

McGill University
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Winter Term 2017

POLI 450

Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen
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<http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/programs/polisci/faculty/rexb.html>

CLASS HOURS: MWF 12h35-13h25 (MCMED 1034)

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 16h00-16h45, Wednesdays 11h00-12h00 (ICAMES, 3465 Peel), or by appointment

WEBPAGE: <http://www.brynanianet.net> (simulation)

Course Description

This course offers an examination of transitions from civil war to peace, and the role of external actors (international organizations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations) in support of such transitions. Topics will include the dilemmas of humanitarian relief, peacekeeping operations, refugees, the demobilization of ex-combatants, transitional elections, and the politics of socioeconomic reconstruction.

Prerequisites

Students are required to have taken at least one previous course in comparative politics. Previous coursework in international relations is strongly recommended.

Course Texts

There is no textbook for the course. Instead, emphasis is on primary source materials, of the sort used by peacebuilding practitioners:

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* 2nd edition (Durban: ACCORD, 2015), at <http://www.accord.org.za/publication/accord-peacebuilding-handbook/>

- International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding, *Snapshot: A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (2011), at <http://www.newdeal4peace.org/new-deal-snapshot/>
- OECD, Preventing Violence, *War and State Collapse: The Future of Conflict Early Warning and Response* (Paris: OECD, 2009), at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/preventing%20violence%20war%20and%20state%20collapse.pdf>
- OECD Development Assistance Committee, *International Support to Post-Conflict Transition: Rethinking Policy, Changing Practice* (Paris: OECD, 2012), at <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/4312041e.pdf>
- Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* (2003), at <http://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/principles-good-practice-of-ghd/principles-good-practice-ghd.html>
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (New York: United Nations, 2003), at <http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/Pbps/library/Handbook%20on%20UN%20PKOs.pdf>
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* (New York: United Nations, 2008), http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/capstone_eng.pdf
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, *Civil Affairs Handbook* (New York: United Nations, 2012), at http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/civilhandbook/Civil_Affairs_Handbook.pdf
- United Nations Development Programme, *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations* (New York: UNDP, 2002), at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-approaches-in-conflict-and-post-conflict-situations-.html>
- United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Resource Centre, *What is DDR?* (2014), at http://www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *UNHCR Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015*. (Geneva: UNHCR, 2015), at <http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf>
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups*, (New York: OCHA, January 2006), at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/46924d492.html>
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *To Stay and Deliver: Good Practice for Humanitarians in Complex Security Environments* (2011), at <http://www.unocha.org/about-us/publications/stay-and-deliver-good-practice-humanitarians-complex-security-environments>
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2015*, (New York: OCHA, 2015), at: https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/WHDT2015_2Dec.pdf
- United States Army, *FM 3-07 Stability* (Washington DC, June 2014), at [http://pksoi.army.mil/default/assets/File/fm3_07\(1\).pdf](http://pksoi.army.mil/default/assets/File/fm3_07(1).pdf)

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington DC: World Bank, 2011), at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011_Full_Text.pdf

All required readings are available online. Students must also participate regularly in class discussions via myCourses, and read any additional required material posted online there.

Course Requirements and Grading

Course participation (myCourses, up to March 24)	10%
Team research paper (6-12,000 words, due March 24)	30%
Simulation participation	10%
Simulation debriefing (1250 words maximum, due April 8)	10%
Final examination (university-scheduled)	40%

Course participation: This will be largely based on your myCourses activity up until midnight on March 24. All students are expected to offer at least three substantial comments on the course discussion list during the term to earn a passing grade—greater participation will result in a higher grade. Please do not post more than three items of any sort per week, or the course discussion board will rapidly become overloaded. Other opportunities to earn course participation credits will be announced in class or posted on myCourses.

Simulation participation: This grade will be based on the accuracy, energy, and skill with which you performed your simulation role. Students have the option of NOT taking part in the simulation; in this case, alternative assignments will be arranged. You must notify the instructor by email before the end of January if you wish to do this.

Simulation debriefing: This will consist of 4-5 pages, identifying the major lessons to be learned from the main simulation exercise. It is due at the start of class on April 7—late debriefs will not be accepted without documented medical (or similar) excuse.

Team research paper: In groups of 2-4, students will prepare a 6-12,000 word comparative policy assessment of a key dimension of international peacebuilding/reconstruction efforts. Unless otherwise approved, the paper should: i) provide an overview of the issue, ii) identify the policy mechanisms utilized by the international community in the context of 3-5 different transitional countries; iii) assess the utility of these instruments, and the factors shaping policy effectiveness; iv) assess the overall success or failure of international engagement in each case, and suggests lessons to be learned. All topics must be approved in advance by email by the course instructor by 15 February. The research paper is due in class on March 24, or may be submitted late on April 7 (with a penalty of -2.5/30). It may not be submitted after this second date without a documented medical (or similar) excuse. If you wish to write a 5,000 word solo paper instead you may do so, but you will receive an additional -1.5/30 penalty for not being part of a group.

Students may also, instead of a research paper, design a peacebuilding simulation. Additional details on this will be provided in class.

Final exam: a university-scheduled final exam will address all material covered by the class.

Important Fine Print

Please note that this course is *extremely* demanding in the latter part of the term. Good study/research habits and time management skills are essential. Students are STRONGLY advised to complete their

team research projects prior to the start of the course simulation. Also, keep on top of the reading—there is more of it than usual.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Also, it is important to note that incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with severely. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is or how to identify your sources, ask your teaching assistant. MCGILL UNIVERSITY VALUES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. THEREFORE ALL STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHEATING, PLAGIARISM AND OTHER ACADEMIC OFFENCES UNDER THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Lectures (all dates approximate)

1. Introduction (January 4, 6, 9)

- what is peacebuilding?
- civil conflict in the late 20th and 21st centuries
- actors and phases
- conflict analysis

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapters 1-3.

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (2011), Chapters 1-2 (repeated violence, vulnerability)

2. Conflict Prevention (January 11, 13)

- early warning
- instruments for conflict prevention

OECD, Preventing Violence, *War And State Collapse* (2009), Executive Summary and Chapter 3.

3. Dilemmas of humanitarian relief (January 16, 18, 20)

- aid and conflict
- operational challenges

UN OCHA, *World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2015* (2015), pp. 2-24, skim rest.

UN OCHA, *To Stay and Deliver: Good Practice for Humanitarians in Complex Security Environments* (2011), Glossary, Executive Summary, and Conclusions and Recommendations.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 159-168 (humanitarian assistance).

Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (2003).

Inside the Haiti Earthquake (online game), at <http://insidedisaster.com/haiti/experience>

4. Mediation and negotiation (January 23, 25, 27)

- conflict mediation
- SRSGs and other mediators
- peace agreements

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 9-33 (SRSG, political affairs).

UN OCHA, *Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups* (2006), Summary and Quick Reference (+skim remainder).

5. Peacekeeping and stabilization (January 30, February 1, 3)

- peacekeeping and stabilization operations
- counterinsurgency

UN DPKO and DFS, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* (2008), Chapters 1-3.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 55-70 (military).

United States Army, *FM 3-07 Stability* (2014), Chapter 1.

6. Challenges of coordination (February 6, 8)

- issues and architectures
- local ownership

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2013), chapters 4, 7-8.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 199-205 (resident coordinators)

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*, Chapter 6 (international support).

7. Refugees (February 10, 13)

- basic needs
- the challenge of refugee-warriors
- resettlement and repatriation

UNHCR, *Global Trends 2015*. (2015), pp. 1-31.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 169-181 (refugees).

8. Demilitarization (February 15, 17, 20)

- demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants
- security sector reform
- land mines and UXO

UN DDR, *What is DDR?* (2014), Introduction, Key Considerations, How Has DDR Evolved?, FAQ.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 71-82 (mines).

9. Governance, democratization and human rights (February 22, 24, March 6)

- political transitions and the role of the international community
- transitional justice: human rights, war crimes, truth commissions, and the ICC
- building good governance

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 35-44, 83-112, 147-158 (civil affairs, rule of law, human rights, electoral assistance).

UN DPKO and DFS, *Civil Affairs Handbook* (2012), Chapter 11.

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (2011), Chapters 3-4 (violence to resilience, restoring confidence)

Reading break (February 27 – March 3)

10. Simulation: Prebriefing (March 6)

11. Aid, fragility, and post-conflict development (March 8, 10, 13)

- overview/needs
- institution-building, public sector support
- role of IFIs, NGOs
- PCIA exercise

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapter 6.

OECD DAC, *Evaluating Peacebuilding Activities in Settings of Conflict and Fragility* (2012), Chapter 2.

OECD DAC, *International Support to Post-Conflict Transition* (2012), Executive Summary. International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding, *Snapshot: A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (2011).

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (2011), Chapter 5 (transforming institutions).

12. Gender and peacebuilding (March 15, 17)

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapter 5.

UNDP, *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations* (2001).

13. Open topics (March 20, 22, 24)

14. Simulation: The civil war in Brynania (March 27 – April 3)

- no classes
- simulation website at <http://www.brynania.net/>
- no class on April 5 (SIM recovery day)

15. Simulation: Debriefing (April 7)

16. Conclusion (April 10)