and Webel, Chapter 3 and Part II “The causes of War” (2 pages).</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 4, 2025</b> <b>1b. Greed and Grievance</b>	Required readings: Keen, D. (2012). Greed and Grievance in Civil War. <i>International Affairs</i> 88, 4, p.758-777. Recommended readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original text: Collier, P. and Hoeffler, A. (2004). Greed and Grievance in Civil War, <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i>, Vol. 56 (4), pp. 563-595.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 9, 2025</b> <b>2a. Grievances Cont'd</b>	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petersen, R. (2002). <i>Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chaps. 1-2.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 11, 2025</b> <b>2b. Just War?</b>	Required readings: <a href="https://iep.utm.edu/justwar/">https://iep.utm.edu/justwar/</a>
<b>Sep 16, 2025</b> <b>3a. Conflict Life Cycle</b>	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lund, M (2009). <i>Conflict Prevention: Theory in Pursuit of Policy and Practice</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 18, 2025</b> <b>3b. Spill Over</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carreras, M. (2012). Civil Wars and Criminality: The Spillover of Violence, <i>International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory</i>, Vol. 5 (1), pp.837-852.</li> <li>• The case of Syria</li> </ul>

<b>Part II: Conflict Management: Analysis and Tools</b>	
<b>Sep 23, 2025</b> <b>4a. Overview of Conflict Management</b>	Required readings:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 25, 2025</b> <b>4b. Conflict Management Tracks</b>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Sep 30, 2025</b> <b>5a. Theoretical approach to Liberal Peace</b>	Required Readings:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doyle, M. and Sambanis, N. (2000). International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. American Political Science Review, 94 (4), pp.779-801.</li> <li>• Paris, R. (2010). Saving Liberal Peacebuilding, Review of International Studies, 36 (2), pp.337 -365.</li> </ul>
<b>Oct 2, 2025</b> <b>5b. The Local Turn</b>	Required Readings: MacGinty, R. and Richmond, O. (2013). The Local Turn in Peace Building: A critical agenda for Peace, Third World Quarterly, 34 (5), pp.763-783
<b>Oct 7, 2025</b> <b>6a. Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding</b>	The Trouble with Congo How Local Disputes Fuel Regional Conflict - Séverine Autesserre
<b>Oct 9, 2025</b> <b>6b. Hybridity</b>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mac Ginty, R. (2010). Hybrid Peace: The Interaction Between Top-Down and Bottom-up Peace, Security Dialogue, Vol 41 (4), pp.391-412.</li> </ul>
<b>7a. Oct 14, 2025 -- . Midterm Exam</b>	

<b>New Understandings to Peacebuilding</b>	
<b>Oct 28, 2025</b> <b>8a. The Everyday in Peacebuilding</b>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mac Ginty, R. (2014). Everyday Peace: Bottom-up and Local Agency in Conflict affected Societies, Security Dialogue, Vol. 45 (6), pp.548-564.</li> <li>• The case of Northern Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>Oct 30, 2025</b> <b>8b. Civil Society and Ethnic Conflict</b>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varshney, A. (2001). Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond, World Politics, 53 (3), pp.362-398.</li> <li>• Case of India (Muslims and Hindus)</li> </ul>
<b>Nov. 4, 2025</b> <b>9a. Civil Society Organization and Peacebuilding</b>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spurk, C. (2010). Understanding Civil Society in Paffenholz, T (eds.), Civil Society and Peacebuilding: A Critical Assessment, Lynne Rienner: USA.</li> </ul> Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paffenholz, T. and Spurk, C. (2006). Civil Society, Civic Engagement, and Peacebuilding. Social Development Papers: Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction, 36 (2006). Pp.10-55.</li> </ul>
<b>Pat III - Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration</b>	
<b>Nov. 6, 2025</b> <b>9b. Macro and Micro DDR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humphreys, M. and Weinstein, J. (2007). Demobilization and Reintegration, Journal of Conflict Resolution, 51 (4), pp.531-567.</li> <li>• The case of Sierra Leone</li> </ul>
<b>Nov. 11, 2025</b> <b>10a. Second Generation DDR</b>	Muggah, R. and O'Donnel, C. (2015) Next Generation Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, 4 (1), pp.1-30

<b>Nov. 13, 2025</b> <b>10b. Amnesty or Justice?</b>	Sriram, CL. And hHerman, J. (2009). DDR and Transitional Justice: Bridging the Divide? Conflict, Security, and Development, 9 (4), pp.455 -474
<b>Part IV - Mediation</b>	
<b>Nov. 18, 2025</b> <b>11a. Political Ripeness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zartman, W. (2001). The Timing of Peace Initiatives: Hurting Stalemates and Ripe Moments, The Global Review of Ethnopolitics, 1 (1), pp.8-18. <b>Introduction to Simulation</b></li> </ul>
<b>Nov. 20, 2025</b> <b>11b. Comprehensiveness and Leverage</b>	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
<b>Nov. 25, 2025</b> <b>12a. Mediation Cont'd</b>	Nathan, L. (2020). The International Peacemaking Dilemma: Ousting or Including the Villains? Swiss Political Science Review, 26 (4), pp.468-486. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Continue Simulation</b></li> </ul>
<b>Nov. 27, 2025</b> <b>12b. Power-sharing and Consociationalism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lijphart, A. (1990). "The Power-Sharing Approach" in Joseph Montville (ed.) Conflict and Peacebuilding in Multiethnic Societies. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, pp.491-509.</li> <li>• Byman, D. (1997). Divided They Stand: Lessons about Partition from Iraq and Lebanon, Security Studies, Vol. 7 (1), pp. 1-29.</li> <li>• Case of Iraq and Lebanon</li> </ul>
<b>Dec.2, 2025</b> <b>13a. Post-conflict Systems</b>	Mediation Simulation Case Finalization

**Dec. 4, 202513b. Exclusion amid  
Inclusion & Wrap-up**

Goetz, AM and Jenkins, R. (2015). Agency and Accountability: Promoting Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, Feminist Economics, Vol. 22 (1), pp.211-235