
PLSC 408
Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution

Term: Spring 2014
Location: FA 352 (M, 5:50–8:50pm)

Instructor: Kyle Mackey
Office: LNG 279
Office Hours: (T, 2–3pm) & (F, 9–10am)
e: kmackey1@binghamton.edu
u: [Blackboard](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended for undergraduate students as an advanced seminar on international and civil conflict resolution. The material we will cover departs from the corpus of research on the causes of violent armed conflict by focusing on dispute resolution mechanisms that put an end to existing wars. Students will be able to discuss why war ends through the resolution of its causes, and why peace, though clearly desirable, sometimes entails substantial political and economic costs. Moreover, this course will point to mediation behavior that prevents existing conflicts from turning violent. Topics covered in this course include: Civil and interstate war termination, third party interventions, international peacekeeping, bargaining and negotiation, coercive diplomacy, and the stability of postwar settlements. The primary goal of this course will be to teach students how to critically assess and evaluate competing explanations for the causes of peace, rather than just the causes of war.

READINGS

Readings for the course will consist of books and a set of articles (listed by topic below). Articles and selected chapters will be posted in the appropriate topic folder in the **Content** section on Blackboard. The readings listed below use the following abbreviations (listed in **bold** as a superscript after the citation):

- (L): Available on [Binghamton Online Libraries](#)
 - (B): Available online on [Blackboard](#)
 - (R): Book is **required** for class
 - (S): Reading is **suggested** but not **required**
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REQUIRED BOOKS

1. Reiter, Dan. 2009. *How Wars End*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Read the Syllabus! The syllabus is for the benefit of the class; it informs you about required readings, grading expectations, course policies, how to contact me, required assignments, and any other general information pertaining to this class.

Grading Scale: Students will be assessed according to the following Binghamton University grade scale:

A (93–100)	A– (90–92)	B+ (87–89)	B (83–86)	B– (80–82)
C+ (77–79)	C (73–76)	C– (70–72)	D (66–69)	F (< 65)

Final grades are rounded to whole numbers, where $\geq \#.5$ is rounded up and $\leq \#.4\bar{9}$ is rounded down.

Grading: Most important to the course is keeping up with the reading material and being able to assess and compare the theoretical arguments you encounter in the literature. So the most important thing you must do is keep up with the reading. Grades for the class will be based on the following points system:

Critical Review	◇	100
Class Participation (9)	◇	250
Discussion Leadership (3)	◇	3 × 50 = 150
Data Paper	◇	100
+ Final Paper	◇	400
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Total	◇	1000/10 = 100%

ASSIGNMENTS

A detailed discussion of the final paper is posted on [Blackboard](#) under the **Assignments** tab; formal assignment deadlines are as follows:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Discussion Leadership	TBD × (3)
Class Participation	Weekly
Final Paper Proposal	Feb. 17
Final Paper Bibliography	Mar. 3
Data Paper	Mar. 17
(Very) Rough Draft of Paper	Mar. 31
Poster Session Conference	Apr. 7
Critical Review	Apr. 11
Final Paper	May 5

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be expected to fully understand the implications of turning in their assignments late. There are no excuses that will be accepted for late assignments. If an emergency arises, creating a situation where an assignment cannot be completed by the deadline, students are required to submit the work they have at the time of the emergency. Send me an email with the assignment as an attachment (kmackey1@binghamton.edu). I will judge the quality of the work, given the emergency. Keep in mind that I will need some sort of proof that an emergency occurred. Absent of an emergency, **all** late assignments will be penalized according to the following procedure:

- \leq 1 day past deadline \diamond 1/2 letter grade (e.g. B+ = B-)
- Each additional day \diamond 1 letter grade (e.g. B+ = C+)
- \geq 5 days past deadline \diamond Will receive **F**

Failure to complete any of the assignments for the course implies more than just a zero for that assignment. Students are required to complete all assignments. **Failure to submit all assignments (late or on time) will result in a grade of F for the entire course, regardless of your overall grade in the class.**

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic	Date	Name
1	Jan. 27	Class Introduction
2	Feb. 3	Epistemology
3	Feb. 10	The Inefficiency of War
4	Feb. 17	Coercion as a Bargaining Strategy
5	Feb. 24	The Inefficiency of Peace
6	Mar. 3	More Democracy = More Peace?
7	Mar. 10	War and Gender
8	Mar. 17	Third Party Interventions
9	Mar. 24	International Peacekeeping
10	Mar. 31	Negotiating Peace
11	Apr. 7	Poster Session Conference
	Apr. 14	No Class, Spring Break
	Apr. 21	No Class, Spring Break
12	Apr. 28	Sustaining Peace
13	May 5	What do we Know About Peace?

READING SCHEDULE

Topic 1: Class Introduction

Jan. 27

1. Talk about syllabus.
2. Discuss critical review.
3. Choose discussion leadership topics.
4. Discuss presentation assignment.
5. Discuss final paper.

Topic 2: Epistemology**Feb. 3****Making a Theoretical Argument**

1. Singer, J. David. 1969. The Incomplete Theorist: Insight Without Evidence. In *Contending Approaches to International Politics*. Eds. Rosenau, James N. and Klaus Knorr. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.^(B)
2. Singer, J. David. 1985. The Responsibilities of Competence in the Global Village. *International Studies Quarterly* 29(3):245–262.^(L)
3. Firebaugh, Glenn. 2008. *Seven Rules for Social Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.^(B)

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Topic 3: The Inefficiency of War**Feb. 10****Writing About Academic Literature**

1. Fearon, James D. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3):379–414.^(L)
2. Leeson, Peter T. 2010. Pirational Choice: The Economics of Infamous Pirate Practices. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 76(3):497–510^(L)
3. Poast, Paul. 2012. Lincoln's Gamble: Bargaining Failure, British Recognition, and the Start of the American Civil War. Rutgers University.^(B)

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Topic 4: Coercion as a Bargaining Strategy**Feb. 17****Final Paper Proposal Due**

1. Slantchev, Branislav L. 2003. The Power to Hurt: Costly Conflict with Completely Informed States. *American Political Science Review* 97(1):123–133.^(L)
2. Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2005. Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4):598–624.^(L)
3. Leeson, Peter T. 2014. Human Sacrifice. *Review of Behavioral Economics* 1(1–2):137–165.^(B)

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Topic 5: The Inefficiency of Peace

Feb. 24

Dealing with Data

1. Lai, Brian. 2004. The Effects of Different Types of Military Mobilization on the Outcome of International Crises. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(2):211–229.^(L)
2. Slantchev, Branislav L. 2010. Feigning Weakness. *International Organization* 64(3):357–388.^(L)
3. Leeson, Peter T., Daniel J. Smith, and Nicholas A. Snow. 2012. Hooligans. *Revue d'économie politique* 122(2):213–231.^(B)

Page Count: 70**Topic 6: More Democracy = More Peace?**

Mar. 3

Final Paper Bibliography Due

1. Oneal, John R. and Bruce D. Russett. 1997. The Classic Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985. *International Studies Quarterly* 41(2):267–293.^(L)
2. Peceny, Mark, Caroline C. Beer, and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. Dictatorial Peace? *American Political Science Review* 96(1):15–26.^(L)
3. Lai, Brian and Dan Slater. 2006. Institutions of the Offensive: Domestic Sources of Dispute Initiation in Authoritarian Regimes, 1950–1992. *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1):113–126.^(L)

Page Count: 38**Topic 7: War and Gender**

Mar. 10

Student Presentation of Progress

1. Conover, Pamela Johnston and Virginia Sapiro. 1993. Gender, Feminist Consciousness, and War. *American Journal of Political Science* 37(4):1079–1099.^(L)
2. Caprioli, Mary and Mark A. Boyer. 2001. Gender, Violence, and International Crisis. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(4):503–518.^(L)
3. Nincic, Miroslav and Donna J. Nincic. 2002. Race, Gender, and War. *Journal of Peace Research* 39(5):547–568.^(L)

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Topic 8: Third Party Interventions

Mar. 17

Data Paper Due

1. Regan, Patrick M. and Allan C. Stam. 2000. In the Nick of Time: Conflict Management, Mediation Timing, and the Duration of Interstate Disputes. *International Studies Quarterly* 44(2):239–260.^(L)
2. Greig, J. Michael. 2001. Moments of Opportunity: Recognizing Conditions of Ripeness for International Mediation between Enduring Rivals. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(6):691–718.^(L)
3. Regan, Patrick M. 2010. Interventions into Civil Wars: A Retrospective Survey with Prospective Ideas. *Civil Wars* 12(4):456–476.^(L)

Page Count: 64**Topic 9: International Peacekeeping**

Mar. 24

Talk on Talks

1. Diehl, Paul F., Daniel Druckman, and James Wall. 1998. International Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution A Taxonomic Analysis with Implications. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1):33–55.^(L)
2. Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. *American political science review* 94(4):779–801.^(L)
3. Fortna, Virginia Page and Lise Morjé Howard. 2008. Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11(1):283–301.^(L)

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Mar. 31

(Very) Rough Draft of Paper Due

1. Pillar, Paul R. 1983. *Negotiating Peace: War Termination as a Bargaining Process*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Read pp. 90–119.^(B)
2. Regan, Patrick M. and Russell J. Leng. 2003. Culture and Negotiation in Militarized Interstate Disputes. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 20(2):111–132.^(L)
3. Leng, Russell J. and Patrick M. Regan. 2003. Social and Political Cultural Effects on the Outcomes of Mediation in Militarized Interstate Disputes. *International Studies Quarterly* 47(3):431–452.^(L)

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Topic 11: How Wars End

Apr. 7

Poster Session Conference (Room TBD)

Critical Review Due APR. 11

1. Reiter, Dan. 2009. *How Wars End*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.^(R)

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No Class
Apr. 14 (Spring Break)

No Class
Apr. 21 (Spring Break)

Topic 12: Sustaining Peace

Apr. 28

General Reflections on Projects

1. Walter, Barbara F. 1997. The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement. *International Organization* 51(3):335–364.^(L)
2. Werner, Suzanne. 1999. The Precarious Nature of Peace: Resolving the Issues, Enforcing the Settlement, and Renegotiating the Terms. *American Journal of Political Science* 43(3):912–934.^(L)
3. Werner, Suzanne and Amy Yuen. 2005. Making and Keeping Peace. *International Organization* 59(2):261–292.^(L)

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Topic 13: What do we Know About Peace?

May 5

Final Paper Due

1. Vasquez, John A. 1993. *The War Puzzle*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 8–9.^(B)
2. Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. A Kantian System? Democracy and Third-party Conflict Resolution. *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4):749–759.^(L)
3. Regan, Patrick M. and Aida Paskeviciute. 2003. Women's Access to Politics and Peaceful States. *Journal of Peace Research* 40(3):287–302.^(L)

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ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism and cheating are serious matters that, should they occur, will be pursued to the limits of University rules. Moreover, academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. For details regarding the University's policy on cheating and plagiarism and academic dishonesty more generally, see the University Handbook.

COURSE MATERIAL

Students are advised to **retain all course material** for all course work for **two weeks** after grades are received. This includes: returned assignments, Turnitin email receipts, and electronic versions of written assignments. I will not consider any grading questions without evidence of the assignment. All writing assignments are to be submitted through Turnitin. Each time you submit to Turnitin, an electronic receipt is emailed to you—no receipt means something went wrong, so check your email after you submit to the Turnitin link. No evidence from Turnitin means the assignment will be treated as an incomplete assignment.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities should register with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (607.777.2686), University Union (Room 119), ssd@binghamton.edu. Extra time and necessary arrangements can be made in conjunction with that office and the instructor.

COURSE WEBSITE

Please visit the course website on Blackboard; I'll update it weekly with electronic versions of the chapters from books that are not listed as *required* for the course. Students will be expected to find articles through the [Binghamton Libraries](#) website.

SYLLABUS

The online version of the syllabus is the official syllabus for this course as it is updated periodically. I reserve the exclusive right to alter the syllabus if I feel such changes are necessary for the class. Visit the course website to view the most recent version of the syllabus (updated date is located at the lower right corner of the document). You will be notified in your Binghamton email of any changes to the syllabus. **YOU** as the student are responsible for having the most updated copy of this document, and I will make sure you are notified of any changes.

INTERNET ACCESS & ASSIGNMENTS

Failure to complete an assignment because of a faulty or lacking internet signal will not be excused. Assignment dates and times are posted well in advance, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you will have adequate access to Blackboard during those and other times required to fulfill assignment requirements, if necessary.

EXTRA CREDIT

No extra credit assignments will be provided for this course; I will not respond to requests.