

# War and International Intervention

## POL-UA 994.002

### Spring 2015

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## Overview

This course will familiarize students with key academic and policy debates about coercive and non-coercive international intervention in armed conflicts and conflict-prone environments. The course covers both classic works and recent research, with an emphasis on the latter.

There are four parts to this course. First, we will discuss why states and/or rebel groups fight in the first place, with a focus on bargaining problems that can arise between disputants. Second, we will briefly discuss methodological challenges in learning about conflict and intervention. Third, we will analyze a set of different types of interventions, the conditions in which they are likely, their intended and unintended effects, and the benchmarks we should use to evaluate them. Fourth, we will discuss four ongoing conflicts in detail, namely the conflicts in the Ukraine, Syria and Iraq, Nigeria, and Sudan and South Sudan.

## Requirements

The course meets twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm) in Room 379, Global Center for Academic & Spiritual Life, 238 Thompson Street.

All readings listed in the schedule below are required. The reading load for this course is heavy and you may find some of the readings difficult to parse. I will lecture intermittently, but we will spend the majority of the class talking about the assigned readings and the ideas that connect them, so it is essential that you come prepared to make thoughtful contributions to our discussion. Some of the readings make use of game theory and/or statistics, and knowledge of the relevant methods is helpful, but not required for the course. **Do not take this class if you anticipate not being willing or able to complete the readings assigned for each session.**

All readings for the course are available online or on NYU Classes. Readings for the case studies will be announced one week in advance of the relevant session.

Grades will be based on attendance (10%), class participation (30%), a midterm exam (30%), and a final paper (30%). The midterm exam will be held in class on **March 10**. The assignment for the final paper will be distributed on **May 7**, and final papers will be due on **May 14 at 5pm**. Final papers will be 6-8 pages long and will draw on theoretical and empirical insights discussed in the course to analyze an ongoing violent conflict.

# Schedule

## January 27

No class, snow day

## January 29

Introduction and course logistics

## February 3

Why fight? I

- James D. Fearon (1995), "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706903.pdf>>.
- Barbara F. Walter (1997), "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization* 51(3): 335-364, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2703607.pdf>>.

## February 5

Why fight? II

- Ron Hassner (2003), "'To Halve and To Hold': Conflicts over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility," *Security Studies* 12(4): 1-33, <<http://www.informaworld.com/index/713636734.pdf>>.
- John Mueller (2000), "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'," *International Security* 25(1): 42-70, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2626773.pdf>>.

## February 10

Research design I

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994), *Designing Social Inquiry*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ch. 1, <<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>>
- Alan Gerber and Neil Malhotra (2008), "Do Statistical Reporting Standards Affect What Is Published? Publication Bias in Two Leading Political Science Journals," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3(3): 313-326, <<http://nowpublishers.com/articles/quarterly-journal-of-political-science/QJPS-8024>>.

## February 12

Research design II

- Alan S. Gerber, Donald P. Green, and Edward H. Kaplan (2004), "The Illusion of Learning from Observational Research," in Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith, and Tarek E. Masoud (eds.), *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press), ch. 12, 251-273, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511492174.012>>.
- Angus Deaton (2010), "Instruments, Randomization, and Learning about Development," *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(2): 424-455, <<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/jel.48.2.424>>.

## February 17

Negotiation

- Thomas C. Schelling (1956), "An Essay on Bargaining," *American Economic Review* 46(3): 281-306, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1805498.pdf>>.

- Steven J. Brams and Alan D. Taylor (1996), *Fair Division: From Cake-cutting to Dispute Resolution*, New York: Cambridge University Press. Read the Introduction, chapter 4 (skip the appendix), 5.1, and 5.2. Available on NYU Classes.

## February 19

### Mediation

- Jacob Bercovitch and Scott S. Gartner (2006), “Is There Method in the Madness of Mediation? Some Lessons for Mediators from Quantitative Studies of Mediation,” *International Interactions* 32(4): 329-354, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03050620601011024>>.
- Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Kathleen Young, Victor Asal, and David Quinn (2003), “Mediating International Crises Cross-National and Experimental Perspectives,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47(3): 279-301, <<http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/47/3/279.full.pdf>>.

## February 24

### Military intervention

- Richard K. Betts (1994), “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention,” *Foreign Affairs* 73(6): 20-33, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20046926.pdf>>.
- Edward N. Luttwak (1999), “Give War a Chance,” *Foreign Affairs* 78(4): 36-44, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20049362.pdf>>.
- Ivo H. Daalder and James G. Stavridis (2012), “NATO’s Victory in Libya: The Right Way to Run an Intervention,” *Foreign Affairs* 91(2): 2-7, <[http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora91&g\\_sent=1&collection=journals&id=222](http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora91&g_sent=1&collection=journals&id=222)>.

## February 26

### Humanitarian intervention

- Michael Mandelbaum (1996), “Foreign Policy as Social Work,” *Foreign Affairs* 75(1): 16-32, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20047465.pdf>>.
- Samantha Power (2001), “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 288(2): 84-108 (September), <<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/09/bystanders-to-genocide/4571>>. Also available on NYU Classes.
- Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein (2011), “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya,” *Foreign Affairs* 90(6): 48-59, <[http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora90&g\\_sent=1&collection=journals&id=1024](http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora90&g_sent=1&collection=journals&id=1024)>.
- Benjamin A. Valentino (2011), “The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention,” *Foreign Affairs* 90(6): 60-73, <[http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora90&g\\_sent=1&collection=journals&id=1036](http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora90&g_sent=1&collection=journals&id=1036)>.

## March 3

### Peacekeeping I

- Page Fortna (2004), “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2): 269-292, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3693574.pdf>>.
- Michael J. Gilligan and Ernest J. Sergenti (2008), “Do UN Interventions Cause Peace? Using Matching to Improve Causal Inference,” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3(2): 89-122. Available on NYU Classes.

**March 5**  
**Peacekeeping II**

- Lisa Hultman, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon (2013), “United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War,” *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 875–891, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12036/pdf>>.
- Lisa Hultman, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon (2014), “Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting,” *American Political Science Review* 108(4): 737-753, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055414000446>>.

**March 10**  
**In-class midterm exam**

**March 12, March 17, March 19**  
**No class**

**March 24**  
**Norms and international law**

- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink (1998), “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change,” *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601361.pdf>>.
- Michael G. Findley, Daniel L. Nielson, and J. C. Sharman (2015), “Causes of Noncompliance with International Law: A Field Experiment on Anonymous Incorporation,” *American Journal of Political Science* 59(1): 146-161, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12141/pdf>>.

**March 26**  
**Non-governmental organizations**

- Kenneth R. Rutherford (2000), “The Evolving Arms Control Agenda: Implications of the Role of NGOs in Banning Antipersonnel Landmines,” *World Politics* 53(1): 74-114, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/25054137.pdf>>.
- Amanda Murdie and Dursun Peksen (2014), “The Impact of Human Rights INGO Shaming on Humanitarian Interventions,” *Journal of Politics* 76(1): 215-228, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022381613001242>>.

**March 31**  
**Other private actors I**

- Peter W. Singer (2002), “Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry and Its Ramifications for International Security,” *International Security* 26(3): 186-220, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3092094.pdf>>.
- Tanisha Fazal (2013), “The Demise of Peace Treaties in Interstate War,” *International Organization* 67(4): 695-724, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0020818313000246>>.

**April 2**

**Other private actors II**

- Holger Lutz Kern and Jens Hainmueller (2009), “Opium for the Masses: How Foreign Media Can Stabilize Authoritarian Regimes,” *Political Analysis* 17(4): 377-399, <<http://pan.oxfordjournals.org/content/17/4/377.full.pdf>>.
- Jan H. Pierskalla and Florian M. Hollenbach (2013), “Technology and Collective Action: The Effect of Cell Phone Coverage on Political Violence in Africa,” *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 207-224, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000075>>.

**April 7**

**Foreign aid I**

- Richard A. Nielsen, Michael G. Findley, Zachary S. Davis, Tara Candland, and Daniel L. Nielson (2011), “Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict,” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 219-232, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2010.00492.x/pdf>>.
- Peter M. Aronow, Allison Carnegie, and Nikolay Marinov (2012), “The Effects of Aid on Rights and Governance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” working paper, <[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2124994](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2124994)>.

**April 9**

**Foreign aid II**

- Jean-Paul Azam and Véronique Thelen (2010), “Foreign Aid Versus Military Intervention in the War on Terror,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54(2): 237-261, <<http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/54/2/237.full.pdf>>.
- James D. Fearon, Macartan Humphreys, and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2009), “Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia,” *American Economic Review* 99(2): 287-291, <<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer.99.2.287>>.

**April 14, April 16**

**Case study: Ukraine**

**April 21, April 23**

**Case study: Syria and Iraq**

**April 28, April 30**

**Case study: Nigeria**

**May 5, May 7**

**Case study: Sudan and South Sudan**

**May 7**

**Assignment for final paper distributed**

**May 14, 5pm**

**Final paper due**