

## **IR 310—Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies**

Dr. Douglas Becker

VKC 42A

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Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

This course serves as the introduction to the broad and diverse field of peace and conflict studies. The field is rooted in international relations, and is in fact the oldest question that international relations asks: what causes war and what produces peace. But the approach in this course is multi-faceted. We will spend a great deal of time on empirical and theoretical works on the outbreak of war, with a special emphasis on civil wars. Lack of state capacity, economic motivations for war, and ineffective global responses will be a direct area of inquiry. But we also will confront some of the most significant transnational threats, and specifically the challenge of international terrorism, narco-violence and the war on drugs, and the future of cyberwar and cybersecurity. The goals of the course are as follows:

- 1) What is the relationship between conflict and war? What is the difference between conflict management, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution?
- 2) What are the ultimate causes of war? How can these causes be addressed earlier in conflicts before wars break out, when the options are considerably more appealing? How does national sovereignty complicate these campaigns?
- 3) What role does international intervention play in the outbreak and expansion of wars? Should states seek to avoid intervening in the conflicts of other states, or do they have a responsibility to intervene to end these conflicts?
- 4) What are the transnational threats that international actors face? What specifically is the impact of narco-violence, and international terrorism on conflicts throughout the world? Are these “globalized” violent trends transforming the nature and the impact of wars?
- 5) How has the rise of ethno-nationalism, populism, fascism, and other right-wing political movements threatened peace and democratization in Europe? Is this a sustained political movement? Is it a reaction to globalization? Is this a reaction to multi-culturalism? What does it suggest about race, class, gender, and “othering” as a cause of conflict in the world?
- 6) What constitutes successful peacekeeping and peacebuilding? What is the difference between the two? How can international actors strengthen the capacity and the impact of international peacekeeping and peacebuilding campaigns?
- 7) How do non-violent campaigns succeed, often with greater success rates than violent campaigns? What does the new empirical evidence about the rates of success of these non-violent campaigns suggest about popular movements and the impact of peace rather than violence campaigns?

After a brief introduction to the popularity of war historically as well as in popular culture, we will turn to the issue first of civil wars. What makes civil war so prevalent in the current international system? What generally do we perceive as the causes of these civil wars? How can we as peace researchers advocate earlier interventions in these wars to increase the odds of an intervention’s success? What is the relationship between economics, identity, human rights, domestic governance, and civil conflict? Then, we will turn our attention to transnational threats. We will examine the role of the populism and the rise of the Far Right in Europe as a

potential threat to multi-cultural, democracy, and peace on the continent. This will bring us to the midterm. In the second half of the class, we will focus much more directly on potential means of conflict resolution. We will examine peacebuilding measures, international legal interventions, and global governance campaigns (such as the growing norm of R2P) and assess their success. Finally we will conclude with an analysis of non-violent movements and their relative success or failure

The grades for this course are as follows:

Research paper	40%
mid-term	25%
final	30%
class participation	5%

The research paper is a piece of empirical research on a topic that we mutually agree upon. This means that you should plan to come in and see me during office hours to discuss your topic. It is a 15 page paper and intends to take one of the topics we raise (or potentially one we have not addressed but you believe we should) in the broad study of how wars break out and how to produce peace. The mid-term and final are in-class, with both an objective portion and an essay which should engage your critical thinking. Class participation is required, which includes attendance of the class, demonstration of prior completion of the reading, and thoughtful response to questions posed. **The penalty for late work is 5 points a day.** The only excuses accepted are University sanctioned excuses and must be documented. Also, this course will follow all of the guidelines for reasonable accommodations laid out in the University Handbook.

The books for this class are as follows:

Chenoweth, Erica and Maria J. Stephan. Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict. Columbia University Press, 2012, ISBN: 9780231156837

Integrated Peacebuilding: Innovative Approaches to Transforming Conflict. Edited by Craig Zelizer. Westview Press, ISBN: 9780813345093

Khoskokhavar, Farhad, Inside Jihadism: Understanding Jihadi Movements Worldwide. Paradigm Publishers, 2009, ISBN: 9781594516160

The Rise of the Far Right in Europe: Populist Shifts and "Othering" 1st edition. edited by Gabriella Lazaridis, Giovanna Campani, and Annie Benveniste, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, ISBN: 978-1137556783

What Do We Know About Civil Wars? Edited by T. David Mason and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. Rowman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442242258

January 8: introductions, Hand out Syllabi

10: Why is War so Popular in Modern Society?

Chris Hedges, "War is a Force that Gives us Meaning" Chapter 3-4, pgs 62-121 **Blackboard**

12: What do we mean by Civil War?  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 1-32

15: Martin's Luther King's Birthday, no class

17: Greed vs Grievance in Civil War  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 33-42

Paul Collier et al, "Greed vs Grievance" **Blackboard**

19: State Capacity, Regime Type, and Civil War  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 59-74  
**In-Class Simulation: Negotiating the End of a Civil War**

22: Resource-driven conflict  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 215-230

Michael Ross, "Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds" **Blackboard**

24: Identity Issues and Ethnic Divides  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 43-57

Stuart Kaufman, "The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War" **Blackboard**

26: The 60 words: Authorization of the Use of Force Resolution and the US War on Terror  
Khosrokhavar, Introduction and Chapter 1, pgs 1-17

"60 Words and a War Without End" **On Blackboard**

"60 Words" from RadioLab, Podcast link **On Blackboard**

29: What is Jihadism?  
Khosrokhavar, pgs 1-58

31: Jihadism and the "Culture of Death"  
Khosrokhavar, pgs 59-102

February 2: Jihadism and Islamic Hermeneutics  
Khosrokhavar, pgs 152-185

Saba Mahmood "Islamic Hermeneutics" **Blackboard**

5: Islam, Jihadism, and Democracy  
Khosrokhavar, pgs 103-151

- 7: Jihadism and the future of western multiculturalism  
Khosrokhavar, pgs 186-264
- Ian Buruma, **Murder in Amsterdam**, pgs 141-185 **Blackboard**
- 9: Jihadist Theology and Intellectualism  
Khosrokhavar, 265-314
- 12: Charities, Disaporas, and Funding Terrorism  
Jeroen Gunning "Terrorism, Charities, and Diasporas" **Blackboard**
- 14: The Rise of the Far Right in Europe: Causes  
Lazaridis et al, Chapter 1, pgs 1-24
- 16: Rise of Far Right: Italy  
Lazaridis, et al, Chapter 2, pgs 25-54
- 19: President's Day, No Class
- 21: Marine La Pen and the rise of Islamophobia in France  
Lazaridis et al, Chapter 3. pgs 55-80
- 23: The Far Right in Austria: Vestiges of a Nazi past?  
Lazaridis, et al, Chapter 4, pgs 81-108
- 26: Danish Right-Wing Populism  
Lazaridis et al, Chapter 5, pgs 109-136
- 28: The Far Right in the Balkans: Populism and new states  
Lazaridia et al, Chapter 6, pgs 137-160
- March
- 2: Post-Communist Populism in Bulgaria  
Lazaridis, Chapter 7, pgs 161-200
- 5: Greece populism: Historical Memory at the edge of Europe  
Lazaridis, Chapter 8, pgs 201-238
- 7: Populism, Brexit, Nostalgia in the UK  
Lazaridis, Chapter 9, pgs 239-272
- Owen Hatherly, "The Ministry of Nostalgia" pgs 1-42 **Blackboard**
- 9: Mid-term
- 12, 14, 16: Spring Break
- 19: The Rise of Children in warfare

Singer, Chapters 1-2, 6-7 pgs 3-34, 94-131 **Blackboard**

- 21: Syria  
Ted Galen Carpenter “tangled Web: The Syrian Civil War and its Implications” **Blackboard**  
  
Roy Allison “Russia and Syria: Explaining Alignment with a Regime in Crisis” **Blackboard**
- 23: What is the Responsibility to Protect?  
Gareth Evans, pgs 1-76 **Blackboard**
- 26: Third Party Intervention and Mediation to End Wars  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 93-120
- 28: Negotiating Peace and Democratizing post-Conflict States  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 121-156  
**In-Class Simulation: Peace for Westeros?**
- 30: Integrated Peacebuilding  
Zelizer, pgs 3-54
- April 2: Gender, Conflict, and Peacebuilding  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 197-214  
  
Zelizer, pgs 103-126
- 4: Environmental Change and Peacebuilding  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 231-246  
  
Zelizer, pgs 173-198
- 6: Health Sectors and Peacebuilding  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 157-175  
  
Zelizer, pgs 249-274
- 9: The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice  
Mason and Mitchell, pgs 179-196  
  
Zelizer, pgs 275-296  
**In-Class Simulation: Who Started the War?**
- 11: International Development, Security and the Private Sector  
Zelizer, pgs 57-76; 127-150; 199-224
- 13: Religion, Media, and Humanitarian Assistance  
Zelizer, pgs 77-102; 151-172; 225-248

- 16: Why Civil Resistance Works  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 1-84
- 18: Iran  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 92-118  
**Research Papers Due**
- 20: First Palestinian Intifada  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 119-146
- 23: Failure (but possible success) in Burma  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 172-191
- 25: Philippines  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 147-171
- 27: Implications of Civil Resistance  
Chenoweth and Stephan, pgs 199-231
- 30: Optional Study Session

Final Exam: Friday May 4; 11:00–1:00