

# **POLS 3930-20: Peace Studies**

Spring 2023

Mon-Wed-Fri: 11:00 am-11:50 pm (in-person)

Dr. Post Basnet

Office: McGannon #124

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Class: Xavier Hall #122

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to POLS 3930-20! We assume that most people in the world would prefer to live in peace and avoid conflict, repression, and war. However, the reality is that war, repression, and other forms of violence are all too common features of politics within and between states. It is difficult to find a day in which there is not a war of some sort going on somewhere in the world. This paradox defines the main purpose of this course: How can we end violent conflicts, build durable peace, and live in social harmony? In this course, we seek to understand the causes of armed conflict as well as the conditions and processes that contribute to the termination of armed conflict and then explore the ways to build durable peace within and between nations. This is a political science course, and we will mainly look at the existing literature on the conflict and peace processes in the fields of international relations and comparative politics. However, the field of peace studies is a cross-disciplinary field that draws on insights from a variety of disciplines, including political science, sociology, anthropology, and psychology.

- 4) Analyze and synthesize the various approaches that have been used to end conflicts, build durable peace, and determine which solutions work best under various conditions.

## **GRADING POLICY**

**Discussion Board Posts:** Students will participate in the discussion of the topics we cover in the class. I will post a question on Canvas and students are required to respond to the question. An acceptable post will respond specifically to the prompt, will be written in at least five full sentences, and will be respectful. In addition, you must respond to at least one post from one of your classmates. Your response must engage the class. The discussion board posts will constitute 20% of your final grade. There will be a 5% per day penalty for late work.

**Exams:** There will be two exams that will constitute 40% of your final grade. The exams will have a mixture of multiple-choice and open-ended questions which will measure your understanding of the topics covered in this course.

**Two short papers:** There will be two short papers based on the weekly readings before and one after the midterm. The two papers constitute 10% of your final grades.

**A policy paper:** Students will write a policy paper on a conflict of their choosing. You can choose any country from around the world. It should be 8-10 pages long and double spaced with a list of references. We will discuss the details in the first week of the class. Please pick a topic as early as possible and visit the instructor's office to discuss it in detail. You need to follow a proper citation format. The paper will constitute 20% of your final grade. There will be a 5% per day penalty for late work.

**Participation:** Students are expected to finish the course reading before the class period for which they are assigned and participate actively in class discussions. I expect you to contribute to classroom discussions through questions and comments. Your attendance and participation are vital for the success of this course. Attendance and classroom participation will constitute 10% of your final grade.

### **Your total grades:**

Two Exams: midterm-15%, final- 20%

Discussion: 20%

Short Papers: 10%

Policy Paper: 20%

Classroom Participation 5%

Your final grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-92	C+	77-82	D	67-72
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

### Citation Format

For the papers in this course, students will follow the American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style guidelines.

#### A. How to cite authors in the text:

8 V H D X W K R U ¶ V O D V W Q D P H D Q G G D W H R I W K H s S X E O L F D W necessary. Summarize what these authors say and cite them.

Kalyvas (2006) demonstrates that civil war violence has much less to do with collective emotions, ideologies, and cultures than currently believed. Instead of being an effective counterinsurgency strategy, state repression may solve the collective action problem for the rebels and fuel a nascent insurgency (Mason and Krane, 1989).

#### B. Format for Reference list:

##### 1. Book:

Waltz, Kenneth 2001. Man, the state, and war: A theoretical analysis. Columbia University Press.

##### 2. Article or Chapter in an Edited Book or Collection:

' L H K O 3 D X O ) 3 3 D W K V W R 3 H D F H E X L O G L Q J 7 K H 7 U In Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace, eds. T. David Mason and James Meernik, eds. London: Routledge

##### 3. Journal Article:

Kydd, A. H. and Barnara F.: D O W H U 3 7 K H 6 W U D I V E R N A T I O N A L R I 7 H U U Security 31 (Summer): 490.

##### 4. Newspaper article:

Talev, Margaret. 3 (\ H V R Q 6 X P D Q I 9 D F M L W 5 H S U H V V L R Q 1 H H Sacramento Bee July.

### Academic Integrity and Honesty:

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The PLV V L R Q R I 6 D L Q W / R X L V 8 Q L Y o n t h e g r e a t e r g l o r y o f G o d a n d f o r t h e X L W R I V H U Y L F H R I K X P D Q L W \ ' \$ F F R U G L Q J O \ D O O D F W V R I I D O V H H endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be found at [http://www.sluc.edu/ehdffhvvhg\\_rq\\_wkh\\_3uryrvw1v\\_2iilfh\\_zhevlwh\\_dw\\_kwv\\_andcourse/policy\\_academic\\_integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](#).

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

When a university-wide face mask requirement is in effect, the follow

<https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

### **University Writing Services:**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> or call the Student Success Center at 314 977-3484.

### **Basic Needs Security:**

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-937-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

**Textbook:** Mason, T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge.

Additional Readings Available on Canvas.

## **PART I: OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND CONFLICT PATTERNS**

### **1. Peace and Conflict in the Contemporary World**

January 17, 19

:H Z L O O E U L H I O \ W D O N D E R X W Z K D W <sup>3</sup> S H D F H ´ P H D Q V D Q G Z  
discuss the patterns of armed conflict in the world since World War II. Has the world changed a lot? We can clearly identify three big changes. First, civil wars have replaced interstate wars as the major form of conflict. Second, the locus of conflict has shifted from the major power system (Europe, North America, China, Japan) to the poor regions of the world (Asia, Africa, and Latin America). Third, the number of ongoing conflicts in the world went up from 1945 through 1994 and then declined steadily. What led to the change in the form, severity, and number of wars? The decline is largely a function of the international community brokering peace agreements to end wars around the world. The trend shows how systemic change affects the form and probability of war within and between nations.

Required Readings:

- \*DOWXQJ - DQG )LVFKHU ' 33 John Walton Springs, QHJDWLY  
Berlin, Heidelberg.
- \*OHGLWVFK 1LOV 3HWWHU (ULN 0HODQG Patterns of G +HQULN  
Armed Conflict Since 1945". In What Do We Know About Civil Wars eds. T. David Mason and  
Sara M. Mitchell. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield
- Kalyvas, Stathis N., aG /DLD %DOFHOOV 3, QWHUQDWLRQDO 6\VV  
5HEHOOLRQ +RZ WKH (QG RI WKH & The American Political S HG , QWHU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyfOrbO0xf4>

-Martin Luther King on Gandhi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3lfe3CTBnQ>

DiscussionBoard1

### 3. Just War Doctrine

January 30, February 1, 3

While pacifists contend that we should never resort to violence, others argue that there are circumstances in which the use of violence is justified in the international system. This section discusses the principles of just war doctrine as well as the extent to which this doctrine is supposed to apply in the case of the US/Iraq war in 2003. They contrast preventive war with preemptive war and its implications for just war doctrine. We also look at whether the US attack on Iraqi soil that killed an Iranian general in 2020 fits Just War criteria.

#### Required Reading

- & DOKRXQ /DXULH

Change27, 1 (January): 378.

- .HJOH\ -U & : 5D\PRQG \* \$ 3UH YHQWLYH ZDU DC  
RU GI International Studies Perspectives (4), 385-394

- 3\* URZLQJ GRXEWV RQ OHJDOLW\ RI 86 VWULNH WKDW NLOO

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/06/middleeast/soleimn-strike-legality-doubts-sus-iran-intl/index.html>

#### Multimedia:

3: KDW LV -XVW :DU "´

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcvX2qfdHkA>

#### Suggested Reading:

Lazar, S. 2017. Just war theory: revisionists vs traditionalists. *Annual Review of Political Science* 20.

## PART II: CONFLICT BETWEEN AND WITHIN STATES

### 4. Theories of Interstate War: Conflict Between Nations

February 6, 8 (February 10, Wellness Day, No Class)

We will explore the existing theories of interstate war. Theories help us make sense of the world around us. We will look at the occurrences of war through the level analysis framework that organizes the theories of interstate conflict mainly into three groups. These three levels are system level (characteristics of the system, e.g. bipolar, multipolar, unipolar world orders), state



level (characteristics of states, e.g. peace between democracies) and individual level (characteristics of leaders).

#### Required Reading

-Levy, J S and WR Thompson. 2001. Causes of war. John Wiley & Sons. (PP-22 only)

- Oneal, John R., Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum. 1985. International interdependence, and international organization. *International Studies Quarterly*, 47(3), 371-393.

-Kim, Woosang & K L. 2018. *International Area Studies Review* 18(3), 219-226.

-The Roots of the Ukraine War: How the Crisis Developed  
<https://www.nytimes.com/article/russia-ukraine-nato-europe.html>

#### Suggested Reading

Mack, Andrew, ed. 2013. Human Security Report 2013 (Chapter 1 in Part I)

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/HSRP\\_Report\\_2013\\_140226\\_Web.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/HSRP_Report_2013_140226_Web.pdf)

Reiter, D. (2017). Is Democracy a Cause of Peace? *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*

Discussion Board-

research, 41(3), 337-356.

-Mason, T. D. and Krane, D. A. (1989). The political economy of death squads: Toward a theory of the impact of state-sanctioned terrorism. *International Studies Quarterly*, 33(2), 175-198.

\*SHORT PAPER DUE, FEBRUARY 21\*

## **6. Terrorism and Ethnic/Religious Conflict**

February 20, 22, 24

Ethnic conflict has become common in those parts of the world governed by colonial powers in

## PART III: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE AFTER CONFLICT

### 7. How Wars End

February 27-March 1, 3

Civil war has become the dominant form of war after World War II and affected the countries in the global south. However, a promising trend in the post-war era has been the frequency with which civil wars have been settled through mediation and negotiated settlements. In this

VHFWRQ ZH ZLOO H[SORUH WKH FRQGLWLRQV WKDW PDNH  
third parties can take to resolve conflict :H ZLOO FRQWUDVW WKLV UHVHDFK  
D FKDQFH' WKHVLV

#### Required Readings:

- /XWWZDN (GZDUG 1 .<sup>3</sup> Foreign Affairs D & KDQFH

### Required Readings:

- Hartzell, Caroline. 2006. "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict." *International Security* 21(2), 41-75.
- Lake, D. A., & D. Rothchild. 1996. "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict." *International Security* 21(2), 41-75.
- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge
- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge

### Suggested Reading:

- Joshi, M. 2010. "Postwar Democratization: Promotion of Democracy in Postwar States, 1946-2005." *Democratization* 17(5), 826-855.

### Discussion Board

## 10. Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

March 27, 29, 31

Ending civil wars is an important step in resolving the conflict. We may also need successful peacebuilding efforts to resolve the issues. In this section, we will explore the steps that the international community can take to build a sustainable peace in the aftermath of war.

### Required Readings:

- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge
- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge
- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge
- Mason, eds. T. David and James Meernik, eds. 2006. *Postwar Societies: Sustaining the Peace*. London: Routledge

### Suggested Reading:

- Prorok, A. K. 2017. "The (in) compatibility of peace and justice? The International Criminal Court and civil conflict termination." *International Organization* 71(2), 213-243.

## 11. State Repression and Human Rights

April 3, 5 (April 7, Easter Break)

We will explore some human rights issues in this section. Enforcing basic human rights may address some of the underlying causes of conflict, ensure a sense of security to the people

of state persecution and help people live in peace. Respect for human rights is important for both conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

Required Readings:

- Donnelly, Jack. 1993. *International Human Rights*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press (Ch. 1)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- DeMeritt, J. H. 2012. "International organizations and government killing: does naming and shaming save lives?" *International Interactions*, 38(5), 597-621.
- "3 R Z H U 6 D P D Q W K D 3 % \ V W D Q G H U V W R \* H Q R F d a G H : K \ 7 U D J H G \ + The Atlantic Monthly 288(2): 84-116.

Suggested Readings:

- Sikkink, Kathryn, and Ellen Lutz. 2017. "3 7 K H M X V W L F H F D V F D G H W K H H Y R O X V K X P D Q U L J K W V W U L D r o m a t i c a l / L a w a n d S o c i e t y R o u t e L e D e, 2017. 319

## PART IV: CHALLENGES TO PEACE

### 13. New Challenges to Democracy

April 17, 19, 21

In this section, we will examine some of the new challenges to democracy and peace in the contemporary world. The world keeps changing and we need to adapt to these changes or tackle them. Some of the challenges include disruptions caused by globalization, technological advances and economic changes.

#### Required Readings:

- Galston, W. A. 2018. "The populist challenge to liberal democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 29(2), 519.
- Fukuyama, F. 2020. "30 Years of World Politics: What Has Changed?" *Journal of Democracy* 31(1), 11-21.
- Putnam, Robert. 2007. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-First Century." *Scandinavian Political Studies* 30.2.

#### Multimedia:

Protestors storm Brazilian capital

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmMXbRet1r4>

Far right online: the rise of extremist gamers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsUyhbnaQNQ>

#### Suggested Reading

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<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-1-24/fukuyama-how-save-democracy-technology>

-Bermeo, N. (2016). "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27(1), 5-19.

Discussion Board

\*SHORT PAPER 2 DUE, APRIL 23\*

### 14. Nonviolent Social Movement: Can Citizens Avoid Conflict?

April 24, 26, 28

In this section, we will examine the role of grassroots social movements in constraining national leaders from being engaged in violence. We will explore the conditions that favor the success of non-violent movements in sociopolitical transformation. We will also study some political movements including the "color" revolutions of Eastern Europe and the Arab Spring.

### Required Readings:

- & KHQRZHWK (ULFD DQG ODULD - 6WHSKDQ 3'URS <R> 5HVLVWDQFHeigh Affairs vol. 93, no. 4, pp. 94-106
- \* ROGVWRQH - DFN&SDVV &RDLWLRQV DQG WKH ODNLQJ RI Swiss Political Science Review 7(4):457-462.
- Bunce, Valerie, and Sharon L. Wolchik. 2006. "Favorable conditions and electoral revolutions." Journal of democracy 17 (4): 5-18

### Multimedia

The success of nonviolent civil resistance: Erica Chenoweth at TEDxBoulder  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w>

## 15. Student Presentations

May 1,3,5

Presentation 1 May 1

Presentation 2 May 3

Presentation 3 May 5

\* POLICY PAPER DUE, MAY 7

## 16. Exam#2 & Review

Exam Review: May 8

\*FINAL EXAM ON MAY 15, 8-9:50\*