

McGill University
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Winter Term 2022

POLI 650

Seminar in Peacebuilding

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen (he/him)
email: rex.brynen@mcgill.ca
office: LEA 510

CLASS HOURS: Tu 1435-1555 (LEA 541)

Students are expected to keep up with the recorded lectures and main reading materials for POLI 450 (Peacebuilding), in addition to those for POLI 650. You may also take part in simulations and other voluntary POLI 450 activities. To offset this, the length of the seminar is reduced.

OFFICE HOURS: **Office hours meetings** will take place via Zoom, generally on Thursdays and Fridays. Email me with your availability to schedule one of these. I am also usually available for short in-person meetings immediately after class.

IMPORTANT: If anything in the course is unclear, or if the COVID-19 pandemic or other issues are interfering with your studies, please reach out to let me know and I will do my best to make to make appropriate adjustments. Assistance is also available via the McGill Student Wellness Hub (<https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/>).

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Course Description

This course explores transitions from civil conflict to peace. Topics will include conflict prevention, dilemmas of humanitarian assistance, peace negotiations, coordination challenges, peacekeeping operations, refugees, the demobilization of ex-combatants, transitional elections, and the politics of social and economic 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 (or similar) as soon as possible.

Students should also listen to POLI 450 lectures and complete POLI 450 readings.

Course Requirements and Grading

POLI 450 Quiz 1 (January 27-28)	5%
POLI 450 Quiz 2 (February 23-24)	5%
POLI 450 Quiz 3 (March 31-April 1)	5%
Seminar participation	15%
Discussion paper 1 (c 1250 words)	15%
Discussion paper 2 (c 1250 words)	15%
Research paper (6-7,000 words, due April 15 by email)	40%

POLI 450 quizzes: Multiple-choice, open-book quizzes will take place via myCourses, covering all POLI 450 course material up to the start of each quiz. Each will be available for 2 days.

Seminar participation: this is an essential part of the course. Please come to class with interesting things to say about the readings and discussion papers!

Discussion papers: Students will prepare at two discussion papers, each 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 5-10 minutes long, to be 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 11)

- 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 18)

- Stephen John Stedman, "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes," *International Security* 22, 2 (Fall 1997).
- Barbara Walter, "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization* 51, 3 (Summer 1997).
- Håvard Hegre, "The Duration and Termination of Civil War," *Journal of Peace Research* 41, 3 (2004).
- James D. Fearon, "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41, 3 (2004).
- Paul Collier, Anke Hoefler and Måns Söderbom, "On the Duration of Civil War," *Journal of Peace Research* 41, 3 (2004).
- 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).

3. Peace, Norms, and Justice (January 25)

- Armin Falk, Ernst Fehr, and Urs Fischbacher, "Reasons for Conflict: Lessons from Bargaining Experiments," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 159 (2003).
- 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).
- Lynn Wagner and Daniel Druckman, "Justice Matters: Peace Negotiations, Stable Agreements, and Durable Peace," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63, 2 (2019).

4. Intervention and the "responsibility to protect" (February 1)

- International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect* (2001), at <http://www.globalr2p.org/resources/298>
- Report of the UN Secretary-General, *Responsibility to protect: Lessons learned for prevention* (June 2019), https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A_73_898_E.pdf
- Catherine Renshaw, "R2P: An idea whose time never comes," *The Interpreter*, 2 June 2021, at <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/r2p-idea-whose-time-never-comes>

5. Liberal peace and its critics (February 8)

- 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 15)

- World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington DC: World Bank, 2011), also available online at https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011_Full_Text.pdf
- Weeda Mehran, “Neopatrimonialism in Afghanistan: Former Warlords, New Democratic Bureaucrats?,” *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development* 13, 2 (2018),

7. Unintended consequences and unanticipated effects (February 22)

- 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.

reading break (February 28 – March 4)

8. Rwanda (March 8)

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).

9. Libya, Syria, Yemen (March 15)

- Readings TBA.

10. Open Topic I (March 22)

- Readings TBA.

10. Open Topic II (March 29)

- Readings TBA.

11. Scholars and policymakers (April 5)

- 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 Albrow, Bracken, Calhoun, Enloe, Krebs, Yingling, and Mosser (via McGill library/ProQuest)
- Also, reread articles by Rittel/Webber and Walt from the first week.

12. Ethical and practical issues in peacebuilding research (April 12)

- Chandra Lekha Sriram et al, *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations* (London: Routledge, 2009).
- Marco Nilsson, “Interviewing Jihadists: On the Importance of Drinking Tea and Other Methodological Considerations,” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 41, 6 (2018).
- Sigrun Marie Moss, Özden Melis Uluğ, and Yasemin Gülsüm Acar, “Doing Research in Conflict Contexts: Practical and Ethical Challenges for Researchers When Conducting Fieldwork,” *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* 25, 1 (2019).