

## IR 310—Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

Dr. Douglas Becker

VKC 42A

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Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

This course serves as the introduction to the broad and diverse field of peace and conflict studies. Peace and Conflict Studies is a minor within the School of International Relations. While this is an international relations course, the field of peace and conflict studies is interdisciplinary. Therefore, we will examine three interrelated questions:

- 1) what causes war?
- 2) how has the nature of war, from the causes to the ways it is fought, changed in recent history?
- 3) What can peace-minded individuals and groups do to lessen the outbreak of war and/or ameliorate its consequences?

In addressing these broad sweeping questions, we will explore the philosophical nature of war and ask how war defines nations and people. We then will answer one of the key questions within the study of insurgency: whether war is driven by leaders who simply represent the grievances of people or whether they are driven by greed. As a corollary to that question, we will examine the nature of funding terrorist insurgencies, including al Qaeda. After the mid-term, we turn our attention to the other necessary war resource—the soldiers who fight the wars. We examine the impact of children on the battlefield and how they change the nature of war. Next we will examine the role that media has played, particularly in underdeveloped political system such as those in Central Africa. Finally, after examining the causes of war, we end on the hopeful note of peacemaking, with a particular eye to the role that religious leaders have played at promoting peace..

The grades for this course are as follows:

Research paper	35%
mid-term	25%
final	30%
class participation	10%

The research paper is a piece of empirical research on a topic that we mutually agree upon. This means that you should plan to come in and see me during office hours to discuss your topic. The mid-term and final are in-class, with both an objective portion and an essay which should engage your critical thinking. Class participation is required, which includes attendance of the class, demonstration of prior completion of the reading, and thoughtful response to questions posed. **The penalty for late work is 5 points a day.** The only excuses accepted are University sanctioned excuses and must be documented. Also, this course will follow all of the guidelines for reasonable accommodations laid out in the University Handbook.

The books for this class are as follows:

- Ballentine, Karen and Jake Sherman, Editors. The Political Economy of Armed Conflict. Lynne Reinner, 2003, ISBN: 1588261727.
- Biersteker, Thomas and Sue E. Eckert. Countering the Financing of Terrorism. London: Routledge Books, 2008, ISBN: 0415396433
- Frere, Marie-Soliel. The Media and Conflicts in Central Africa. Boulder: Lynne Reinner, 2007, ISBN: 9781588264657
- Hedges, Chris. War is a Force that Gives us Meaning. Anchor Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 1400034639
- Little, David. Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007, ISBN: 9780521618946
- Singer, P.W. Children at War. Pantheon: 2005. ISBN: 0375423494

- August            25:    Introductions, Hand out Syllabi
- 27:    Why is War so Popular in Modern Society?  
                         Hedges, Chapter 1, pgs 1-42
- 29:    Nationalism in Warfare  
                         Hedges, Chapter 2, pgs 43-61
- September       1:    Labor Day, no class
- 3:    The Destruction of Culture in War  
                         Hedges, Chapter 3, 62-82
- 5:    The Seduction of the Battlefield  
                         Hedges, Chapter 5, pgs 83-121
- 8:    Historical Memory  
                         Hedges, Chapter 5, pgs 122-141
- 10:   The Causes of War, a first look  
                         Hedges, Chapters 6-7, pgs 142-185
- 12:   Economics and War  
                         Ballentine and Sherman, chapters 1-2, pgs 1-45
- 15:   Natural Resources, Lootability, and War—A Model  
                         Ballentine and Sherman, Chapter 3, pgs 47-70
- 17:   Colombia and the Coca Trade  
                         Ballentine and Sherman, Chapter 4, pgs 73-106
- 19:   Nepal and Papua New Guinea: Beyond Mere Economic Want  
                         Ballentine and Sherman, Chapters 5-6, pgs 107-166

- 22: Kosovo and the Political Economy of Reconstruction  
Ballentine and Sherman, Chapter 7, pgs 167-195
  - 24: Diasporas Funding Conflict  
Ballentine and Sherman, Chapter 8, pgs 197-223  
Biersteker, chapter 5, pgs 93-125
  - 26: Documentary on Conflict Diamonds  
Biersteker, chapter 9, pgs 193-206
  - 29: Burma and the Political Economy of a Cease Fire  
Ballentine and Sherman, Chapter 9-10, pgs 225-283
- October
- 1: The financing of terrorism  
Biersteker, chapters 1, 3, pgs 1-16; 47-62
  - 3: Organizational dynamics of terrorism  
Biersteker, chapters 2, 4, pgs 19-46; 63-89
  - 6: Terrorism's link to organized crime  
Biersteker, chapter 6, pgs 126-149
  - 8: Legal and quasi-legal trade and terrorism  
Biersteker, Chapter 7-8, pgs 150-192
  - 10: US and international efforts to curb terrorist funding  
Biersteker, Chapter 10-11, pgs 211-259
  - 13: Lessons learned and prospects to stopping terrorism's money  
Biersteker, Chapter 12 and conclusion, pgs 260-304
  - 15: Review for mid-term
  - 17: **Mid-Term**
  - 20: The Rise of Children in warfare  
Singer, Chapters 1-2, pgs 3-34
  - 22: How Children are Recruited into war  
Singer, Chapters 3-5, pgs 37-93
  - 24: What Children on the Battlefield means for War?  
Singer Chapters 6, pgs 94-115
  - 27: Children as Terrorists  
Singer, Chapter 7, pgs 116-131

- 29: Preventing Child Soldiers  
Singer, Chapters 8-9, pgs 135-182
- 31: What to Do After the Conflict?  
Singer, Chapters 10-11, pgs 183-211
- November 3: The role of the media in the DRC  
Frere, chapter 1; 3, pgs 1-7; 41-77
- 5: Great Lakes conflict—Rwanda and Burundi  
Frere, Chapters 2; 4, pgs 9-40; 79-117
- 7: Congo (Brazzaville) and the Central African Republic  
Frere, Chapters 5-6, pgs 119-154
- 10: Chad and Cameroon  
Frere, Chapters 7-8, pgs 155-189
- 12: Gabon and Equatorial Guinea  
Frere, Chapters 9-10, pgs 191-220
- 14: Conclusions about African conflict and media coverage  
Frere, Chapters 11-12, pgs 221-251
- 17: The role of religion in conflict and peace  
Little, chapter 1, pgs 2-24
- 19: religion and peace in Central America  
Little, chapter 2, pgs 25-52
- 21: Western nations' conflict and the role of religion:  
Northern Ireland and South Africa  
Little Chapters 3; 8, pgs 53-96; 215-246  
**Papers due**
- 24: Peacemaking in the former Yugoslavia  
Little Chapters 4-5, pgs 97-150
- 26: Peacemaking in East Africa  
Little Chapters 6-7, pgs 151-214
- 28: Thanksgiving, no class
- December 1: Peacemaking in West Africa  
Little Chapters 9-10, pgs 247-301

3: Middle East peacemaking  
Little, Chapters 11-12, pgs 302-401

5: Southeast Asia  
Little, Chapters 13-14, pgs 402-448

Final Exam Wednesday, December 19, 11:00-1:00 pm