

**PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS:  
Resolving Conflict in World Politics  
Fall 2011**

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*Office Hours:* Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 PM, or by appointment

***Course Overview***

This course explores international responses to interstate and civil conflict in their various forms (e.g., militarized disputes, humanitarian crises, economic disagreements). The occurrence of conflict is often puzzling to those who study international conflict management because actors have many incentives and resources available to resolve dispute peacefully and avoid violence. Why do disagreements escalate to violence? Why can't the United States or the UN intervene in countries where people are threatened by war?

Together, we will study a variety of different approaches to international conflict management, including bargaining, mediation, intervention, sanctions, arbitration, and adjudication as we seek to find answers to these questions. In addition, we will cover both the supply and demand for third-party intermediaries, discussing the role of other states, international organizations, such as the UN, and nongovernmental organizations in the peace-making process. Finally, we will examine the factors that make these efforts more likely to succeed, including the implementation of post-conflict peace.

In addition, we will spend a significant portion of time discussing the process of research, including finding motivating topics, building good theoretical explanations, constructing logical arguments, designing good tests of those arguments, and assessing the implications of our findings. By the end of the semester, students in this course will develop an applied understanding of approaches to managing international conflict and be able to analyze and assess conflict resolution responses.

This course does not cover in detail the causes of interstate and civil war, and thus it is recommended (although not required) that students have taken another class in International Conflict prior to enrolling in this course.

***Required Reading***

Two textbooks are required for this course. In addition, you are expected to regularly follow international news. Other readings not included in the assigned text will be made available on the course website.

*Course Textbooks:*

- Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall. *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace.

- Zartman, I. William. *Peace-making in International Conflict: Methods & Techniques*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace.  
*International News Sources*
- Subscribe to one or more of the following news feeds and read regularly:
  - [The New York Times](#)
  - [BBC News: World](#)
  - [The Financial Times](#)
- The course website features an international news RSS-feed application. You may follow this news feed if you do not already use an RSS reader or regularly follow the news at another location.

### **Course Expectations**

*Notifications:* All course information will be shared on the course website. It is expected that you check this page regularly to keep track of assignments, discussion topics, and updates.

*Grading:* Your grade will be based on the completion of three, short group summary papers, a research paper project, a research presentation, and participation. Details for each of these assignments are described below. The following table lists the deadlines and formats for each of these items, along with their point value. You must complete all course work in order to pass this course.

<b>Summary of Coursework</b>			
<i>Obligation</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Point Value</i>
Group summary papers	Various dates	3 – Short (1 pg.) writing assignments	10 points each 30 points total
<b><i>Research Paper Project</i></b>		Multiple Components	80 points total
Paper topic proposal	Week 5	Short (1 pg.) writing assignment	10 points
First paper draft	Week 11	10-page research paper draft	30 points
Final paper draft	Finals Week	10-page revised research paper	40 points
Paper peer review	Week 12	1-page peer review	15 points
Research presentation	Week 16	10-minute presentation	25 points
Attendance and Participation			50 points
			<b>TOTAL POINTS: 200</b>

*Group Summary Papers (3 x 10 points = 15% Grade):* At three different times in the semester, you will be divided into groups and assigned one from several readings on a topic; each group will be assigned a different reading. Each person in the group will be required to read the assigned reading and contribute to the writing of a 1-page summary and analysis paper. These assignments will need to be posted to the course website 24-hours in advance of the class period for which they are assigned. This will give students from other groups the opportunity to read the short summary papers before class so that we may discuss all the topics for the day.

*Research Paper (80 points total = 40% Grade):* You will be asked to write a research paper that analyzes a current event relevant to international dispute resolution, providing an explanation of the causes of the event and its resolution – if there is one. We will discuss examples in class and you are required to regularly follow a daily international news source for inspiration. Additionally, you will be asked to use the tools we discuss in class to provide a policy prescription that would advise political leaders either how to resolve the on-going conflict or how to ensure that post-settlement peace endures. This assignment will be completed in three stages and will also provide the basis for your scores on the peer review and research presentation assignments:

1. Paper topic proposal (250 words): Provide a brief introduction to the topic about which you want to write. The proposal should include your research question (e.g., Why did Cambodia and Thailand fail to follow through on their peace agreement?) and an initial answer in the form of a thesis statement (e.g., Cambodia and Thailand failed to follow through on their peace agreement because neither's domestic publics would accept the terms of the settlement.) Additionally, you should describe the theoretical approach that supports that conclusion.
2. First Paper Draft (10 pages): Prepare an initial draft of the research paper that introduces the research question, explains why it is important in the context of international conflict management, analyzes why it occurred and/or why it ended the way that it did, and advises policy-makers about how to resolve the conflict or to ensure post-settlement peace. The paper should be double-spaced, use a 12-point standard serif font (e.g., Times), 1-inch margins, use conventional construction, grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and follow [ASPA formatting and citation style](#). You will turn in two copies of this paper, one for the instructor and one for a peer reviewer.
3. Final Paper Draft (10 pages): The final paper draft should take into consideration advice from peer review and from the instructor. You should be able to build and improve upon the original draft to construct a sophisticated analysis of the paper topic. The paper should follow the same formatting rules as the first draft and should attach both the first draft graded by the instructor and the peer reviewer's comments. Failure to include the previous drafts and comments with the final draft of the paper will result in a loss of one letter grade on the paper.

More details on the research paper assignment and grading rubrics for each component are on the class website. This assignment requires your early attention, so read the assignment and begin thinking about your research topic as soon as possible. It is recommended that you start

early and seek outside help (e.g., additional peer reviews, Writing Center, meetings with me) at each stage of the assignment.

*Paper Peer Review (1-page, approx. 7.5% Grade):* In concurrence with the research paper assignment, you will be asked to act as a reviewer for a classmate's first paper draft. You will be given a copy of the individual's paper and expected to read it and provide feedback addressing the paper's content and construction. You should focus your feedback on advising the other writer on how they might improve the logical consistency of their argument or point out feasibility challenges to their policy prescriptions. Keep your reviews constructive: You should clearly describe your responses to the writer, indicating which parts of the paper you find most or least effective and why.

*Research Presentation (10 minute presentation, 12.5% Grade):* In the last week of class, you will give a short presentation on your research topic. You may use visual aids, handouts, or Power Point presentations to help with your presentation, but it is not required. However, you will need to do more than simply read your research paper: You should be able to clearly summarize the event you have studied and explain the conclusions that you reached in your analysis. The order of presentations will be selected randomly at the beginning of each class meeting during the last week of classes, so you should be prepared to give present your project at any time.

*Attendance and Participation (25% Grade):* This is a seminar-style course where participation is an important component of the class. You are expected to attend every class meeting, having read all of the assigned readings, given thought to the discussion topics for the day, and prepared to contribute to the class dialogue. Attendance will be taken for every class and absences should occur rarely and only under extreme circumstances. You are responsible for any material missed due to absence – especially for the peer review assignment. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, you must inform the instructor in advance in order to be excused. Attendance and participation will be assessed using the following scale:

<b>Attendance and Participation</b>	
<i>Points</i>	<i>Description</i>
22-25	The student had excellent attendance and made unusually strong contributions to the discussion. S/he demonstrated connections across the readings with questions and comments.
18-21	The student had good attendance and made meaningful contributions to the discussion. S/he asked important questions and/or exhibited an understanding of the material.
14-17	The student had weak attendance and/or did not contribute meaningfully to the discussion.
0-13	The student did not attend or did not speak in class.

### ***Policies and Conditions***

*Grade Complaints:* Grade complaints will only be taken 24 hours after an assignment has been returned. Complaints should be submitted in writing and explain the particular discrepancy and recommend an appropriate recourse. The instructor maintains the right to add or subtract points on work that is submitted for reconsideration.

*Academic Honesty:* A copy of the University's policies on academic misconduct and complaint actions is attached and available on the the course website. Read and become familiar with these policies. Students caught violating conditions of academic honesty will fail this course and be reported to university authorities. It is recommended that you retain all notes and drafts of your coursework until two weeks after grades are received in order to protect your work.

*Students with Disabilities:* Students with disabilities should notify the instructor as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact Student Disability Services. Student Disability Services will arrange with the student and instructor a plan to ensure the student has the opportunities for full participation in the class.

### ***Course Outline***

#### **WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION AND FOUNDATIONS**

##### **Introduction**

- Introduction, Course Syllabus

#### **RESEARCH METHODS, PART I: Foundations of Political Research**

- Zinnes, Diana. 2010. Untitled book manuscript, Chapter 1 and 2. (Course website)
- Most, Benjamin. 1990. "Questions to Ask About Readings," mimeograph. (Course website)
- "Interpreting Statistical Results." Exercise to be done in class. Read exercise before-hand. (Course website)
- "Necessary and Sufficient Conditions." Exercise to be done in class. Read exercise before-hand. (Course website)

#### **WEEK 2: WHAT IS CONFLICT MANAGEMENT?**

- Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall. "Leashing the Dogs of War." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 3-15.
- Zartman, I. William. "Toward the Resolution of International Conflicts." In *Peace-making in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. pg. 3-24.
- The Design of Peace Agreements:
  - United States Institute of Peace. Components of a Peace Agreement: <http://www.usip.org/managing-mediation-process/step-6-construct-peace-agreement>
  - Beyond Intractability. Structural Components of Peace Agreements: [http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/substantive\\_provisions/](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/substantive_provisions/)

- Beyond Intractability. Procedural Components of Peace Agreements:  
[http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/procedural\\_peace\\_agree/](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/procedural_peace_agree/)
- Beyond Intractability. Enforcement Mechanisms:  
[http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/enforcement\\_mechanisms/](http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/enforcement_mechanisms/)

### **WEEK 3: CAUSES OF CONFLICT – OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE**

#### ***Due: Group Summary Paper #1***

#### **Interstate and Civil Conflict**

- Levy, Jack S. "International Sources of Interstate and Intrastate War." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 17-38.
- Kelman, Herbert. C. "Social-Psychological Dimensions of International Conflict." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 61-110.

#### **Other Sources of Conflict – *Read one of the following and, as a group, write a summary paper***

- Kemp, Geoffrey. "Arms Acquisition and Violence: Are Weapons or People the Cause of Conflict?" In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 53-66.
- Crenshaw, Martha. "Terrorism and Global Security." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 67-82.
- King, Charles. "Power, Social Violence, and Civil Wars." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 115-130.
- Gleditsch, Nils Petter. "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 177-196.
- Collier, Paul. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 197-218.

### **WEEK 4: NEGOTIATING AND BARGAINING**

- Hopmann, Terrance P. "Bargaining and Problem Solving: Two Perspectives on International Negotiation." In *Turbulent Peace*. (Course website)
- Druckman, Daniel. "Negotiating in the International Context." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 111-162.
- Fearon, James D. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization*, 52(2): 269-305. (Course website)

### **WEEK 5: THIRD-PARTY CONFLICT MANAGEMENT – METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

#### ***Due: Paper Topic Proposals***

- Dixon, William J. 1996. Third-Party Techniques for Preventing Conflict Escalation and Promoting Peaceful Settlement. *International Organization*, 50(4): 653-681.
- Zartman, I. William. "The Use of Methods and Techniques in a Conflict's Lifespan." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 465-478.
- Mack, Andrew. "Successes and Challenges in Conflict Management." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 521-534.

**WEEK 6: APPROACHES TO CONFLICT MANAGEMENT – MEDIATION**

- Zartman, I William and Saadia Touval. "International Mediation." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 437-454.
- Bercovitch, Jacob. "Mediation in International Conflicts: Theory, Practice, and Developments." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 163-194.
- Wall, James A., Jr., John B. Stark, and Rheta L. Standifer. 2001. "Mediation: A Current Review and Theory Development." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45(3): 370-391. (Course website)

**WEEK 7: APPROACHES TO CONFLICT MANAGEMENT – ARBITRATION AND ADJUDICATION*****Due: Group Summary Paper #2***

- Bilder, Richard B. "Adjudication: International Arbitral Tribunals and Courts." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 195-226.
- Kritz, Neil J. "The Rule of Law in Conflict Management." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 401-424.

***Other readings on Arbitration and Adjudication - Read one of the following and, as a group, write a summary paper***

- Wedgwood, Ruth. "War and Law: The Dilemmas of International Law and Coercive Enforcement." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 583-601.
- Fischer, Dana D. 1982. "Decisions to Use the International Court of Justice: Four Recent Cases." *International Studies Quarterly*. 26(2): 251-277. (Course website)
- Powell, Emilia Justyna and Sara M. Mitchell. "The International Court of Justice and the World's Three Legal Systems." *Journal of Politics*. (Course website)
- Gent, Stephen and Megan Shannon. 2011. "Decision Control and the Pursuit of Binding Conflict Management: Choosing the Ties that Bind." *Journal of Conflict Management*. (Course website)
- Allee, Todd L., and Paul K. Huth. 2006. "Legitimizing Dispute Settlement: International Legal Rulings as Domestic Political Cover." *American Political Science Review*, 100(2): 219-234. (Course website)

**WEEK 8: RESEARCH METHODS AND MANAGING CONFLICT, PART II**

- Aall, Pamela R., Jeffrey W. Helsing, and Alan C. Tidwell. "Addressing Conflict Through Education." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 327-354.
- Ward, George F., Jr. and J. Michael Lekson. "Dealing with Conflict: The Contributions of Training." In *Peace-making in International Conflict*. pg. 355-384.
- "Methods of Quoting Sources." Exercise to be done in class. Read exercise before-hand. (Course website)
- Presentation: "Conducting Research: Finding and Using Resources for Scholarly Work." Prepared by University of Iowa Libraries – Reference and Library Instruction.

### **WEEK 9: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND SECURITY REGIMES IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Due: Group Summary Paper #3***

- Mingst, Karen A. and Margaret P. Karns. "The United Nations and Conflict Management: Relevant or Irrelevant?" In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 497-521.
- Gelpi, Christopher. "Alliances as Instruments of Intra-Allied Control." In *Imperfect Unions: Security Institutions Over Time and Space*. pg. 107-139. (Course website)

#### ***Other readings on IGOs and Alliances - Read one of the following and, as a group, write a summary paper***

- Yost, David S. "NATO's Contributions to Conflict Management." In *Turbulent Peace*. pg. 585-602. (Course website)
- Boehmer, Charles, Erik Gartzke, and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. "Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace?" *World Politics*, 57(1): 1-38. (Course website)
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., and Alexander H. Montgomery. 2006. "Power Positions: International Organizations, Social Networks, and Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 50(1): 3-27. (Course website)
- Lefler, Vanessa A. 2011. "Bargaining for Peace: Using IGOs in Conflict Management." (Course website)
- Mitchell, Sara M., and Paul R. Hensel. 2007. "International Institutions and Compliance with Agreements." *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(4): 721-737.

### **WEEK 10: REGIONAL IGOs AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Diehl, Paul F. "New Roles for Regional Organizations." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 535-552.
- Zartman, I. William. "Mediation by Regional Organizations: the OAU in Chad and Congo." In *Studies in International Mediation*. pg. 80-125. (Course website)
- Chigas, Diana. "Capacities and Limits of NGOs as Conflict Managers." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 553-582.
- Aall, Pamela R. 1996. "Peaceworks No. 5: NGOs and Conflict Management." *United States Institute of Peace*. (Course website)

### **WEEK 11: MILITARY INTERVENTIONS AND PEACEKEEPING**

#### ***Due: First Paper Draft***

- Lute, Jane Holl. "The Role of Force in Peacemaking." In *Peacemaking in International Conflict*. pg. 419-464.
- Osler Hampson, Fen, and David Mendeloff. "Intervention and the Nation-Building Debate." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 679-699.
- Urquhart, Brian. "Limits on the Use of Force." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. 265-276.
- Art, Robert J., and Patrick M. Cronin. "Coercive Diplomacy." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 299-319.

**WEEK 12: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CM: DEMOCRACIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS*****Due: Paper Peer Review***

- Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack Snyder. "Turbulent Transitions: Why Emerging Democracies Go to War." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 161-176.
- Francisco, Ronald A. 1996. "Coercion and Protest: An Empirical Test in Two Democratic States." *American Journal of Political Science*, 40: 1179-1204. (Course website)
- Hegre, Havard and Tanja Ellingsen. 2002. "Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992." *American Political Science Review*, 95: 33-48. (Course website)
- Murdie, Amanda and David R. Davis. 2010. "Problematic Potential: The Human Rights Consequences of Peacekeeping Interventions in Civil Wars." *Human Rights Quarterly*, 32(1): 49-72. (Course website)

**WEEK 13: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CM: ECONOMIC TOOLS FOR PEACE**

- Malone, David M. and Jake Sherman. "Economic Factors in Civil War: Policy Considerations." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. 637-652.
- de Jonge Oudraat, Chantal. "Economic Sanctions and International Peace and Security." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. 335-353.
- Cartright, David. "Sanctions and Stability Pacts: The Economic Tools of Peacemaking." In *Peacemaking in International Conflict*. pg. 385-418.
- Nye, Joseph S., Jr. "The Place of Soft Power in State-Based Conflict Management." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 389-400.

**WEEK 14: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CM: POST-CONFLICT PEACE ENFORCEMENT**

- Ottaway, Marina. "Is Democracy the Answer?" In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. pg. 603-618.
- Paris, Roland. "Wilson's Ghost: The Faulty Assumptions of Postconflict Peacebuilding." In *Turbulent Peace*. pg. 765-754. (Course website)
- Walter, Barbara F. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization*, 51(3): 335-364. (Course website)
- 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. (Course website)

**WEEK 15: RESEARCH METHODS, PART III*****No Class – Individual Meetings with Prof. Lefler*****WEEK 16: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS*****No Readings – Individual presentations of research projects*****FINALS WEEK*****No Final Exam******Final Drafts of Research Papers due on Wednesday by 5:00 PM.****Deliver research paper, peer review comments, and instructor-graded first draft to Prof. Lefler's mailbox in 341 Schaeffer Hall.*