Course Objectives:

This course will explore sources of contemporary armed conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction. It will go into international organizations, bad neighborhoods, ideology, identity politics, weak institutions and the drive for resources. It will examine humanitarian and pre-emptive intervention; how wars end; and how officials undertake postwar economic, political and social reconstruction. In cases from Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe, students will address current issues facing senior officials in multilateral institutions and national capitals, and explore deeper dynamics of these conflicts. Students will employ class discussions, written exercises and role playing to understand the logic of different vantage points (international-local, government-NGO, critical-constructive) of national-international conflict management and underlying dynamics of development.

Core Readings


- Other required readings will be on e-reserve. The password is: givepeaceachance

- Students are expected to remain abreast of current developments in peace operations and conflict situations through the elite media: New York Times, National Public Radio, BBC, Washington Post, CNN, Fox, Al Jazeera and others. Students are also expected to understand the particular biases of the various media.

Requirements

- Papers I and II 40% Final 25%
- Conference Participation 10% Attendance/Participation 10%
- Factionland Simulation 15%

Writing and Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of another’s words or ideas without giving credit to that person. While this includes copying text word for word without the use of quotation marks, it also includes paraphrasing another person’s work without proper citation. Intellectual honesty is a core value of university and the foundation of faculty and student development. Students guilty of
plagiarizing any material will receive a failing grade for the course and the evidence will be automatically turned over to the Office of Student Conduct. During the first week of class, all students must review the UAlbany Library’s tutorial on plagiarism entitled: Plagiarism 101 (http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html). In this course, we will employ the program Turnitin to assess whether students have engaged in plagiarism.

**Participation.** Class participation consists of preparation for and engagement in class discussion. It entails regular class attendance, completing assigned readings, asking relevant questions, and taking positions on issues raised in class.

**Final:** a final essay exam will give the opportunity to present information and opine on the material covered in class.

**Assignments/Papers:** There will be one simulation, two written assignments and one presentation. Detailed assignments will be handed out in class

- **Factionland Simulation:** The class will be split into four factions: three domestic factions and the international community and will complete an exercise in negotiations.

- **Annotated Bibliography** on one of the following four themes: Security and Justice, Economic Development, Political Development, and Social Capital and Civil Society as it plays out in a mission covered in the *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2008*.

- **Policy Memorandum and Background Note.** A two-part note that gives background to one of the issues of policy or operations and that recommends a course of action to a senior executive, such as a Foreign Minister, UN Secretary General, Commander in the Field, Civilian Head of Peace Operations. It will further develop the issue and country that have been the subject of the first two assignments and will constitute the class’ Conference on Reconstruction (below).

- **Conference:** The class will conclude with a 4-Session “Conference on Reconstruction,” in which students will present their policy memoranda that address the following issues at separate sessions: Security and Justice, Economic Development, Political Development, and Social Capital and Civil Society. Students will be expected both to make a presentation of their own paper, and ask questions and engage in a discussion concerning the papers written by other students.

**Some Questions/Themes for the Course.** This course will address ‘lessons learned’ and ‘good practices’ for policy makers and field operations. It presumes that such lessons and practices best emerge from a good understanding of a breadth of cases and motivations that underlie individual behavior and collective action. How are the new wars different from those of an earlier era? How do ‘bad neighborhoods’ exacerbate conflict? Who is the international community, what are its rules of behavior, and how does it work with local forces? How have policy makers learned lessons from the past? What is specific to different types of policy? What are the components of post-war development and transition? What are the priorities of international missions and operations at the end of wars? How do “local” and international organizations cooperate and coordinate their activities? What is the balance between providing services and building ‘local’ capacity?
## COURSE OUTLINE

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3
COURSE READINGS

January 21: Introduction: Conflict and Development – Useful and Recommended Readings

♦ Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight,” E-Reserve
♦ Andrew Mack, “Civil War: Academic Research and the Policy Community”, E-Reserve
♦ Steven van Evera, “How to Write a Paper,” Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science, on e-reserve

January 26, 28, February 2: Afghanistan and Pakistan:

What is at stake in the conflict in Afghanistan? Is it a problem in religious extremism, terrorism, misguided imperial ambition? What are the goals of international policy makers, regional leaders and different groups of Afghans? To what extent do the countries in the neighborhood affect the strategy of conflict there? How do developments affect (and how are they affected by) developments in Afghanistan’s neighbors? How effectively have external actors – from the US and the UN – acted to reconstruct Afghanistan? What steps can be taken in order to build a stable government?

♦ Ahmed Rashid, Descent into Chaos, entire book

February 4, 9, 11: On state Failure:

What are the factors that lead states to fail? What is the difference between “fragile,” “collapsed,” and “failed” states? Is this meaningful? How do states break down socially, economically and politically? What are other examples of failed states? Can international institutions prevent state failure?

♦ Robert Rotberg, When States Fail, Causes and Conequences, pp. 1-150

February 18, 23, 25: The ‘International Community’:

What are the differences among International Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations? How effective has the UN been in peace operations? Will a US-led peace operation likely to be more effective? What motivates individual peacekeepers in peace operations?

March 2, 4: Intervention:

What are the criteria by which we can assess that it is appropriate to intervene in a conflict? What is the role of third parties in interventions? Does “humanitarian Intervention” differ from “preemptive war”? What kind of planning takes place among international officials in advance of an intervention?

♦ Scott Atran, Robert Axelrod, Richard Davis, -Sacred Barriers to Conflict Resolution,” Science, August 2007, 1039-1040, handout

♦ Recommended

♦ James Dobbins et al, America’s Role in Nation Building from Germany to Iraq, on e-reserve
♦ The Do No harm Handbook, on E Reserve

March 11, 16, 18: Order and Rule of Law

What are the challenges in establishing order and rule of law at the end of internal wars? What roles are played by international and domestic military, police, judiciary, corrections, and legal codes? How significant are transnational networks of organized and white collar crime? Why does killing continue?

♦ International Peace Academy, “Managing Security Challenges in Post-Conflict Peace Building,” e-reserve

Recommended:

♦ David Bayley, “Democratizing the Police Abroad: What to Do and How to Do it,” e-reserve
♦ Mark Baskin, “Lessons Learned on Kosovo’s Judiciary”, e-reserve
March 24, 26: Humanitarian Relief and Economic Reconstruction

What are the basic aid strategies of international organizations and donor country governments? How are the immediate humanitarian needs of food and shelter balanced against longer term issues involving refugees and IDPs? How are choices made to balance international capacity and building national capacity? To what extent do immediate, humanitarian needs conflict with political exigencies of the intervention? How do planners make trade-offs on reconstruction, economic reform and employment growth?

♦ Kaysie Studdard, “Transformation of War Economies,” E-Reserve

March 31, April 2, 4: Interim Administration, Power Sharing, Democratization

Who are the key players in the multiple transitions that take place at the end of wars? What is the role of international institutions in establishing new state institutions? Can such institutions provide political stability and encourage broad political participation? How can warring groups – ethnic groups, nations, factions, social classes – agree to respect common principles and rules of the game? How effective are solutions that look to elections, parliaments or political decentralization? How effective is power sharing as a principle of institutional design? How can international administrations work most effectively to support good local administration?


Recommended

April 13, 15: Human Rights, Social Capital, Civil Society

Can a civil society be a basis for political and social pluralism and support emerging democracy at the end of internal wars? How important is social capital and social reconstruction in providing a basis for a stable peace. What is the role of international and local NGOs and traditional social organizations in supporting civil society and social capital?

♦ Jennifer Widener, “Building Effective Trust in the Aftermath of Severe Conflict,” Rotberg, ed, pp. 222-236

April 20, 22, 27, 29: Conference on Reconstruction

♦ Student’s Papers and Presentations on:
  o (4/23) Security and Justice
  o (4/28) Economic Reconstruction and Development
  o (4/30) Political Reconstruction and Development
  o (5/5) Social Capital and Civil Society

♦ May 5: Conclusions on Comparative State Fragility