POLI 650
Seminar in Peacebuilding

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen (3465 Peel)
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CLASS HOURS: MTR 16h35-17h25 (SADB 1/12)—POLI 450 lectures
R 10h05-11h25 (LEA 541)—POLI 650 seminar

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 15h30-16h00, Tuesdays 13h30-14h00, Thursdays 13h15-14h00
or by appointment (Leacock 510).

WEBPAGE: http://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/rex-j-brynen (political science)
http://www.brynania.net (course simulation)

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.ca as soon as possible.

Students must also attend (or listen to) 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 6) 10%
Research paper (6-7,000 words, due April 15 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 (POLI 450) class on April 6, 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 9)

2. **Civil war termination** (January 16)

3. Peace, Norms, and Justice (January 23)

4. Intervention and the “responsibility to protect” (January 30)
• Report of the UN Secretary-General, Responsibility to protect: Lessons learned for prevention (June 2019), http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/n1916893.pdf

5. Liberal peace and its critics (February 6)

6. Security, conflict, and development (February 13)

7. Unintended consequences and unanticipated effects (February 20)
8. **Rwanda** (February 27)

Read one of the following books, and skim another:


*reading break (March 2-6)*

9. **Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen** (March 12)

- Readings TBA.

10. **Scholars and policymakers** (March 19)

- 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
- Also, reread articles by Rittel/Webber and Walt from the first week.

11. **Peacebuilding simulation** (March 25 – April 1)

- no classes (but must be free for meetings, etc)
- simulation webpage at http://www.brynania.net
- SIM recovery day—no seminar (April 2)
- simulation debriefing (due April 8)

12. **Ethical and practical issues in peacebuilding research** (April 9)