BUILDING DEMOCRACY AND PEACE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3520
Winter 2014

Professor: Dr. Ann Griffiths
Office: Room 344, Hicks Building
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00, and by appointment
Email: ann.griffiths@dal.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Since the 1970s the trend has been for the number of countries governed by dictators to decrease as more and more countries adopt democracy – and we hope that this trend will continue. But, contrary to what some people think, the transition is not an easy one. The process is just as likely to fail as it is to succeed particularly when a country is just coming out of conflict, and therefore where trust is lacking, and anger and a desire for revenge may be the dominant emotions.

How can conflict be ended, and how can a country move toward peace? How can peace be made permanent? What steps should be taken to demobilize troops and get them back into civilian life? Does the international community have a role to play in the transition, and do international courts play a useful role in punishing those who have perpetrated crimes during the conflict? After a tentative peace has been achieved, what then? How can a functioning democracy be built? What exactly is democracy? Many people point to the presence of elections to indicate the presence of democracy. Is this sufficient? Other people argue that democracy is much more than elections – it’s also about rule of law, rights and governing in the public good.

What political structure should be adopted and how should it be implemented? These are questions that are fundamental to new political entities but the answers are often rushed in the transition. Who should be involved in a constitution-writing process, and what are the elements that must be included? Can outsiders help the transition to democracy or must the process be indigenous? These are just some of the questions that this course will address.

The course is designed as part lecture and part seminar. Students will do some work in groups and are expected to participate in discussions.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course students should be able to:
- define the concepts of democracy, peace and conflict;
- describe the difficulties of making the transition from war/conflict to democracy;
- explain the debate about peace versus justice;
- outline the elements of democratic governance;
- outline the role of international institutions in democratic transitions; and
- discuss the contemporary efforts to democratize that are in the news.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

There is no required textbook – readings are available online. Required readings are listed in the section “Class Schedule and Readings” below. Readings are available at the website location indicated. Students are expected to read the readings for each class. **If you have a problem accessing a reading, please talk to the professor.**

**PLAGIARISM**

Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as “the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one’s own.” Penalties for plagiarism can be severe. Prior to submitting any paper in a course, all students should read the Policy on Academic Integrity contained in the Dalhousie University Calendar or on the Dalhousie website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Dalhousie University subscribes to SafeAssign a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. The Dalhousie Senate has affirmed the right of any professor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and electronic format, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by SafeAssign. **Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the university, or even to the revocation of a degree.** It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities/sources from which facts, statistics and exact words and opinions have been derived.

As a student, you are required to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course professor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by SafeAssign.

**STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office if they wish to receive academic accommodations. To do so, students can phone (494-2836), email (access@dal.ca), drop in at the Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit the website (www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca). All forms are now available on the website. Please note that the onus is on the student, not on the professor, to make the arrangements to write exams at the SAS office.
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**CRITICAL ARTICLE REVIEWS**
Students will write two 1,000-1,200 word critical article reviews selected from the articles provided below. Note that a critical review does not mean that you have to be critical of the article, it simply means that you read it with a questioning mind and examine the merits/shortcomings of its argument and assumptions, rather than simply summarizing it.

**CRITICAL ARTICLE REVIEW #1 (20%) (due 25 February 2014)**

**Article 1**

OR

**Article 2**

**CRITICAL ARTICLE REVIEW #2 (20%) (due 25 March 2014)**

**Article 1**

OR

**Article 2**
Peter Harris, “A Close Call for International Law,” Canadian International Council (CIC), OpenCanada.org, 15 October 2013.

**GROUP ASSIGNMENT (15%) (due 11 February 2014)**
Students will be divided into groups and will discuss an assigned topic in class. Based on these discussions the group will present its findings in class, and then based on the feedback from class, write up a 2-3 page (single-spaced) assessment of the topic, and submit it as a group. More instructions will be handed out in class.
**DEBATE (15%) (throughout the course)**
Each student will be responsible for taking part in a debate in class. The debate will be on a topic provided by the instructor in the first class. Students will be assigned a ‘pro/agree’ or ‘con/disagree’ position on the topic. The two students assigned to each debate topic **will work together** to come up with their arguments. On the day of the debate, the two students will attempt to convince the class of the merits of their particular position. They will be allocated a maximum of 10 minutes each. **Students must submit a written summary of their presentation on the day of their debate.**

**FINAL EXAM (30%) (as scheduled by the Registrar)**
The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the exam period of **9-26 April 2014. Do not make plans to leave Halifax until the exam schedule has been posted.** Students are expected to be at the exam in the time scheduled – unless students can provide an acceptable written doctor’s note.

The exam will include material from lectures, readings and discussion in class. The format will be explained by the professor in class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Worth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Assignment</td>
<td>11 February 2014</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Article Review #1</td>
<td>25 February 2014</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Article Review #2</td>
<td>25 March 2014</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>throughout course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>as scheduled by the Registrar (Exam period is 9-26 April)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**MARKING SCHEME**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A+</td>
<td>87+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>81 - 86%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>78 - 80%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>76 - 77%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>72 - 75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>69 - 71%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>66 - 68%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>62 - 65%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

CLASS 1: INTRODUCTION
(7 January 2014)

CLASS 2: CONTEXT: FROM WAR TO PEACE
(14 January 2014)


CLASS 3: INTERVENTIONS TO END CONFLICT
(21 January 2014)


**CLASS 4: MOVING ON FROM CONFLICT**  
(28 January 2014)


**CLASS 5: LEGACIES OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE: PEACE VS. JUSTICE**  
(4 February 2014)


CLASS 6: WHAT IS DEMOCRACY AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?
(11 February 2014)


READING WEEK 17-21 FEBRUARY

CLASS 7: WRITING CONSTITUTIONS AND HOLDING ELECTIONS
(25 February 2014)

Dan Slater and Joseph Wong, “The Strength to Concede. Ruling Parties and Democratization in Developmental Asia,” *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (September 2013), through Dal libraries or from the professor


CLASS 8: KEEPING THE MILITARY IN THE BARRACKS
(4 March 2014)


Class 9: Rule of Law and The Courts  
(11 March 2014)


Class 10: Economics  
(18 March 2014)


Class 11: Civil Society  
(25 March 2014)


Class 12: Last Thoughts/Review  
(1 April 2014)