PSCI 491/685 – Post-Conflict Reconstruction and State-Building

Department of Political Science
Fall 2009
HH 345 / Tues 9:30am -12:20 pm

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Office Hours: Tues. 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Course Description & Objectives:

Rebuilding states in the aftermath of conflict and state failure represents one of the foremost challenges facing the international community. The post-Cold War era has shown that weak states – where the rule of law is absent and centralized authority limited or fractured – represent as great a threat to international security and stability as strong ones. Transnational criminal syndicates, terrorist organizations and guerilla groups find sanctuary in such environments, which also offer ideal conditions for poverty, human rights abuses, and population displacement to flourish. This course will explore contemporary strategies and approaches employed by international actors to build peace and rebuild weak and shattered states. This transition from war to peace and state failure to stability can be conceptualized as encompassing three separate but interrelated transitions, in the economic, political and security spheres. The course will deconstruct and analyze this “triple transition”, examining both its theoretical roots and practical application with reference to a number of recent case studies.

Course Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sign-p Sheet in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Class Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Group Written Report</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Nov 24th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov 24h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Dec 1st</td>
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Written Assignment Late Penalty: - 5% per day

Oral Presentations

Each student is required to make one presentations during the duration of the course. The
presentations will consist of a review of one of the assigned readings. Each presentation should be approximately 15-20 minutes in length. The presentation should not merely summarize the main points presented in the reading, but analyze and critique them. Some of the questions you should ask are: What position does the author(s) take? Is the argument sound and does it present appropriate evidence to support it? Does it overlook or miss anything? How does it contribute to our understanding of the broader themes being examined? Each presentation should both inform and stimulate discussion. You should assume the class have done the readings. Please prepare a one-page hand-out, summarizing your presentation’s main points, for distribution in class. The sign-up sheet will be available in class (please do not email me your requests).

Classroom Participation

This grade is based on attendance and participation in the classroom discussion. 

Note: participation grades cannot be made-up due to missed classes, regardless of the reason (illness, interviews, etc…). You will be rewarded for both physical attendance and the quality of your input into class discussions.

Group Report

The class will be divided into three groups (size of groups will depend on class size), each of which will be assigned a case study country. The groups will be responsible to write a Conflict Assessment of their assigned country. The assessment should not exceed 7,500 words in length. Each student will be responsible for an individual section of 1,000-1,500 words. Each section will cover one facet of the post-conflict reconstruction process in the case study country. An introduction and conclusion for the report must be jointly crafted. The groups will be responsible for presenting their reports in week 10. The presentations should not exceed 40 minutes in length and must involve all of the group members. All groups will be required to meet with the professor in week 8 to provide an informal status report for the project.

Research Proposal and Paper

Your research proposal should be one page in length (single spaced) and will be due at the beginning of class on October 21st. Outline in your proposal what topic you plan to address, what your main thesis will be and the main arguments you plan to employ. Please also list at least two sources outside the class readings that you will draw upon in your research.

Your research paper should be no longer than 5,000 words and must utilize research material outside the course reading list. You will be graded on the quality of your research, arguments, essay structure, and writing style. Please conform to the course style sheet, which will be distributed to the class. This assignment will be due at the beginning of the last class on November 25th. Papers received after class will be considered one day late. Please do not email me your assignment. A hardcopy must be received. Note that no extensions will be granted, so please do not ask. Computer failure or other technical difficulties will not count as a valid excuse. Note that no assignment will be accepted one week after the due date and a mark of zero will be assigned.
Course Text:


Course Outline:

Note:
- Each class will consist of two 80-minute parts, divided by a 10-minute break.
- Readings marked with an asterisk are required. All other readings are optional.
- All journal articles listed here can be accessed on the University of Waterloo Library journal database. Access Online at: [http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/](http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/)

Week 1 (Sept 15th): Introduction

Week 2 (September 22nd): Understanding Civil War and State-Failure

Pt 1: The Causes and Consequences of Civil Conflict


*Paul Collier. 2007. “Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy,” in *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 197-218

Pt 2: The Phenomenon of State Failure


Week 3 (Sept 29th): Military Intervention & Peacekeeping

Pt 1: International Military Intervention


Pt 2: Peacekeeping


Week 4 (Oct 6th): The Political Transition (Part 1): Diplomacy and Democratization

Pt. 1: Post-Conflict Diplomacy: Mediation and Negotiation


Pt 2: Democratization


Week 5 (Oct 13th): The Political Transition (Part 2): Institutionalization & Governance
Pt. 1: Institution-Building


Pt. 2: Fostering Good Governance


Week 6 (Oct 20th): The Security Transition

Pt. 1: Security Sector Reform and the Rule of Law


Pt. 2: Demilitarization


Robert Muggah and Keith Krause. 2009. “Closing the Gap Between Peace Operations and Post-

**Week 7 (Oct 27th): The Economic Transition**

Pt. 1: Development Assistance


Pt. 2: Reconstructing the Economy


**Week 8 (Nov 3rd): Human Rights, Transitional Justice & Case Study**

Pt. 1: Human Rights & Transitional Justice


Pt. 2: Afghanistan


Week 9 (Nov 10th): Case Studies

Pt 1. Haiti


Pt. 2 South Sudan


Week 10 (Nov 17th): VIDEO & Discussion (to be announced in class)

Week 11 (Nov 24th): Group Presentations

Week 12 (Dec 1st): Challenges & Conclusions


Pt. 2: State-Building & Peace-Building: Final Reflections


NOTICE ON AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENCES

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm)

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm)

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.