UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
Faculty of Arts and Science  
Department of Political Science

POL486H1F: Topics in International Politics I: Peacebuilding  
Fall 2020.

*ONLINE Asynchronous Course*

Professor: Khalid Ahmed  
Zoom/E-mail: k.ahmed@utoronto.ca  
(by appointment)

Overview:
This course offers students the opportunity to rethink Western-oriented methods of inquiry and theories, which in turn allows them to rethink dominant conceptions of knowledge and normativity in peacemaking and peacebuilding as a form of intervention. The course critically analyzes and interrogates various conflict zones and cases, and the different actors and strategies which links peacebuilding to peacemaking in Africa in the broader context of the political economy of peace. It is organized in roughly four sections: Part I critically interrogates the production of “knowledge” and deconstructs the Euro-American-Centric definitions of peace and war. Part II introduces you to the global economic structures of power that impacts our understanding and application of peace. Part III focuses on the main theoretical issues and debates on liberal peacemaking and peacebuilding. By asking ‘how do peacemakers influence peacebuilding processes?’, part IV, you will test the application of theories in three case studies by examining the linkages between, and effectiveness of, peacemaking and peacebuilding processes.

Course Requirements
Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Oct. 29th</td>
<td>Take home</td>
<td>10 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nov. 05th</td>
<td></td>
<td>02 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Dec 03rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reflections</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td></td>
<td>02 pages</td>
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Penalty for late submission of assignments is 10% for each day after the due date, including weekend. Please read this syllabus and the other binding handouts provided on Quercus carefully. They all set the expectations and constitute the requirements.

Contacts

Please note that this is an online asynchronous course. There will be NO online class meetings. However, I will be pleased to answer your questions by appointment via zoom, talk to you over the phone, and/or email. Please email me in advance to schedule a time to talk or chat online as other students might also need to speak with me during the same time period. Additionally, I will
answer short and direct questions about the course through email. It is advisable that you consult
the course syllabus and your classmates before emailing me questions regarding basic course
information. I will reply within 72 hours of receipt of your email. I will be using the class
mailing list provided by the UofT to get in touch with you; and you must use your UTOR
account when communicating with me.

**Weekly Critical Reflections**
You must post your reflections in Quercus under the ‘Discussion’ tab, before 9 pm on the night
prior to class. It should be a two-page, double spaced, critical reflections of the week’s readings
containing: your name, and a) Summary of the main arguments of the reading (1 page), b) Critique
the main arguments and place the discussions and readings within the context of the other readings
of the week (1 page). If you post it after 9 pm, you will receive a 0 mark. Reviewing all critical
reflections should help students prepare for the midterm test! **Do not submit one on Dec 03!**

**Midterm Test**
The test will be a take-home based on 10 questions and posted online for you during the first week
of classes. Answer each question in NO more than 1 page double-spaced. The total must **NOT**
exceed a maximum of 10 pages. **Please note that the readings from the weeks of Oct. 29th and
Nov. 05th, 2020 are part of the test. A soft copy of the test must be uploaded onto Quercus, only
as a .doc or .docx, before 11:59pm on Oct. 29th. If you send it after that, 10% will be deducted
from your mark everyday thereon.**

**Research Proposal**
You must **upload onto Quercus**, before 11:59pm on Nov. 05th, a two-page, double spaced,
proposal. **If you upload it after that, 10% will be deducted from your mark.** It should contain
your name and a summary of your main arguments and topic (first page) and a bibliography
(second page). **Make sure you go over the readings assigned for Nov. 05th before writing
your proposal.** You are encouraged to submit your proposal prior to this due date! A research
question will be posted for you online during the first week of classes.

**Research Paper**
A **soft copy of the research paper must be uploaded onto Quercus before 11:59pm on Dec
03rd, where it will be checked by Turnitin.** There will be a penalty of 10% of the assignment
grade per day for late papers, including weekends. The paper is 15 pages excluding the
bibliography. **You are required to draw on a minimum of (10) readings from the course/recommended reading list and NO less than (05) reputable outside sources to craft a well-thought-out and clearly argued research paper.** You must clearly show the breakdown
of course content and outside sources in the bibliography. (The research topic will be posted online,
along with writing guidelines, by the second week of classes. You **MUST** include/use two of the
case studies in your research (More on this in the writing guidelines)!

All essays should adhere to the criteria outlined here and in the separate essay-writing handout
(which will be posted on Quercus). Essays must have 1-inch margins and be in the 12-point Times
New Roman font. Essays should be double-spaced and numbered. Use endnotes (at the end of the
paper). Citations do count towards the length requirements of your essays. Essays must be
proofread for spelling, typographical, grammatical, and syntactical errors. Have the Writing
Centre of your college take a look at it before submission. **Do not** attempt to submit your essay
by leaving it at the department. Make a copy of your essay before submitting it and keep copies of your research notes.

**Turnitin.com:** "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

**Extensions:** A request for an extension should be submitted to me in writing. I will grant the extension only on unavoidable and justifiable grounds (e.g., serious illness). You will be required to submit acceptable documentation (such as a doctor’s note on the official University of Toronto Medical Certificate, in the case of illness) to have any chance of being granted an extension. The New College Library offers in-depth research consultations to help you with your research assignments and papers. These consultations are available to help you get the most out of the UofT library system and help you find materials for your essays and projects. To book an appointment visit: http://uoft.me/libraryconsultation

**Academic Honesty**

This class has a ZERO tolerance for academic dishonesty in any form. You should acknowledge properly the work and ideas of other people. You are reminded that plagiarism is a serious academic offense and the offender will be punished. Read carefully the University’s policies on proper academic behavior at [www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html), [www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html). You should consult me or any one of the many guides available at the Writing Center ([http://www.utoronto.ca/writing](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing)) if you are at all uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, or what acceptable forms of citation and referencing are. The Writing Center is a very useful resource to assist students to avoid plagiarism incidents or other academic offenses, as well as to improve their overall writing skills.

**Accessibility Services**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or [http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility).

**Grade Dispute**

Though not anticipated, grade disputes are common occurrence. In an event of a student wanting to dispute a grade, the procedure would be as follows:

1. In a page or two, student would detail what the discrepancy is.
2. Student state clearly the portion of their paper that was not graded correctly
3. Student would also attach the graded paper to the dispute letter and hand it over to the professor.

The disputed paper would be graded again. This could result in an increase, same, or reduction in grade. **Note that the grade obtained as a result of a paper being re-graded would be the final**
grade. There shall not be any further grading of the paper.

**Quercus**
We will be using Quercus to manage and coordinate this course. For this purpose, all students must have an active U of T e-mail address. This email address will also be the means with which I will communicate to you. Course information will be distributed electronically through Quercus. It is your responsibility to regularly log on to the Quercus website and obtain the posted information.

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**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Part I: Knowledge, Peace, and War: Analytical Issues**

**Sep. 17: On Knowledge Production and Peace - Introduction**


**Further Readings:**

**Sep. 24: Conception and misconceptions: On War**

**Further Readings:**

**Part II: The Political Economy Interests of Global Powers**

**Oct. 01: Conception and misconceptions: On Post-Conflict Development**

Ha-Joon Chang, Kicking away the ladder: development strategy in historical perspective. Introduction and Ch. 1., Ch 4.


**Further Readings:**

**Oct. 08: On Critical Alternatives to “Development”**


**Further Readings**

**Oct. 15: On Intervention**


**Further Readings:**
- Xavier Guillaume. “Historicizing the International”. e-ir.info/2013/06/08/historicizing-the-international/
Part III: The Liberal Peace

Oct. 22: On Peacemaking

Richmond, Oliver. “A genealogy of mediation in international relations: From ‘analogue’ to ‘digital’ forms of global justice or managed war?”. Cooperation and Conflict 00(0). 2018.


Further Readings:

Oct. 29: On Peacebuilding (Midterm test due in class today)
Jabri, Vivienne (2016). “Post-Colonialism: A Post-Colonial Perspective on Peacebuilding”. In the Palgrave Handbook of Disciplinary and Regional Approaches to Peace. Palgrave Macmillan UK.


de Soto, Alvaro; del Castillo, Graciana. “Obstacles to peacebuilding”.

Further Readings:
- de Soto, Alvaro; del Castillo, Graciana. “Obstacles to peacebuilding”.

**Nov. 05: On ‘Who’ Builds Peace and ‘How’ (Research Proposal Due Today)**


**Further Readings**


**Part IV: Case Studies**

**Nov. 12: No Class – Reading Week**

**Nov. 19: South Sudan**


**Nov. 26: Mozambique (Research paper due today)**


**Dec 03: Sierra Leone**

Richmond, Oliver P., Pogodda, Sandra, Ramović, Jasmin (Eds.) (2016). The Palgrave Handbook of Disciplinary and Regional Approaches to Peace. Chapter 22.