Course Overview

What motivates third parties to intervene in international conflicts? Why do some of them use the carrot-and-stick approach in negotiating settlements, while others focus more on helping disputed sides communicate effectively? Under which conditions can third parties succeed in efforts to end war? Research indicates that most third-party attempts at stopping violent conflict fail. Yet, successful conflict resolution can save lives and prevent a considerable amount of suffering. Therefore, it is worthwhile to look for ways in which intermediaries can help disputed parties reach peaceful settlements or even prevent deadly conflict from occurring in the first place.

This course surveys major topics in the study of international conflict management, including mediation, military and economic coercion, military intervention, peacekeeping, and inaction.

Main goals:

1. To emphasize the diverse nature of international disputes and the variety of techniques third parties use in managing such conflicts;
2. To assess the motives and goals of third parties in conflict management;
3. To develop a framework through which we can begin to identify why some interventions succeed and others fail.

Course Requirements and Method of Evaluation

Undergraduate students’ grades will be based on a take-home midterm examination (30%), a 12-15 page research paper (50%), and participation in class discussions (20%). It is crucial that students keep up with the weekly reading assignments, which are the basis for class discussion and average 100-150 pages per week. Graduate students will have a reading load of about 150-200 pages per week. Their grades will be based on a final paper geared toward making an original theoretical and/or empirical contribution to the discipline (80%) and participation in class discussions (20%).

As part of the participation grade, each student will have an opportunity to present and discuss some of the assigned readings. In addition, students will present their final paper research design in week 5 and final papers in weeks 11 and 12. During paper presentations, students are encouraged to comment on each other’s work and offer constructive criticism and advice.
Readings

NOTE: Recommended readings are denoted by an asterisk (*). The following books are available for purchase at the Yale University bookstore:


Excerpts from the following books, as well as other readings, are accessible through the course website:


Schedule of Classes and Readings

Week 1: Introduction
- Course Overview and Expectations

Week 2: Conflict and Third-Party Intervention
- Conflict as Strategic Behavior
  - Schelling, pp. 1-161.
- Intervention as a Conflict Management Tool
  - Princen, pp. 3-17.
- Why Intervene?

Week 3: Types of Third-Party Intervention
- Mediation
Military and Economic Coercion

Military Intervention and Peacekeeping

Week 4: Types of Intermediaries and Motives for Intervention
- States
- Organizations
- Individuals
  - Princen, pp. 133-185.

Week 5: Paper Topics and Research Design
- Paper topic presentation and discussion of research design
  - King, Keohane and Verba*

Week 6: Conflict Characteristics and the Probability of Intervention
- The Inefficiency of War
- Combatants’ Desire for Third-Party Intervention
  - Princen, pp. 60-66.

**Intervention and Conflict Type**

- Regan, pp. 37-63.

**Week 7: Probability of Intervention (The Case of Africa)**

**Somalia**


**Rwanda**


**Sudan**


**MIDTERM EXAM: Topics given on Thursday, Oct. 16. Completed assignments due via e-mail by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20**

**Weeks 8, 9: What Determines the Outcomes of Third-Party Intervention?**

- **Defining Success and Failure**

- **Characteristics of the Third Party and Its Intervention Strategy**

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**Characteristics of the Dispute and the Warring Parties**


**Week 10: Coercion and Mediation in the Balkans**

- Bosnia and the Road to Dayton
  - Power, chapters 9 and 11.

**Week 11: Coercion and Military Intervention in the Balkans**

- Rambouillet Accords and the Bombing of Yugoslavia
  - Power, chapter 12.
Weeks 12, 13: Student Paper Presentations and Conclusion

- Review and Policy Implications

FINAL PAPER: Due via e-mail by 5 p.m. on December 12