

# Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

## Introduction

This course introduces advanced undergraduate students to the scientific study of conflict management and peacekeeping. Unlike the majority of research programs in political science, there is not broad consensus on how this topic ought to be studied. Conflict management studies are a mixture of theoretical and prescriptive works. Conclusions are drawn from large-N and case studies, as well as experimental studies – the latter are atypical of most international conflict and political science research. Finally, conflict management studies are strongly interdisciplinary, with research drawn from political science, labor and industrial relations, social psychology, law, and management studies to name a few. This course is designed to reflect some of that diversity.

The material proceeds in a linear fashion -- we begin with a primer on the "causes" of civil conflict and war (those that occur within countries), discuss how these violent confrontations often end (or not...), and address whether it is possible for enduring peace to emerge in societies ravaged by violence and war. We will spend several weeks on the role of United Nations peacekeeping missions, as this has become the preferred method of the international community to cope with conflict in the contemporary world.

**NOTE: Several topics, such and the use of violence during armed conflict will be disturbing to all. Please talk to me if you have any questions/concerns about this content.**

## Course Structure

- Each week students will **1)** attend an in-person discussion, and **2)** complete a module that contains weekly lectures, readings, and tasks. Modules open at 8:00 am Monday morning and close at 11:59 pm Sunday night.
- **No late work will be accepted.** If you fail to complete all tasks by 11:59 pm Sunday night, the module locks and you will be unable to access tasks for that week.
- If you require assistance, you can reach the instructor or teaching assistant using Canvas, email, or schedule a virtual meeting. Remember that we want you all to succeed, and are willing to do what is necessary to make that possible.

# Office Hours

Office hours will be held via [Zoom](https://doit.missouri.edu/services/communications-collaboration/audio-web-conferencing/). [\(https://doit.missouri.edu/services/communications-collaboration/audio-web-conferencing/\)](https://doit.missouri.edu/services/communications-collaboration/audio-web-conferencing/) Please send a message (using Canvas or email) to request an appointment. The Instructor or Teaching Assistant will then send you an invite with a Zoom link to use for the meeting. **Your message must include a proposed meeting time that falls between office hours.**

- **Dr. Reeder:** Tuesdays, 1-4pm
- **Mr. Coleman:** TBD

# Required Texts

- Mason, T. David and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. "What Do We Know About Civil Wars?" *Rowman & Littlefield Publishers* (2016). [ISBN: 978-1442242258]
- Bercovitch, Jacob and Richard Jackson. "Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-First Century: Principles, Methods, and Approaches" *University of Michigan Press* (2009). [ISBN: 978- 0472050628]
- Stearns, Jason. "Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa" *PublicAffairs* (2012). [ISBN: 978-1610391078]

# Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will:

- be familiar with the scientific study of civil conflict, conflict management, and peacekeeping.
- understand and be able to describe the mainstream literature on these topics, as well as some popular alternatives.
- have an understanding of the topics of interest to scholars of armed conflict and how they relate to "real life" cases.
- have specialized knowledge of at least three ongoing peacekeeping missions.
- understand the difficulty of managing intrastate conflicts, and how this has serious implications for civilian populations and regional security.

# Course Requirements

- **Weekly Reflections**: Each week (with the exception of exam weeks) students will submit a brief reflection on the lecture and readings for the week. While there is no length requirement, students must put forth a good faith effort and demonstrate that they have engaged the material.

- **Quizzes:** Students are required to take 5 quizzes covering *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa* by Jason Stearns. Note that this book will be used for the final paper.
- **Summaries of Ongoing UN Peacekeeping Missions:** Over the course of the semester, students will submit two summaries of ongoing UN peacekeeping missions. These are "fact-finding" papers that will address the onset, dynamics, and current situation (a prompt is provided). Students will choose UN missions from a list provided by the instructor.
- **Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam consists of 2 essay questions, randomly assigned. Students will have 50 minutes to write both essays. A study guide will be provided, which consists of the 10 possible essay questions that may appear on the exam.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be the same format as the midterm exam. Only material covered after the midterm exam will appear on the final exam.
- **Final Paper on the Situation in the DRC:** Students will submit an 8-10 page paper (double-spaced) that addresses the ongoing situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The assigned book (*Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*) and the experience writing summaries of UN peace operations will assist students in completing this assignment. A prompt outlining format and expectations is provided.

## Grade Distribution

REQUIREMENT	PERCENTAGE	DETAILS
Weekly Reflections	10%	due each week: put in good faith effort
Quizzes	10%	covering <i>Dancing in the Glory of Monsters</i>
Mission Summaries	15%	must submit 2 during the semester (from provided list)
Midterm Exam	20%	covers all material during first-half of course
Final Exam	20%	covers material covered after the midterm
Research Paper	25%	final paper on the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Participation (extra credit)	up to 6%	attending and participating in discussion (online and/or virtual)

## Letter Grade Distribution

Grades in the **C range** represent performance that *meets expectations*; Grades in the **B range** represent performance that is *substantially better* than the expectations; Grades in the **A range** represent work that is *excellent*.

>= 93 A		73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99 D+	
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99 F	

## Course Policies

- All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos, and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and **may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others**. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. **Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation**. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.
- Students are expected to work independently unless otherwise specified. **Offering and accepting answers from others is an act of plagiarism, which is a serious offense and all involved parties will be penalized according to university policy**. Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the instructor.
- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. **Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful**. The academic community regards breaches of academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

- The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu). (<mailto:equity@missouri.edu>)

## Students with Disabilities









- If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note-taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.



## Schedule




Week (dates)	Modules Due
January 19-24	<a href="#">Introduction to the scientific study of war</a>
January 25-31	<a href="#">Trends in armed conflict</a>
February 1-7	<a href="#">Greed &amp; grievance debate</a>
February 8-14	<a href="#">Ethnicity, contested sovereignty, and weak states</a>
February 15-21	<a href="#">Transnational influences on war onset &amp; dynamics</a>
February 22-28	<a href="#">Rebel goals &amp; variation in resiliency</a>
March 1-7	<a href="#">Midterm Exam</a>
March 8-14	<a href="#">Why do intrastate conflicts end?</a>
March 15-21	<a href="#">Mediation attempts and agreements among combatants</a>
March 22-28	<a href="#">Role of third-party military intervention</a>
March 29-April 4	<i>Spring Break</i>
April 5-11	<a href="#">Durability of agreements</a>

April 12-18	<a href="#">Introduction to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions</a>
April 19-25	<a href="#">Are UN peacekeeping missions effective?</a>
April 26-May 2	<a href="#">Does UN peacekeeping &amp; other efforts lead to enduring peace?</a>
May 3-9	<a href="#">Final Exam</a>

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Jan 24, 2021	 <a href="#">Reflection: Welcome &amp; Introduction</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860663">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860663</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 31, 2021	 <a href="#">Reflection: Conflict Trends</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860673">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860673</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 7, 2021	 <a href="#">Dancing in the Glory of Monsters, Chapters 1-4</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860676">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860676</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Reflection: Greed vs. Grievance</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860664">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860664</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 14, 2021	 <a href="#">Reflection: Ethnicity &amp; Other Factors</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860662">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860662</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Dancing in the Glory of Monsters, Chapters 5-8</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860679">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860679</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 21, 2021	 <a href="#">Reflection: Transnational Factors</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860672">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860672</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Ongoing UN Peacekeeping Mission Summary #1</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860681">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860681</a> )	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Feb 28, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860677">Reflection: Rebel Goals</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860677">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860677</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 7, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860660">Midterm Exam</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860660">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860660</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 14, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860665">Dancing in the Glory of Monsters, Chapters 9-12</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860665">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860665</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 21, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860671">Reflection: Cessation of Conflict</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860671">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860671</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 21, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860667">Reflection: Mediation</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860667">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860667</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 28, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860670">Dancing in the Glory of Monsters, Chapters 13-16</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860670">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860670</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 28, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860666">Reflection: Third-Party Intervention</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860666">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860666</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 28, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860682">Ongoing UN Peacekeeping Mission Summary #2</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860682">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860682</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 11, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860668">Reflection: Durability</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860668">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860668</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 18, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860675">Dancing in the Glory of Monsters, Chapters 17-20</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860675">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860675</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 18, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860669">Reflection: UN Peacekeeping Missions</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860669">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860669</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 25, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860678">Reflection: Peacekeeping Effectiveness</a> <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860678">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860678</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun May 2, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860661">Reflection: Enduring Peace</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860661">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860661</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 9, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860674">Final Exam</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860674">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860674</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 9, 2021	 <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860680">Final Paper: Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo</a> ( <a href="https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860680">https://missouri.instructure.com/courses/48581/assignments/860680</a> )	due by 11:59pm