

# Foundations of Peace: Economic and Political Perspectives

PEACE-AD 102-001  
NYUAD, Spring 2017

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## **Course description:**

This course surveys the social science literature on the determinants of peace, violence, internal and international armed conflict, and different forms of political violence. The class will focus on major economic and political themes such as the determinants of peaceful cooperation; the institutional and economic causes of armed conflict; the determinants of ethnic conflict; the political economy of civil war; the factors affecting the duration and termination of civil wars; the phenomenon of other different forms of political violence—including protests, military coups, and terrorism; and the role of international organizations. In addition, topics related to the politics of peacebuilding are studied. The course is highly interdisciplinary and will cover a variety of cases from a comparative perspective.

**Note:** This course is one of the requirements in the Peace Studies program. It is also cross-listed with Economics (breadth elective) and with Political Science (Theory & Institutions).

**Credits:** 4.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Analyze different concepts of civil conflict and their measurement

Familiarize students with different approaches to the study of war, the maintenance of peace, and conflict

Examine and question mainstream theories of armed conflict and the organization of rebellion

Analyze the role of institutions and economic factors during wars

Learn about the latest debates and controversies in the literature

Think critically about interventions and policies designed to promote peace

Use the tools and theories presented in the course to have a deep understanding of the causes of conflict (or its absence) in a specific country

Design, develop, and write an original public entry related to the theories and topics advanced in class

## **Teaching and Learning Methodologies:**

Teaching is based on the following components:

*Lectures and discussions:* Each week will contain a presentation of stylized facts and the main theoretical concepts and a discussion. Students should be prepared to answer questions and explain the main concepts of the assigned readings. Class sessions are accompanied by visual aids (e.g., maps, scatterplots) and slides.

*Presentations and discussions with guest speakers:* We will also have a number of “Peace Fellows” visiting the class. These fellows are practitioners who will provide students a firsthand experience on mediation and peacebuilding work around the world.

*Wikipedia-based assignment:* using the tools, theories, and evidence studied in class, students will create a new Wikipedia article or improve an existing one.

**Time and location:** MoWe 1:15pm-2:30pm, Campus Center (C2) W007.

**Office hours:** Monday 3:00-5:00pm.

**Academic Fellow:** Daniel Bela Gellai <bdg247@nyu.edu>

Email: bdg247@nyu.edu

Office hours: TBD

**Prerequisite:** none.

**Class Participation:** Attendance is mandatory and class participation will count in the final class score (see below the distribution of points). Students are expected to have completed all the required readings for each day **before** the class meeting. Participation is strongly encourage although the participation grade will be based on the quality and not necessarily on the quantity of your contributions.

There are approximately 50-80 pages of reading each week so please plan ahead accordingly. Some of the readings will be descriptive based on a single case but others will be technical and challenging (specially for students who are not familiar with basic concepts of game theory and econometrics). Hence, for the more advanced material students should try to gain a basic understanding of the main argument and evidence presented rather than focusing on the technical details. All concepts and results will be simplified and explained during class.

**Assignments:** three short writing assignments (“memos”) and one long Wikipedia-based case entry.

**Memos:** These are short essays (no more than two single-spaced pages) containing a short comment and a critique of the readings of that particular week. Each memo could contain a very short summary of the readings but a critical evaluation of the main idea/evidence advanced by the different authors should be the focus. Since you only have two pages, the summary section should be concise (one paragraph maximum). The main focus of memo should be the original evaluation of the argument(s) and evidence presented in the assigned readings.

Memos must be posted on the class page in a public folder the night before the class meets (i.e., Sunday or Tuesday night). The main purpose of these essays is to get students to think critically about the readings and to generate a discussion during class. These memos also provide a great opportunity to practice critical and concise writing.

Memos will be given a grade from 1 to 5: 5 =outstanding, 4=interesting, original and well written, 3=well written but not original, 2=needs improvement in the writing and analysis, and 1=poor. Missing memos will receive a score of zero. Late memos will be accepted.

**Wikipedia assignment:** An important component of the class is the development of a new Wikipedia article. The motivation behind this assignment is for each student to create a public good in the field of conflict and peace studies and to improve this way the public understanding of a particular topic or case. This contribution should be based on rigorous social scientific knowledge. At the end of the semester, each student will develop fully a new Wikipedia article or have significantly improved an existing entry.

Entries should be developed independently with the advise of the instructor and the help of the academic fellow. Plus, we will have help from the Wiki Education Foundation (Wiki Ed), a non-profit that aims to promote the integration of Wikipedia into coursework and to improve education while also improving the quality, quantity, and diversity of knowledge of Wikipedia.

*Note:* Students with little training and experience in essay writing are strongly encouraged to visit the Writing Center. You can schedule an appointment by going to <https://nyuad.mywconline.com>. The GAFs there can help you to structure and improve the presentation of your assignments.

**Components of the final grade:** the final grade is based on the writing assignments and class participation. The weight of each component in the final grade is the following:

- Memos: 24% (8% each)
- Wikipedia entry and related work: 50%
- Class participation: 26%

**Class Policies:**

- – Cell phones, texting, and internet browsing are not allowed during class.
- Lateness will be noted and can reduce your participation grade, please be on time for class!
- Late memos and case studies will not be accepted.
- Students are always expected to comply with the highest standard of academic integrity. Please reference to the NYUAD Academic Integrity Policy: <https://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/academics/academic-policies/the-nyuad-communitys-commitment-to-integrity>

## Course outline and contents

Note: All readings with an (\*) can be found through the University library online journals or by a simple Google search. Readings with a (^) are mostly book chapters or unpublished manuscripts not easily available online, they will be available on the NYU class server (<http://newclasses.nyu.edu/>). Reading under "further" or "background" are not obligatory.

### • Week 1. Introduction

- HSR 2009/2010. 2011. *The Causes of Peace and the Shrinking Costs of War*. Oxford University Press. NY. Part I (^).
- Vasquez, John. 2009. *The War Puzzle Revisited*. Cambridge. Chapter 1 (^).

*Further reading:*

- Pinker, Steven. *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. Penguin.

### • Week 2. Why War? (War from incomplete information)

- Frieden, J., Lake, and Schultz. 2013. *World Politics*, Norton. Chapter 3 (^)
- Ricks, Thomas. 2007. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2003 to 2005*. Penguin. Part I (^).

*Further reading and media sources:*

- Antoon, Sinan. 2014. *The Corpse Washer* (The Margellos World Republic of Letters). Yale UP.
- Chandrasekaran, Rajiv. 2007. *Imperial Life in The Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone*. Vintage Books.
- *No End in Sight*. Dir. Charles H. Ferguson. 2007. Movie.
- *Iraq After the Occupation*. Fault Lines Al Jazeera. Movie.

### • Week 3. Why War? II (commitment problems and indivisibilities)

- Said Aly, Feldman and Shikaki. 2013. *Arabs and Israelis: From Conflict to Peacemaking*. Palgrave MacMillan. Chapters 1 and 2 (^).
- Ron E. Hassner. 2003. "To Halve and to Hold: Conflicts over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility," *Security Studies*, 12:4, 1-33 (\*)
- Lior Lehrs. 2016. "Jerusalem on the Negotiating Table: Analyzing the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks on Jerusalem, 1993-2015," *Israel Studies*, 21:3 (\*)

*Further reading and media sources:*

- Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization*, 60: 169-203
- Michael Dumper. 2014. *Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City*, Columbia University Press.

- **Week 4. The Politics of War**

- Frieden, J., Lake, and Schultz. 2013. *World Politics*, Norton. Chapter 4 (^)
- Berger D., W., Easterly, N., Nunn, and S., Satyanath. 2013. “Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade During the Cold War,” *American Economic Review*, 103 (2): 863-896.

*Further reading and media sources:*

- *The Falklands War: The Untold Story*. 1987. Peter Kosminsky. Documentary.

- **Week 5. The Nature of Domestic Politics**

- Tilly, Charles. 2003. *The Politics of Collective Violence*. Chapters 1, 2. Cambridge UP. (^)
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review*, 87(3): 567-576. (\*)

*Further reading:*

- – Ostrom, Elinor. 2000. "Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14.3: 137-158. (\*)
- Menkhaus, Kenneth. 2007. "Governance without Government in Somalia: Spoliers, State Building, and the Politics of Coping," *International Security*, 31, 3:74-106 (\*).
- de la Sierra, Raúl Sánchez. 2015. "On the Origin of States: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo." Working paper Hass School Berkeley (\* <https://raulsanchezdelasierra.com/papers>)

- **Week 6. Civil Wars (Concepts and Macro Studies)**

- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. “What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48,6: 814-858. (\*)
- Edward, Miguel, Shanker Satyanath and Ernest Sergenti. 2004. “Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 112, 4:725-753. (\*)
- Quian, Nancy, and Nathan Nunn. 2014. "U.S. Food Aid and Civil Conflict," *American Economic Review*, 104, 6 (\*)

- **Week 7. Civil Wars II (Causes, participation, and outcomes)**

- Gurr, Ted. 1971. *Why Man Rebel*. Chapters 1 and 2
- Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2008. “Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(2): 436-455. (\*)
- Lyall, Jason, and Isaih Wilson. 2009. "Rage against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars," *International Organization*, 63, 1:67-106. (\*)

*Further reading and media sources:*

- *The Empire in Africa*. 2006. Dir. Philippe Diaz, Movie.

- **Week 8. The International System and War**

- Frieden, J., Lake, and Schultz. 2013. *World Politics*, Norton. Chapter 5 (^).
- Kalyvas S., and L. Balcells. 2010. “International system and technologies of rebellion: How the end of the cold war shaped internal conflict,” *American Political Science Review* 104 (03), 415-429.

- Fanon, Frantz. 2005. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press. Chapters 1 and 2

*Further reading and media sources:*

- *The Battle of Algiers (La battaglia di Algeri)*. 1966. Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo. Movie.
- *Another Day of Life*. 2017. Dir. Raúl de la Fuente, Damian Nenow. Movie.

#### • Week 9. Terrorism

- Kydd, Andrew and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism," *International Security*, 31, 1: 49-79. (\*)
- Jeff Victoroff. 2005. "The Mind of A Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approach," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49 (1): 3-42. (\*)
- Abrahms, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategies," *International Security*, 32 (4): 78-105. (\*)

*Further reading and media sources:*

- Bruce Hoffman. *Inside Terrorism*. Columbia University Press.
- Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan. 2015. *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*. Regan Arts
- *Losing Iraq* (2014) and *Syria's Second Front* (2014). PBS Frontline Series.

#### • Week 10. Policies and Prevention (COIN and Counterterrorism)

- Krepinech, Andrew. 1986. *The Army and Vietnam*. JHU Press. Chapters TBD. (^)
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2005. "Conciliation, Counterterrorism, and Patterns of Terrorist Violence," *International Organization*, 59, 145-176. (\*)

*Further reading:*

- Crost, Benjamin, Joseph Felter, and Patrick Johnston. 2014. "Aid under fire: Development projects and civil conflict." *American Economic Review*, 104, no. 6: 1833-1856.
- Efraim Benmelech, Claude Berrebi and Esteban F. Klor. 2015. "Counter-Suicide-Terrorism: Evidence from House Demolitions," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 77, No. 1: 27-43 (\*)

#### • Week 11. The Politics of Peace Agreements

- Walter, Barbara. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization*, 51, 3: 335-364. (\*)
- Virginia Page Fortna. 2003. "Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace," *International Organization*, 57 (2): 337-372. (\*)
- Birbaum, Ben., and Amir Tibon. 2014. "The Explosive, Inside Story of How John Kerry Built an Israel-Palestine Peace Plan—and Watched It Crumble" *New Republic* (<https://newrepublic.com/article/118751/ho-israel-palestine-peace-deal-died>).

*Further reading and media sources:*

- *Netanyahu at War*. 2015. PBS Frontline Series.

#### • Week 12. Demobilization and Reintegration

- Joanna Spear. 2002. "Disarmament and Demobilization." In John Stedman, Donald Rothchild, and Elizabeth Cousens (eds). *Ending Civil Wars: The Implementation of Peace Agreements*, Lynne Rienner. (^)

- Jonathan Morgenstein. 2008. "Consolidating disarmament: Lessons from Colombia's reintegration program for demobilized paramilitaries." USIP Special Report. (^)

- **Week 13. Criminality and other non-state threats**

- Glenny, Misha. 2009. *McMafia: A Journey Through the Global Criminal Underworld*. Vintage Books. Chapters TBD.
- Gambetta, Diego. 1996. *The Sicilian Mafia: the business of private protection*. Harvard University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1

- **Week 14. Presentation of articles and final review.**