PLSC 597: SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IN CIVIL WARS
FALL 2008
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Professor Bidisha Biswas
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E mail: bidisha.biswas@wwu.edu
Class time and location: Tuesday 2-5:20PM
AH 12
and by arrangement
Office hours and location: Tuesday, 12:30-1:30 PM
Wednesday, 10AM-11AM
or by appointment
AH 411

The course will explore international interventions in civil wars. We will investigate how actors
within the international community help end conflicts and maintain peace. We will also try to
understand why, at times, peace agreements last and why they sometimes fall apart. The course is
designed to get you started on your thesis. Writing a literature review and formulating a research
design are important components of the syllabus. Even if you eventually decide on a thesis topic
that is not related to conflict, the skills and approaches you learn during the term will help you with
your own research and progress in the graduate program.

Course Materials
Required reading
  New York: Columbia University Press. (BW)
- Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis. 2006. Making War and Building Peace: United
- Finnemore, Martha. 2004. The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use Of

Recommended reading
- Roselle, Laura and Sharon Spray. 2007. Research and Writing in International Relations.
  Longman. (LR)
  Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers (PC)

An additional list of recommended reading is given at the end of the syllabus. As graduate students,
you are expected to read additional material beyond what is required on the syllabus. You are
encouraged to use SUMMIT and interlibrary loan to obtain books and articles that are not available
at our library.

Please note that you are expected to be familiar with the use of online library resources
available at Western Washington University. If you are unfamiliar with the use of these
resources, please see a librarian immediately.
Course Requirements
This course is a graduate seminar. The class meetings will focus on discussion rather than lectures. All students are expected to read materials and be ready to engage in class discussions. The overall course grade is determined on the basis of class participation, a presentation and thought paper, and a research paper.

20%  Class participation (including discussion questions)
15%  Presentation
20%  Thought paper
20%  Research paper proposal including annotated bibliography
25%  Final paper

Discussion
In-class discussion will be encouraged throughout the class. You are required to do your reading assignments before each class session. You are also expected to be aware of current world events. Possible news sources include (but are not limited to) www.washingtonpost.com, www.nytimes.com, www.bbc.com. Good journals to consult on an ongoing basis are Foreign Policy and Foreign Affairs. Students are expected to respect the opinions of other students and to engage in discussion and debates in a sensitive and respectful manner.

Netiquette
E-mail correspondence with the instructor should follow basic etiquette, as you would use in business communication, such as applying for a job. Make sure you include a subject in the subject line. Please write your emails using appropriate grammar, spelling and tone. I will not reply to correspondence that neglects to follow these guidelines.

Class participation
Your class participation will be based on active engagement with the discussions. Students (excluding the two who are presenting for the day) are required to prepare 2-4 discussion questions related to the readings of the day. You must post these questions on Blackboard by 5PM the day before class. Be prepared to ask and discuss your questions in class.
You are expected to engage directly with the class presentation by having questions and comments for the presenting team. You must be prepared to present critiques and analyses of the day’s readings. Your questions should be about the arguments, concepts, themes and issues raised by the readings. In other words, ask how and why questions. Raise questions about the arguments, the nature of the evidence, possible bias and implications for public policy. Compare the conclusions, evidence or concepts of one author with that of another. Be prepared to discuss and debate conflicting perspectives with each other in class.
You will be permitted to miss one session. Additional misses will lower your participation score.

Presentation and thought paper
In order to facilitate class discussion, students will be required to prepare presentations in which they summarize, analyze and critique a day’s assigned readings. In no more than 30 minutes you should present the central arguments of each reading. Point out the connections and differences between the articles/chapters (How do they relate to each other? Do they deal with the same issue from similar/different perspectives? Where do they agree/disagree with each other?).
Critically assess the assigned readings (Point out the strengths/weaknesses of each article/chapter and put forward your own points of view on the topics under discussion).

In addition to making the presentation, the presenting student has to prepare an individually written paper that reviews the literature assigned for that day. Think of this assignment as a mini-literature review. Consult the LR book and the guides on Blackboard on how to write the review.

Approaches include: identify and respond to a central theme in the reading; review a controversy that emerges among the authors of the week or consider how the arguments of a given author or authors differ with or support conclusions drawn by previous readings; consider the implications of the week’s readings for various historical (or current) cases, etc. You are encouraged to refer to additional, academic sources and, if relevant, apply your arguments to current events. These papers should be **4-6 pages long** (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced).

The papers should be submitted by 5 PM the day after your presentation. All papers must be submitted in hard copy and email. The hard copy should be handed to me in person or placed in my mailbox. **Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**Final paper**

This assignment is designed to help you write a research design which will eventually contribute to your thesis. Identify a subtopic in the field of conflict resolution that is of interest to you. **By noon on October 9, you must email me a short description of your paper topic.** I strongly encourage you to stop by my office during my office hours to discuss your topic with me. **Once you get my approval, submit a paper outline, with an annotated bibliography, on November 4.** This outline must be submitted in hard copy and email. The annotated bibliography should have works you have already consulted as well as those that you expect to consult.

**The final paper, due on December 2,** should have as complete a research design as possible with the following components:

1. Research question
2. Literature review
3. Tentative hypotheses
4. The methodology and empirical evidence that you plan to use in answering your research question and testing your hypotheses.

In sum, these are the steps you must follow for the final paper:

- **Noon, October 9:** Submit your paper topic by email
- **In class, November 4:** Paper proposal, by email and hard copy
- **5:30PM, December 2:** Final paper, by email and hard copy

Note the following requirements:

- All papers must be typed and the pages should be numbered
- The final paper should be between 15 and 20 pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point font) including title page, notes and bibliography.
- Pages should be numbered.
- You should follow a consistent bibliographic format throughout your paper.
- Bibliographies should have a minimum of 15 academic sources (books, chapters from edited books, journal articles).
All items in the bibliography must be cited in the paper’s text. Do not put irrelevant sources in the bibliography.

Discussion group meetings
The “by arrangement” component of the class comprises a weekly discussion group meeting outside of class. Groups can meet at times of their choosing. They may also meet with me during my office hours or by prior appointment. This time is to be used to discuss the material in the class and exchange ideas on your own research.

All students must join a discussion group by October 6. The groups should have 3 persons each. One group member must email the names of all the persons in their group by October 6. Anyone not yet in a group by that deadline will have points deducted from their class participation grade. **On or before December 6, each group member must submit a grade for their group members.** This should be emailed to me and will be kept confidential. Failure to submit a grade for your group members by the deadline will adversely affect your participation grade.

Additional points:
Students are responsible for following the academic honesty guidelines provided in the WWU Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure. The penalty for academic dishonesty can and will include a failure in the course.

Students with disabilities should inform the instructor of their needs at the beginning of the semester.

Please note that I do not accept late submissions of any assignment under any circumstances whatsoever.

Please note that the following topics and dates are subject to change.

Course schedule
Session 1, September 30
- **General introduction.** What is a civil war? What is intervention?
- Discuss syllabus
- Research and Writing: Some Guidelines
- In class viewing: Ghosts of Rwanda
- Recommended reading
  - LR
  - Hotel Rwanda (film)

Session 2, October 7
Review of Conflict Trends
Theoretical perspectives
• Kalyvas, Stathis. 2001. “‘New’ and ‘Old’ Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?” World Politics 54 (October): 99-118

Recommended reading
• Peace and Conflict 2008
• Holsti, Ole R. “Theories of International Relations.”

Discussion group names must be emailed to me by October 6, 2008.
Initial paper topics must be emailed to me by October 9, 2008.

Session 3, October 14
Civil Wars, Insecurity and Intervention
• BW, Introduction, Chapters 1-4

Session 4, October 21
Enforcing the Peace
• BW, Chapters 5, 7,9

Session 5, October 28
Building the Peace I
• MD Introduction, Chapter 2, 3, Chapter 4 (Somalia, Congo)

Session 6, November 4
Building the Peace II
• MD, Chapter 5 (Cambodia, East Timor), Chapter 6 (Rwanda), Conclusion

Research proposal submitted in hard copy and email on November 4
November 11: No class. Veteran's Day

Session 7: November 18
The Constructivist Dimension


November 25: No class meeting.

Prepare your final paper, which is due on December 2

Session 8: December 2
Norms and Legitimacy

- MF, Chapters 1-4

Final paper must be submitted in hard copy and email formats by 5:30PM on Tuesday, December 2. Please plan your schedule accordingly as I will not accept late submissions under any circumstances. Please email the papers to bidisha.biswas@wwu and biswabwwu@gmail.com. Please submit the hard copies to my mailbox or the paper rack outside my office.

Recommended reading