Overview
This class focuses on an old problem but one that has received new international attention since the end of the Cold War: how to rebuild states and societies after war, in particular after civil war. Since the early 1990s, the predominant form of warfare across the globe has been civil war in which two or more armed groups fight each other for territorial control in an internationally recognized state. Whereas global powers often neglected such “small wars,” their importance has increased significantly since the end of the Cold War. This is the case for two main reasons. The first is that of international security. In today’s world, a pronounced international threat is globalized terrorism, and for the past two decades global terrorist organizations have based themselves most commonly in countries with ongoing civil wars. The second is increased emphasis on global humanitarianism since the end of the Cold War. Civilian actors around the world have demonstrated increased interest in the suffering of those harmed through war, human rights violations, and poverty. With the end of the Cold War, the United Nations faced an opportunity to fulfill one of its core mandates, which concerns the wellbeing of all people everywhere. These two broad trends have coalesced in a number of policy domains. One of those concerns the stabilization and reconstruction of states and societies following a period of armed conflict and, often, significant human rights abuse. That broad agenda typically goes under the heading of “peacebuilding.”

By and large, policy documents and initiatives have framed the analytical discussion and the range of action concerning peacebuilding. International policymakers have also typically encouraged and invested in a standard set of prescriptions: international peacekeepers or foreign armies, liberal democratization, power sharing, military integration and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, free-market economic policies, infrastructural investment, and some mechanism of accountability to unearth and often to punish past crimes.

Somewhat absent from the policy has been a theoretical account, informed by historical experience and empirical analysis, of the actual dynamics and challenges in a post-war society. Indeed, the record suggests that a great deal of variation exists in the policies and approaches that post-war governments pursue. Why do some governments pursue a particular package of initiatives while other governments pursue other ones? Moreover, the record suggests how difficult it is to achieve peace after war. The majority of countries that experience civil war fall back into civil war within five years of the first
war ending, at least during the last 25 years. Why? Why do countries fall back into civil war? What can we learn from the empirical record in order to better understand the challenges of peacebuilding?

This course privileges these and related questions. The course approaches the topic in three main ways. First, the course examines some of the major policy documents that exist and that shape the actions of governments and international organizations. Second, the course focuses on some of the emerging academic literature on post-conflict reconstruction with the understanding that this literature is both disparate and nascent. Yet a number of new and important studies exist. Third, the course will look at a number of case studies. The cases come from different world regions. They represent both a variety of policy trajectories (in terms of post-conflict paths out of war) and a variety of outcomes (in terms of their overall success at building peace after war—though what constitutes “success” is up for discussion). Through the case studies, we shall assess how well both the policy frameworks and the academic literature works.

Requirements
The class is a discussion-oriented, advanced seminar in which preparation and participation are essential. Students in this course must be self-driven and able to work independently. Each student is expected to come to class having read the assigned material and ready to contribute at least one question or comment during the discussion. By 9 am on Wednesday morning, each student must upload to the learn@UW site two questions or comments that he or she would like to discuss or have clarified during the class. The main format for each class will be: In the first half of the semester, the professor will prepare mini lectures on the themes for the week. Following the mini lecture, there will be a short break followed by a structured discussion. That format will vary toward the end of the class, as we move into the case studies and the student research presentations.

By week 3 of the semester (September 21), every student will be required to select one post-conflict country that in turn will be a point of reference throughout the semester. For every week, the student will be expected to examine the week’s theme in relation to the case of his or her choosing. The selected country must be a post-war society. The case may come from any world region and from any time period. That case may in turn be used for the research paper and presentation (see below).

In addition to the classroom discussion and presentation, each student will be responsible for a final research project. (Joint, team-based research projects are permissible but not required and must be approved by the professor.) The research project must be theoretically grounded and empirically comparative. Theoretically grounded means that the project must investigate a specific research question and bring existing academic studies to bear on the question. Empirically comparative means that the project must be grounded in a comparison of at least two countries. One of the countries may be a case that was examined during the class but at least one case must be one not covered in detail in class.
The final project will be presented in two forms. First, each student will be required to make a 10 minute oral presentation to the entire class. Second, each student will be required to submit a 15 page, double-spaced paper based on the research project. The papers will be graded on the quality of writing, argument, and research. The professor will complete a random draw to determine when students will present.

To facilitate the research project, each student must submit a paper proposal by November 2. This proposal should be roughly one page single spaced. The proposal should identify the two countries that will be compared; identify the main research question in the paper; isolate some core readings; and provide a brief outline.

Lastly, each student will be required to participate in a group presentation of the case studies. There will be team presentations, typically of four students per case, in which one student will present on: international engagement, post-conflict security, post-conflict politics, post-conflict military integration, and post-conflict accountability (and post-conflict economy in a team of five students). The team as a whole will rate the successes and continuing challenges of the post-conflict society in question.
Grading Breakdown:
Seminar Participation: 40%
Case Study Presentation: 10%
Research Project Presentation: 10%
Final Paper: 40%

Grading Scale
The grading scale used in the class is standard for campus:
A: 93-100
AB: 88-92
B: 83-87
BC: 78-82
C: 70-77
D: 60-69
F: 59 or lower

Course Material
All the required reading for the course, except for the two required books (see below), will be available on the learn@UW website for the course. I have made electronic copies available in order to cut the cost of taking this (somewhat new and experimental) course. The required and recommended books are available for purchase at the UW bookstore.

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED
Aili Tripp, Women and Power in Post-Conflict Africa (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015),
Course Outline

PART I: CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

September 7: Course Introduction
Timothy Sisk, Statebuilding, preface, introduction, chapter one.

RECOMMENDED:

September 14: Key Policy Documents and Agenda Setting


Timothy Sisk, Statebuilding, Chapter 3.

Stanley McChrystal’s Diagram for Stabilization in Afghanistan, also known as the “hairball,” see http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2010/04/27/world/27powerpoint_CA0_337-span/27powerpoint_CA0-articleLarge.jpg

UNDP, Governance for Peace, 2012, Executive Summary and Chapter 1.

September 21: International Engagement


David Lake, Statebuilder’s Dilemma, Chapter 1.

Timothy Sisk, Statebuilding, Chapter 7.


September 28: Statebuilding as Peacebuilding (and Foreign Aid)


October 5: Post-War Politics: Democratization and Power-Sharing


RECOMMENDED
Philip Roeder and Donald Rothchild, eds., *Sustainable Peace: Power and Democracy after Civil Wars* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010), Chapter 1.

October 12: Post-Conflict Security


October 19: Post-Conflict Society I: Women and Politics after War

Watch “Pray the Devil Back to Hell,” Available at https://uwmadison.box.com/s/yl40ch4adacr5egy8yd

October 26: Post-Conflict Society II: Justice and Reconciliation

Visit from Thierry Cruvellier; readings to be determined

PART II: CASE STUDIES

November 2: Rwanda


Patricia Crisafulli and Andrea Redmond, Rwanda Inc.: How a Devastated Nation Became an Economic Model for the Developing World (New York: Macmillan, 2012), Introduction, Chapters 1, 4-5.

Paper Proposal Due

November 9: Guatemala, with Skype Visit from Rachel Schwartz in Guatemala


November 16: Bosnia


Watch *Fuse* by Pjer Zalica: link will become available

**November 23: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

**November 30: Afghanistan**


**December 7: Student Presentations**

**December 14: Student Presentations**
Post-Conflict States

**Americas**
The United States
Guatemala
El Salvador
Peru
Nicaragua
Mexico (Chiapas)
[Colombia, but not yet post-war]

**Middle East and North Africa**
Afghanistan (various periods)
Iraq (various periods)
Syria (previous war)
Algeria
Yemen

**Sub-Saharan Africa**
Somalia
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Uganda
Burundi
Rwanda
Democratic Republic of Congo
Central African Republic
Chad
South Africa
Namibia
Angola
Mozambique
Congo-Brazzaville
Côte d’Ivoire
Liberia
Sierra Leone
Mali
Niger
Nigeria

**Asia**
Sri Lanka
Pakistan
Bangladesh
India (post-partition or arguably Naxalites)
China (post-revolution)
East Timor
Cambodia
Vietnam
Myanmar (to discuss if of interest)
Indonesia
Nepal

Post-WWII Europe
Post-war Germany
Former Yugoslavia
    Bosnia
    Croatia
    Kosovo
Russia