

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science

POLI 3520- Building Peace and Democracy /3 Credit Hours
Winter 2021 / Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Rossy

Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30 – 11:00 AM through Brightspace online chat or by appointment

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Course Description

Peace and democracy are not new ideas. Humanity has grappled with these concepts for millennia. Since the end of the Second World War, western societies have distanced themselves from the fascist and authoritarian regimes of the 1930s and 40s in favour of building strong democratic institutions and multilateral organizations that champion human rights, international cooperation and lasting peace. Yet, in recent decades, we have witnessed a swift departure from these postwar trends as there has been a spike in Populist movements and regimes. This sharp reversal has brought about a number of alarming trends that run contrary to the ideals that have long characterized peaceful and democratic systems of governance. States have begun to build walls instead of bridges, borders have been shut instead of allowing free movement of people, and nationalistic rhetoric has replaced a common dialogue of humanity. This course will analyze key themes of peace and democracy with particular emphasis on conflict resolution processes, the transition from war to peace, human rights and international justice. It will contrast peace with its antithesis— war— and study the unique role that democracy plays in fostering a stable, secure and prosperous world. By looking at key issues from 1945 to the present, such as post-conflict negotiations, human rights violations and war crimes trials, forced migration and the refugee crisis, genocide, humanitarian intervention and multilateral organizations, this course will attempt to answer a single question: is a world without war truly more peaceful and democratic?

Class Format

The course will be structured into Modules on Brightspace. Each week will feature a new Module that will run from Monday of that week to the following Sunday. Students will be expected to complete all lectures, readings and activities for each Module before a new Module commences the following Monday.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this course will be taught online. Please note that this course is asynchronous, which means that there are no live lectures or scheduled meeting times. All materials will be posted on Brightspace and can be consulted anytime the student wishes. Since this class is fully asynchronous, students are welcome to drop into virtual office hours on Mondays from 9:30 – 11:00 AM Pacific Time through our online chat portal on Brightspace. Alternatively, you may also contact me via e-mail with questions or to set up a virtual appointment that will take place on Zoom.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What are peace and democracy and how do these concepts interact with one another?
2. How do social, political and economic factors shape peace and democracy?
3. Which actors and institutions are responsible for creating, sustaining and violating peace and democracy?
4. What role does democracy play in creating and maintaining a peaceful, prosperous and secure world?

Required Text(s)

There is no required text for the course. All readings will be posted free of charge on Brightspace. Students will have one week to complete the required readings for each Module.

Course Schedule

Assigned readings will be posted each week on Brightspace. Deadlines will be posted on Brightspace along with detailed guidelines for each assignment. Please note that our course schedule is subject to change without notice at the discretion of the instructor in consultation with the students.

For more information on University holidays and important dates from the University calendar such as withdrawal and drop dates, please consult:

https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Week/Module Class Dates	Focus Topic	Activities	Readings
Introduction to course/ Jan 6-10	Introduction to course	Icebreaker Blog (optional)	Please review the course outline
Module 1/ Jan 11-17	War ⇌ Peace	Lecture 1	See Brightspace
Module 2/ Jan 18-24	The Rules of War	Lecture 2	See Brightspace
Module 3/ Jan 25 - 31)	War Crimes, Human Rights and International Justice	Lecture 3	See Brightspace
Module 4 / Feb 1-7	Conflict Resolution, Reconstruction and Democratization	Lecture 4	See Brightspace

Midterm / Feb 8-14	Midterm	Midterm	No readings
WINTER BREAK/ Feb 15-21	Winter study break		No readings
Module 5 / Feb 22-28	Refugees and Forced Migration	Lecture 5	See Brightspace
Module 6 / Mar 1-7	Genocide and what comes after	Lecture 6	See Brightspace
Module 7 / Mar 8-14	Humanitarian Intervention	Lecture 7	See Brightspace
Module 8 / Mar 15-21	Peace Treaties, Armistices and Ceasefires	Lecture 8	See Brightspace
Module 9 / Mar 22-28	Multilateralism, state-building and alliances	Lecture 9	See Brightspace
Review Week & Final Essay / Mar 29-Apr 8	Review week and final essay due		No readings

Course Assessments

Detailed guidelines will be provided for each assignment on Brightspace. Each assignment will be accompanied by a rubric that will detail how assignments will be graded. Please note that all late assignments will be penalized by 2% per day without valid justification.

Reading response # 1 – OR - reading quiz #1: January 31st

For this assessment, students have two options. They may either choose to complete a reading response on an assigned reading of their choosing or they may choose to complete a cumulative multiple choice quiz that will ask a series of questions on all assigned readings up until that date. The goal of the reading response is to help students think critically about the authors' arguments while making connections to key themes encountered in our course. The goal of the cumulative reading quiz is to help students create a comprehensive summary on assigned readings to date. Guidelines for each assignment will be posted on Brightspace. Late assignments will be penalized at 2% per day.

Midterm exam: February 8th-14th

During the the week of February 8-14, students will have three hours to complete an open-book midterm exam which will consist of a series of short and long answer questions. The exam will not require any Lockdown software. Detailed guidelines will be provided on Brightspace.

Essay outline/bibliography: March 7th

Students will be asked to submit a one-page essay outline with a proposed essay topic of their choosing on any theme related to the course. I will approve the essay topic and provide comments and feedback to each student upon completion. Students must also include at least three proposed sources in a bibliography along with a brief summary and commentary on the scope and usefulness of the source.

Reading response #2 – OR - Reading quiz #2: March 21st

Please see guidelines for reading response #1 and/or reading quiz #1

Final essay: April 8th

Students will be asked to write a 2,000-2,500 word essay (roughly 8-10 pages double-spaced) on a topic featured in their essay outline. Detailed guidelines will be provided on Brightspace.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weight
Reading response 1 or reading quiz 1	January 31, 2021	10%
Midterm exam	February 8-14, 2021	25%
Essay outline/bibliography	March 7, 2021	15%
Reading response 2 or reading quiz 2	March 21, 2021	10%
Final essay	April 8, 2021	40%

Course-specific policies

Please note that all late submissions for assignments will be penalized by 2% per day without valid justification. If you are struggling to meet the requirements of the course, I encourage you to speak with me so that we can reach a suitable plan of action to help you succeed.

SECTION B: UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. <https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog>

University Statements

- Territorial Acknowledgement:

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.¹

- Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

- Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students on the Halifax campus who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact:

- the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro.
- the Student Success Centre in Truro for courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>)

Please note that your classroom may contain accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, undisturbed, so that students who require their use will be able to fully participate.

- Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. (read more: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html)

¹ For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, or information about alternative territorial acknowledgements if your class is offered outside of Nova Scotia, please visit <https://native-land.ca/>.

- Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity and dedicated to achieving equity. We are committed to being a respectful and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our university prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

(read more: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

- Fair Dealing policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie.

(read more: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html)

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Grade Appeal Process
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html
- Sexualized Violence Policy
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html (Halifax)

<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support/advisingdalac.html> (Truro)

Here are additional links:

- Student Health & Wellness Centre: <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/health-and-wellness.html>
- On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond) <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/academic-support/On-track.html>
- Indigenous Student Centre <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/communities/indigenous.html>
- Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803.)
<https://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/undergraduate/indigenous-studies/a-day-in-the-life/elders-in-residence.html>
- Black Student Advising Centre <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/communities/black-student-advising.html>
- International Centre <http://www.dal.ca/campus life/student services/international-centre.html>
- South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre <https://southhousehalifax.ca/about/>
- LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative - <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres/education-campaigns/LGBTQ2SIA-collaborative.html>
- Dalhousie Libraries <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Copyright Office <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services <http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html>
- Human Rights and Equity Services <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>
- Writing Centre <https://www.dal.ca/campus life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html>
- Study Skills/Tutoring
<http://www.dal.ca/campus life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html>
- Faculty or Departmental Advising Support (Note: there is a different link for each faculty, and possibly for different departments or programs)

Safety

- Biosafety <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>
- Chemical Safety <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemicalsafety.html>
- Radiation Safety <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>
- Laser Safety <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/laser-safety.html>