

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Winter Term 2017

POLI 650

Seminar in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen (3465 Peel)
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CLASS HOURS: MWF 12h35-13h25 (MCMED1034)—POLI 450 lectures
W 16h05-17h30 (3465 Peel)—POLI 650 seminar

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

WEBPAGE: <http://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/faculty/brynen/>
<http://www.brynanianet.net> (simulation)

Course Description

This course offers an examination of transitions from civil war to peace, and the role of both internal and external actors (international organizations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations) in shaping 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.

The seminar component of the course will focus on the theoretical and conceptual contributions of political science to analysis of these issues.

Prerequisites

The seminar is restricted to graduate and honours undergraduate students.

Course Readings

There is no course pack for the seminar. Some readings are available online, and the remainder are on reserve. If you wish to acquire some of the books on the reading list, you should order them through Amazon.ca as soon as possible.

Students must also attend POLI 450 lectures, and complete all POLI 450 readings.

Course Requirements and Grading

Seminar and myCourses participation	15%
Simulation participation	10%
Discussion paper 1 (c 1250 words)	15%
Discussion paper 2 (c 1250 words)	15%
Simulation debriefing (c 1250 words, due April 7)	10%
Research paper (6-7,000 words, due April 19 by email)	35%

Course participation: this is an essential part of the course. All members of the seminar are also expected to participate in online discussions on myCourses.

Simulation debriefing: This should identify the major lessons to be learned from the Brynania simulation exercise. It is due in class on April 7 (or by email prior to this).

Discussion papers: Students will prepare at least two discussion papers, addressing an important issue, dimension or debate included in the seminar topics below. This should NOT be a summary of the readings, but instead offer a critical assessment of the material or address interesting and significant ideas drawn from them. This will be distributed two days before class by myCourses, and presented during the seminar. The verbal presentation should be a maximum of 10 minutes long, followed by discussion.

Research paper: This should identify and examine a clear research question related to civil conflict, peacebuilding, and/or post-conflict reconstruction. All topics must be proposed (and approved) by email before 1 February.

Seminar topics

Students are also expected to do ALL reading on the POLI 450 course outline. Articles are available via the McGill library website and/or myCourses.

1. Introduction: research, learning, and building peace (January 4)

- Horst Rittel and Melvin Webber, "Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning," *Policy Sciences* 4 (1973).
- Stephen Walt, "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science* 8 (2005).

2. Civil war termination (January 11)

- James D. Fearon, "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41, 3 (2004).
- Stephen John Stedman, "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes," *International Security* 22, 2 (Fall 1997).
- James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Civil War Termination," manuscript, 12 September 2008, online at <https://web.stanford.edu/group/fearon-research/cgi-bin/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/civil-war-termination.pdf>
- Barbara Walter, "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization* 51, 3 (Summer 1997).

- William Zartman, "The Timing of Peace Initiatives: Hurting Stalemates and Ripe Moments," in John Darby and Roger MacGinty, eds., *Contemporary Peacemaking: Conflict, Peace Processes and Post-War Reconstruction* (New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

5. Peace, Norms, and Justice (January 18)

- Lynn Wagner and Daniel Druckman, "Drivers of Durable Peace: The Role of Justice in Negotiating Civil War Termination," *Group Decision and Negotiation* (2016).
- Scott Atran and Robert Axelrod, "Reframing Sacred Values," *Negotiation Journal*, 24, 3 (2008).
- Jeremy Ginges and Scott Atran, "What Motivates Participation in Violent Political Action: Selective Incentives or Parochial Altruism?" *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, 1167 (June 2009).
- Armin Falk, Ernst Fehr, and Urs Fischbacher, "Reasons for Conflict: Lessons from Bargaining Experiments," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 159 (2003).

3. Intervention and the "responsibility to protect" (January 25)

- International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect* (2001), at <http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf>
- Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities*, August 2009, at <http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/app/serve.php/1244.pdf>
- Justin Morris, "Libya and Syria: R2P and the spectre of the swinging pendulum," *International Affairs* (August 2013), at <http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/194034>
- Jason Ralph, "R2P at 10: Looking beyond military intervention," *OpenCanada.org*, 21 May 2015, online at <https://www.opencanada.org/features/r2p-at-10-looking-beyond-military-intervention/>
- Tom Esslemont, "As Syrian deaths mount, world's 'responsibility to protect' takes a hit: experts," *Reuters*, 24 October 2016, online at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-law-idUSKCN12O2S3>

4. Liberal peace and its critics (February 1)

- Susanna Campbell, David Chandler and Meera Sabaratnam, eds. *A Liberal Peace? The Problems and Practices of Peacebuilding* (London: Zed Books, 2012).
- Michael Barnett, Songying Fang, Christoph Zürcher, "Compromised Peacebuilding," *International Studies Quarterly* 58 (2014).

6. Security, conflict, and development (February 8)

- World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington DC: World Bank, 2011), also available online at http://wdronline.worldbank.org/includes/imp_images/book_pdf/WDR_2011.pdf

7. Unintended consequences and unanticipated effects (February 15)

- Séverine Autesserre, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Chiyuki Aoi, Cedric De Coning, and Ramesh Chandra Thakur, "Unintended consequences, complex peace operations and peacebuilding systems" and "Conclusion: Can unintended

consequences be prevented, contained and managed?" in *Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations* (Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 2007), chapters 1 and 13.

8. Rwanda (February 22)

Read one of the following books, and skim another:

- Michael Barnett, *Eyewitness to Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda* (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2002).
- Peter Uvin, *Aiding Violence: The Development Enterprise in Rwanda* (West Hartford CT: Kumarian Press, 1998).
- Romeo Dallaire, *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda* (Toronto: Random House, 2003).

reading break (February 27 - March 3)

9. Syria (March 8)

- TBA

10. Scholars and policymakers (March 15)

- Justin Logan "The gap can't be bridged unless those in power want it to be bridged," *The National Interest*, 28 December 2010, at <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/the-gap-can't-be-bridged-unless-those-power-want-it-be-bridg-4636>
- Paul Pillar, "The battle of the bridge," *The National Interest*, 28 December 2010, at <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/the-battle-the-bridge-4641>
- Michael Mosser, "Puzzles versus Problems: The Alleged Disconnect between Academics and Military Practitioners," *Perspectives on Politics* 8, 4 (2010), plus comments and replies by Albro, Bracken, Calhoun, Enloe, Krebs, Yingling, and Mosser (via McGill library/ProQuest)
- Also, reread articles by Rittel/Webber and Walt from the first week.

11. Ethical and practical issues in peacebuilding research (March 22)

- Chandra Lekha Sriram et al, *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations* (London: Routledge, 2009).
- *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (2014), online at <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/> —identify sections that seem relevant to peacebuilding research
- *McGill University, Research Ethics Board I application guidelines and Students Guide to Ethics Review*, both at <http://www.mcgill.ca/researchoffice/compliance/human/>
- American Anthropological Association, *AAA Commission on the Engagement of Anthropology with the US Security and Intelligence Communities*, Final Report, 4 November 2007, online at http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-aaa/files/production/public/FileDownloads/pdfs/pdf/FINAL_Report_Complete.pdf

12. Peacebuilding simulation (March 27 – April 3)

- no classes (but must be free for meetings, etc)
- simulation webpage at <http://www.brynanianet.net>
- simulation debriefing (due April 7)

13. Simulating conflict (April 5)

- Philip Sabin, *Simulating War: Studying Conflict Through Simulation Games* (London: Continuum, 2012), Part I.
- Rex Brynen, "Teaching about Peace Operations," *International Peacekeeping* 21, 4 (2014).
- Browse *PAXsims* (<http://paxsims.wordpress.com>)