



Political Science 4415

Peacekeeping and Intervention

MoWeFr, 9:00 – 9:50am, Middlebush Hall, Room 309

Prof. Bryce Reeder

Email: reederbw@missouri.edu

Office Location: Professional Building, Room 201

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1pm – 3pm (and by appointment)

Office Phone: (573) 882 – 0056

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

Teaching Assistant:

Saumil Dharia

Office: Professional Building, Room 308

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10am – 1pm & Thursdays, 10am – 1pm (and by appointment)

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Course Description: This course introduces advanced undergraduate students to the scientific study of conflict management and peacekeeping. Unlike the majority of research programs in political science, there is not broad consensus on how this topic ought to be studied. Conflict management studies are a mixture of theoretical and prescriptive works. Conclusions are drawn from large-N and case studies, as well as experimental studies – the latter are atypical of most international conflict and political science research. Finally, conflict management studies are strongly interdisciplinary, with research drawn from political science, labor and industrial relations, social psychology, law, and management studies to name a few. This course is designed to reflect some of that diversity.

In order to introduce students to this diverse literature, the course follows a linear path – that is, it begins with a primer on the “causes” of intrastate conflict, moves into the process by which peace agreements are reached (or not..), and then considers what steps can be taken to promote lasting peace in war-torn societies. The course will conclude by discussing where this field of study is moving and considering how research might be linked to policy (with Syria being the contemporary case examined).

Prerequisite(s): *junior or senior standing*

Note(s): Several topics, such and the use of violence during war, will be disturbing to all. Please talk to me if you have any questions/concerns about this content.

Credit Hours: 3

Required Text(s):

- Mason, T. David and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. “What Do We Know About Civil Wars?” Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (2016). [ISBN: 978-1442242258]
- Bercovitch, Jacob and Richard Jackson. “Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-First Century: Principles, Methods, and Approaches” University of Michigan Press (2009). [ISBN: 978-0472050628]
- Autesserre, Séverine. “The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding” Cambridge University Press (2010). [ISBN: 978-0521156011]

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will:

- be familiar with the scientific study of civil conflict, conflict management, and peacekeeping.
- understand and be able to describe the mainstream literature, as well as some popular alternatives.
- have an understanding of the topics of interest to scholars of armed conflict and how they relate to “real life” cases.
- have specialized knowledge of at least one ongoing peacekeeping mission.
- understand the difficulty of managing intrastate conflicts, and how this has serious implications for civilian populations.

Course Requirements:

- *Attendance:* Students are expected to attend and actively participate in this course. To this end, each student is allowed 1 “free day” – absences that will not lead to a penalty. After this free day, however, students will be penalized 1% off of their final grade for each additional course missed. **After 8 absences, the penalty becomes 1 letter grade for each additional class missed.**

Please note, however, that some of these missed points can be “earned back” by above-average participation during class discussion.

- *Group Project:* Students, in groups of 3-5, will write a policy brief on an ongoing peacekeeping mission. In addition to the paper, students will be expected to present their findings to the class. A sign-up sheet will be distributed the first week of class, and more instructions will be provided the following week.

In addition, students will be expected to write a response paper to a presentation.

- *Quizzes:* Students will take 3 quizzes over the course of the semester. These will cover the Autesserre book to aid students in their reading.
- *Midterm Exam:* The midterm exam will cover all material up to the day of the exam. It will consist of short answer questions and an essay.
- *Final Exam:* The final exam will be the same format as the midterm exam, and all material covered over the course of the semester is fair game.
- *Theoretical Paper:* Students will write an 7-10 page research paper that uses the material covered in class to critically evaluate the “failure” of peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Students will be expected to submit an outline of their proposed argument in addition to the paper.
- *Extra Credit (optional):* Students can earn an additional 1% added to their final grade for every 2 hours of “research exposure” (up to a total of 5%). Research exposure includes attending campus talks, sitting in on graduate seminars, reading additional articles, helping

the professor with his research, etc. All activities must receive prior approval in order for students to receive credit.

Grade Distribution:

Requirement	Percentage	Details
Attendance	10%	1 free day without penalty
Group Project	25%	10% paper, 10% presentation, 5% reaction paper
Quizzes	15%	three at 5% each
Midterm Exam	15%	short answer and essay
Final Exam	15%	cumulative, same format as midterm
Theoretical Paper	20%	5% outline, 15% paper
Extra Credit (optional)	up to 5%	up to ten hours of “research exposure”

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Course Policies:

- **General**

- Computers and other technology are only to be used for taking notes. **Students caught using technology for purposes unrelated to class will be banned from using said devices during class time.**
- All quizzes and exams are closed book, no notes (unless otherwise noted).
- No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. If you have a conflict you must discuss this with the instructor **before** the exam/quiz, not after.
- No recording devices are allowed in class, unless authorized in writing by the instructor.

- **Grades**

- Grades in the **C** range represent performance that **meets expectations**; Grades in the **B** range represent performance that is **substantially better** than the expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**.
- It is the responsibility of the student to follow up with their assigned teaching assistant with questions about grading. There are 4 steps to this process:
 - * Students **must wait 48 hours** before contacting their assigned teaching assistant.
 - * Grade inquiries **must occur within 2 weeks** after the assignment has been returned.
 - * Questions/concerns about grading **must be submitted in writing** to the teaching assistant, who will then respond in writing.

- * If the dispute is not resolved, both written items will be given to the instructor and the assignment will be regraded. Note that during this process, **the assigned score may increase or decrease.**

- **Assignments**

- Students are expected to work independently, unless otherwise specified. **Offering and accepting** answers from others is an act of **plagiarism**, which is a serious offense and **all involved parties will be penalized according to university policy.** Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the instructor.
- **No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.**

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Students are allowed to miss 1 class without penalty. After 1 absence, students will be penalized 1% off of attendance grade for each additional day. **After the 8th absence, the penalty becomes 1 letter grade for each additional day.**
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

- **Students with Disabilities**

- If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

- **Plagiarism and Other Violations of Academic Integrity**

- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. **The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.** Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

- **Intellectual Pluralism**

- The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

- All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

- **Intellectual Property Notice**

- All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

- I. Week 1 (08/21 – 08/25) – Introduction to Class & Trends in Armed Conflict
No Class on August 21: Eclipse
 - A. Mason and Mitchell: Introduction & Chapter 1
- II. Week 2 (08/28 – 09/01) – Reading Scientific Studies
No Class on August 30 or September 1: Gone to Conference
 - A. Marc Lynch, Deen Freelon and Sean Aday. “Syria in the Arab Spring: The integration of Syria’s conflict with the Arab uprisings, 2011-2013.” *Research & Politics*, 2014
 - B. Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Jun Koga Sudduth. “Military Purges and the Recurrence of Civil Conflict.” *Research & Politics*, 2016
- III. Week 3 (09/04 – 09/08) – Greed and Grievance Debate
No Class on September 4: Labor Day
 - A. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 2
 - B. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 13
 - C. Nicholas Sambanis. “Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45(3):259-282, 2001
- IV. Week 4 (09/11 – 09/15) – Ethnic Identity and Weak States
September 11: Quiz on Autesserre book (chapter 1 & 2)
 - A. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 3
 - B. Samuel P. Huntington. “The Clash of Civilizations.” *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3):22-49, 1993
 - C. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 4
- V. Week 5 (09/18 – 09/22) – Transnational Dynamics of Intrastate Wars & New Trends
 - A. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 5
 - B. Kristian Gleditsch, Idean Salehyan and David E. Cunningham. “Explaining External Support for Insurgent Groups.” *International Organization*, 65(4):709-744, 2011
 - C. Colin P. Kelley, Shahrzad Mohtadi, Mark A. Cane, Richard Seager and Yochanan Kushnir. “Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(11):3241-3246, 2015
 - D. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 14
- VI. Week 6 (09/25 – 09/29) – Why Wars "End"
September 29: Quiz on Autesserre book (chapter 3 & 4)
 - A. Shanna A. Kirschner. “Knowing your enemy: Information and commitment problems in civil wars.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 54(5):745-770, 2010
 - B. I. William Zartman. “Ripeness: The hurting stalemate and beyond.” In Paul C. Stern and Daniel Druckman, editors, *International Conflict Resolution After the Cold War*, pages 225-250. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 2000
 - C. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 6

VII. Week 7 (10/02 – 10/06) – Midterm Exam & Introduction to Mediation

October 4: Midterm Exam (Bluebook Required)

- A. Bercovitch and Jackson: Chapter 3
- B. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 7

VIII. Week 8 (10/09 – 10/13) – Mediation & the Durability of Agreements

- A. Oliver Richmond. “Devious Objectives and the Disputants View of International Mediation: A Theoretical Framework.” *Journal Of Peace Research*, 35(6):707722, 1998
- B. Virginia Page Fortna. “Scraps of paper? agreements and the durability of peace.” *International Organization*, 57(2):337372, 2003

IX. Week 9 (10/16 – 10/20) – Introduction to Peacekeeping

October 18: Quiz on Autesserre book (chapter 5 & 6)

- A. Bercovitch and Jackson: Chapter 6
- B. Virginia Page Fortna and Morje Howard. “Pitfalls and prospects in the peacekeeping literature.” *American Review of Political Science*, 11:283301, 2008
- C. Virginia P. Fortna. “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace?: International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War.” *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(2):269292, 2004
- D. Lisa Hultman, Jacob D. Kathman, and Megan Shannon. “United nations peacekeeping and civilian protection in civil war.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(4):875891, 2013

X. Week 10 (10/23 – 10/27) – Micro-Level Studies & Unintended Consequences

October 27: Policy Brief Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- A. Andrea Ruggeri, Han Dorussen, and Theodora-Ismene Gizelis. “Winning the peace locally: UN peacekeeping and local conflict.” *International Organization*, 2016
- B. Jonathon M. Katz. “U.N. Admits Role in Cholera Epidemic in Haiti.” *The New York Times*, reported 08/17/2016
- C. Charles Anthony Smith and Heather M. Smith. “Human trafficking: The unintended effects of united nations intervention.” *International Political Science Review*, 32(2):125145, 2011

XI. Week 11 (10/30 – 11/03) – Policy Brief Presentations/Discussion

- A. no assigned readings

XII. Week 12 (11/06 – 11/10) – Policy Brief Presentations/Discussion

November 10: Theoretical Paper Outline Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- A. no assigned readings

XIII. Week 13 (11/13 – 11/17) – Humanitarian Intervention

No Class on November 17: Gone to Conference

- A. Bercovitch and Jackson: Chapter 8

- B. Jacob D. Kathman and Reed M. Wood. "Managing threat, cost, and incentive to kill: The short and long-term effects of intervention in mass killings." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 55(5):735760, 2011
- C. Patrick E. Shea and Charlotte Christian. "The impact of women legislators on humanitarian military interventions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2016

XIV. Week 14 (11/20 – 11/24)

No Class: Thanksgiving Break

XV. Week 15 (11/27 – 12/01) – Promoting Sustainable Peace in the Aftermath of War

November 27: Presentation Response Paper Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- A. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 10
- B. Mason and Mitchell: Chapter 9
- C. Bercovitch and Jackson: Chapter 11
- D. Bercovitch and Jackson: Chapter 12

XVI. Week 16 (12/04 – 12/08) – What to do with Syria?

No Class on December 8: Reading Day

December 6: Theoretical Paper Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- A. no assigned readings

Final Exam: Date and Time TBA (Bluebook Required)