

**Political Science POLS 3490**  
***Conflict and Conflict Resolution***

**Instructor: Ian S. Spears**  
*University of Guelph*  
Fall 2019

**Time:** Tuesday and Thursday, 1 to 2:20 pm

**Location:** Rozanski Hall, room 102

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 9:30-11 am

**Final Exam:** Thursday, December 12, 2019, 19:00-21:00

**T.A.s:**

**Office:** 535 MacKinnon Building

**E-mail:** ispears@uoguelph.ca

**Phone:** (519) 824-4120 (ex. 52182)

**Welcome to POLS 3490: *Conflict and Conflict Resolution*.** This course examines a growing body of literature on violent conflict and its management — with particular focus on *civil* conflict in the *post-Cold War* era. Materials are organized to reflect the trajectory of many contemporary conflicts: from identifying sources of conflict, to recognizing challenges and opportunities for peace and, finally, to identifying conditions and means for post-conflict governance. Much of this literature considered here offers *critical* and *contrasting* examinations of a subject that some students may find disturbing. This syllabus is your source for course-related information; please read this syllabus carefully and refer to it first when questions arise during the term.

**Readings and Discussion:** There is no textbook for this course. Unless otherwise indicated, readings can be accessed by going through the “Library” link on the University of Guelph webpage and then scrolling down to “Course Reserves.” Only supplementary materials (newspaper articles, links etc) are available on CourseLink. Students are expected to critically consider the readings prior to each class and come prepared to participate in class discussions.

**Tests and Exams:** There will be a take-home midterm handed out on **October 1** (to be returned **October 10**) and a final exam covering all course materials on **Thursday, December 12, 2019**.

**Quizzes:** During the course of the term, students will complete five in-class quizzes for a total of five marks (designated as “**Q days**” below). These are short tests worth one mark each and consisting of (usually) two or four questions. In each case, the quizzes are based on the readings and/or lecture discussion. These quizzes are meant to encourage students to come to, and to be prepared for, class. Students who are not present in class to write the test will receive a grade of zero for that week. There is one make-up quiz on the final day of the course in the event that a quiz is missed.

**Assignments:** Students will complete one **eight** page (typed double-spaced) essay. The essay is based on the readings and on materials collected by the student during the course. More information regarding the assignment will be provided in class early in the course. The essay assignment is due **November 14, 2019**. Students should acquaint themselves with the rules regarding plagiarism. *This course uses Turnitin anti-plagiarism software.* Plagiarized papers are subject to the University of Guelph rules on academic misconduct.

**Course Grading:** Final grades will be assessed according to the following formula:

Midterm Test:	25 percent
Essay:	35 percent
Biweekly Quizzes	5 percent
<u>Final Exam:</u>	<u>35 percent</u>
Total:	100

**N.B.:** The expectations for this course are high. The courses pre-supposes an understanding of basic international relations theory, which forms the basis for much of the literature on conflict and conflict resolution. Students who do not have this background or who want to be reminded of the fundamentals should consult me or seek out an international relations theory textbook such as Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, or Elizabeth G. Matthews and Rhonda L. Callaway, *International Relations Theory: A Primer*. If you are unclear on any of these concepts please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor.

There is a demanding reading list that students are expected to complete prior to each week's classes. Students will be expected to know the names of authors and their arguments and to articulate them clearly. For their term papers, students will be expected to show an understanding of key concepts and to be able to express themselves in discussion that is well organized, coherent, and follows accepted rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. *Do not underestimate the quality of work that will be expected or the time and care that is necessary to write a good essay.*