

POLI 140C: International Crisis Diplomacy

University of California, San Diego
Department of Political Science

Summer Session 1, 2014
MW 11am-1:50pm
Center 217A

This course serves as an introduction to the international politics of resolving crises. The focus is on the crises that have emerged since the end of the Cold War--particularly in the areas of civil war, state failure, and self-determination. This course introduces students to the core debates in this field of study as well as to cutting edge research. The course begins with competing theories of why states intervene in international crises and what are the conditions for success in different types of intervention, such as peacekeeping. Then, we will consider current issues facing the UN and how they may be addressed via a simulation of the UN Security Council. By the end of the course, students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various peacebuilding strategies in light of evidence from social science and apply their insights in a policy memo.

Contact Information

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Office Hour: Tuesday 12-1 and by appt

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will:

1. Have a deeper understanding of what leads to UN intervention and the prerequisites of peacekeeping effectiveness.
2. Be exposed to a set of cases of domestic instability in which the UN has intervened, as well as some in which it *may* intervene.
3. Gain a better understanding of how the UN works and how decisions to intervene are made via a simulation of the Security Council.
4. Apply the theoretical and empirical lessons from class in a Foreign Policy Memo, writing as their assigned state.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined by an **equally weighted average** of the following:

Midterm Exam (in class, July 9)

Participation in UN Security Council Simulation

Final Paper (due Friday, August 1st)

Readings

The reading load for this course is not onerous, but close, careful reading of the

assigned articles is essential for meeting the learning objectives of the course. To be clear, you will not learn as much as you should or be able to earn an outstanding grade without doing the readings. Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned so that you can understand lecture and participate in discussion.

There is no textbook for this course. Assigned readings will be available online on TED. You need to be at UCSD or using a computer with a UCSD Proxy to access the readings.

Note: Some of the assigned readings use game theory and some pieces include statistical analyses. Students are *not* required to understand any mathematical sections in detail, but must closely examine the qualitative descriptions of the mathematical results in order to form a general appreciation of the logic of the arguments. For advice on getting the most out of readings, consult Leanne Powner's article "Reading and Understanding Political Science." Available online at:

<http://jayandleanne.com/lpowner/tchdocs/readingsps.pdf>

Class Format

This course is divided into two parts. The first half is focused on having the students gain an understanding of how the UN works, where they have intervened and whether those interventions were effective/successful. Class will be divided into lecture and discussion. During discussion, students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the readings, make arguments about debates raised, and discuss the policy implications of the day's topic, including its implications for current events. During discussions we will also occasionally spend some time reviewing for exams and discussing research strategies for the final paper.

The second half of the class will feature a simulation of the UN Security Council. Each week we will focus on a different international issue facing the UN.

Assignment Overview:

Midterm

The midterm, administered on July 9th, will be an hour-long multiple choice examination. The goal with this exam is simply to check whether you have understood the lectures and readings. ***A simple note, multiple choice does not mean 'easy.'***

Security Council Simulation

We will spend three class meetings doing a simulation of the U.N. Security Council. Students (some in teams of two) will represent a nation on the Security Council. Assignments will be made according to student preferences, but the order of assignment will be based on how well the student performed on the midterm.

During the simulation weeks, Monday's class will feature a lecture and a film to give background to the case, as well as time for students to meet and discuss potential policies and strategies. Members of the Council will be encouraged to propose

resolutions, which must be sent to the instructor by 5pm on Tuesday. During Wednesday's class, we will meet as the UN Security Council to discuss and debate resolutions on the issue. All students should come to class on Wednesdays with a one-page write-up of their state's position on the issue at hand, which may be used as 'talking points' during discussion and will be handed in at the end of class. These 'talking points' will also help prepare you for the final paper.

Final Policy Memo

Your final project will be an 8-10 page memo regarding one of the cases covered in class. While you will work in pairs during the simulation, you will write the final paper individually. This paper will require the synthesis of class materials and outside research.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1

Monday, June 30: Course syllabus and expectations. Three Cases of UN Intervention in the 1990's--Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia

To Read: 1) Course Syllabus

2) Dobbins, James, 2004-5. "The UN's Role in Nation-Building: From the Belgian Congo to Iraq." *Survival* 46:81-102.

3) "Reading and Understanding Political Science." Available online at: <http://jayandleanne.com/lpowner/tchdocs/readingps.pdf>

Wednesday, July 2: The Role of the UN and the Choice to Intervene

To Read: 1) *Charter of the United Nations*. Chapters VI and VII. Available online at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

2) Gilligan, Michael and Stephen Stedman, 2003. "Where do the Peacekeepers Go?" *International Studies Review* 5(4): 37-54.

3) Beardsley, Kyle and Holger Schmidt, 2012. "Following the Flag or Following the Charter? Examining the Determinants of UN Involvement in International Crises, 1945-2002." *International Studies Quarterly* 56:33-49.

Week 2

Monday, July 7: What makes intervention effective?

To Read: 1) Fortna, Virginia Page, 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War" *International Studies Quarterly* 48:269-92.

2) Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis, 2000. "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 94(4): 779-795.

Wednesday, July 9: Introduction to the UN Simulation and **MIDTERM**

To Read: 1) *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations* [Brahimi Report], 2000. Please read the Executive Summary and Section II. Available at:

http://www.un.org/peace/reports/peace_operations/

2) Glennon, Michael J., 2003. "Why the Security Council Failed." *Foreign Affairs* 82(3): 16-35.

SIMULATION BEGINS: *Because these events are unfolding in real time, we need some flexibility in the readings assigned. All required readings will be posted to TED by Thursday at Noon the week before we cover the case.*

Week 3: On Sudan and South Sudan

Monday, July 14: Background

Wednesday, July 16: UN Security Council Simulation

Week 4: On Syria and Iraq

Monday, July 21: Background

Wednesday, July 23: UN Security Council Simulation

Week 5: On Crimea

Monday, July 28: Background

Wednesday, July 30: UN Security Council Simulation

Saturday, August 1: Final Paper due by, in hard copy and via turnitin.com. Full details TBA.

Academic Honesty

All scholarship produced for this class must be original student work. To this end, all final papers will be submitted to turnitin.com in addition to hard copy. Instances of plagiarism will be reported to the University administration and will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism is the direct reproduction of another scholar's written work without proper citation, or the use of another scholar's idea(s) without proper citation. Please contact me with questions regarding proper and sufficient citation.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. I will do my best to keep the course's TED site updated. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.