

War, peace and intervention

Start date Friday 2 December 2022 **End date** Sunday 4 December 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Peter Dixon **Course code** 2223NRX011

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

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Tutor biography

Dr Peter Dixon has been a military officer, a peacebuilding practitioner and an International Relations academic. During his first career, in the Royal Air Force, he served as a transport pilot, trained student pilots at three University Air Squadrons (including as Officer Commanding Cambridge UAS) and taught Military Doctrine at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. In his final two tours of duty, he served on the staff of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London, and contributed in the German Ministry of Defence, Berlin, to the formulation of German defence and foreign policy in the areas of international confidence building and mutual threat reduction, regional stabilisation, and the control of small arms and light weapons. After leaving the RAF, he led a British peacebuilding NGO for over a decade, focusing on inclusive Track 1.5 dialogue processes, predominantly in Sudan and South Sudan. Currently, he serves as Course Director for ICE's Undergraduate Diploma in International Relations.

Dr. Dixon obtained his BSc in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Bristol and, in 1991, an MBA from the Open University Business School. He studied for the MSt in International Relations at the University of Cambridge in 2005-7 and continued his research, completing a PhD in 2015. His thesis examines barriers to cooperation between external interventions in civil wars.

Apart from books on special operations during the Second World War, his publications include *Peacemakers: A Christian View of War and Peace* and chapters in *Locally Led Peacebuilding: Global Case Studies*, *Making Peace with Faith: The Challenges of Religion and Peacebuilding* and *Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Beyond*.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 Introduction: is peace even possible? The return of geopolitics.

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Can war be just?

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 What's war about?

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 A brief history of studying peace.

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Intervention: why, whether, who, how?

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Building stability, making peace?

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Conclusion: approaching reconciliation.

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Develop your understanding of the complex causes of war;
2. Appreciate the different meanings of the concept of peace;
3. Assess the benefits and perils of intervention in situations involving violent conflict
4. Understand the difficulties and opportunities involved in achieving reconciliation after violent conflict.

Content:

We may think we know what peace is. It's when the fighting stops, isn't it? Unfortunately, things are not that simple. Notwithstanding Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 and the vigorous Ukrainian defence, most conflicts in recent years have been civil wars with complex causes. Even well-meaning interventions can just make matters worse.

This course will explore the different meanings of the word 'peace' and the factors that come into play when outsiders intervene to try to bring it about. A look at some of the causes of interstate and intrastate war will allow us to question whether the most powerful outsiders are the right actors to bring lasting and sustainable peace, whatever that may mean.

We will start by placing the study of war and peace in today's context, where Putin's Russia has invaded Ukraine and the concept of geopolitics has returned to public discourse. In this context, it is fair to ask whether aiming for peace is simply a pipe dream. Why bother? We will look at the geopolitical situation of the moment and explore different paths to a more stable future.

In our second session, we will examine the ancient Just War tradition, which lies somewhere on the spectrum between 'war is wrong' and 'anything goes', and on which the modern law of armed conflict is grounded. We will explore how the tradition developed and ask whether it is relevant today.

Our third and fourth sessions will focus respectively on the complex causes of war and different interpretations of the word 'peace', together with the identities and objectives of those who (claim to) seek it. Thinking about peace is not new, but we will focus on the academic fields of Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies and identify the ideas of some key thinkers over the past seventy years or so.

In the fifth session, we will examine the motivations that lie behind military and civilian intervention in conflict situations. Considering such situations as complex systems, we will use examples of external civil war interventions from recent decades to draw out conclusions about what works and what doesn't. This will prepare us to look in our sixth session at the spectrum of different forms of peacemaking, including peacekeeping, 'peace enforcement', state-building and peacebuilding.

Finally, we consider reconciliation. As we look at the influence of history, education, symbols, apology and forgiveness, we will consider what has helped different societies to come closer to this most challenging goal.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be delivered via illustrated lectures and group discussions. No prior knowledge or experience is required, but students are asked to undertake the Pre-Course Reading listed below before coming to Madingley.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Analyse the causative factors involved in violent conflict;
2. Distinguish between different interpretations of 'peace' and their impact on the form of intervention;
3. Apply Just War criteria to crisis intervention;
4. Better understand news coverage of current conflicts and proposed solutions;
5. Contribute constructively and in a balanced way to discussion about war and peace.

Reading and resources list

Pre-course Reading

Dixon, Peter and Mark Simmons, 2006, 'The role of track two initiatives', in *Peace by piece: Addressing Sudan's conflicts (Accord 18)*, pp, 60-63, Conciliation Resources (download free from <https://www.c-r.org/accord/sudan>).

Ramsbotham, Alexander and Zahbia Yousuf, 2016, 'Making peace with the past: transforming broken relationships', in *Transforming broken relationships: Making peace with the past (Accord Insight 3)*, Conciliation Resources (download free from <https://www.c-r.org/accord/reconciliation-and-peace-processes>).

Stewart, Rory, 'The Plane to Kabul', pp.1-89 in *Can Intervention Work?* by Rory Stewart and Gerald Knaus, Norton Paperback 2012.

Supplementary reading

Autesserre, Séverine. 2014. *Peaceland: conflict resolution and the everyday politics of international intervention*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brahimi, Lakhdar. 2000. Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations: 'Brahimi Report'. New York: United Nations.

Campbell, Susanna, David Chandler, and Meera Sabaratnam. 2011. *A liberal peace? The problems and practices of peacebuilding*. London: Zed Books.

Dixon, Peter. 2019. *Peacemakers: A Christian View of War and Peace*. London: Cloudshell Press.

Lederach, John Paul. 1997. *Building peace: sustainable reconciliation in divided societies*. Washington DC: USIP Press.

Murshed, Syed Mansoob. 2010. *Explaining civil war: a rational choice approach*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Paris, Roland, and Timothy D. Sisk. 2009. *The dilemmas of statebuilding: confronting the contradictions of postwar peace operations*. London: Routledge.

Philpott, Daniel, and Gerard F. Powers. 2010. *Strategies of peace: transforming conflict in a violent world*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ricigliano, Rob. 2012. *Making peace last: a toolbox for sustainable peacebuilding*. Boulder CO: Paradigm Publishers.

Wolff, Stefan. 2007. *Ethnic conflict: a global perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Online resources

Alliance for Peacebuilding (network of peacebuilding organisations):

www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org

Conciliation Resources Learning Hub:

<https://www.c-r.org/learning-hub>.

International Crisis Group (reports and policy advocacy on conflict and crisis areas):

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/>

Peace Insight (information on local peacebuilding organisations):

<https://www.peaceinsight.org/>

United Nations International Peace and Security:

<https://www.un.org/en/our-work/maintain-international-peace-and-security>

United States Institute of Peace (research and analysis on peace and conflict):

<http://usip.org/>