

# GVPT 409A: Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution

## Fall 2020

Class Time: TR 9:30am-10:45am  
Class Location: Online, synchronous

Professor: [Gabriella Lloyd](#)  
E-mail: [glloyd@umd.edu](mailto:glloyd@umd.edu)  
Office: 2117F Chincoteague Hall  
Zoom Personal Meeting Room: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/6292737914>  
Office Hours (in Zoom): TR 3:30pm-5pm

Other times by appointment

### 1. Learning Outcomes

This course examines classic and contemporary perspectives on peace, justice, and conflict resolution after armed conflict. The goal of this course is to expose students to the advantages, risks, and challenges of the most prominent methods of conflict mitigation and resolution, including mediation and arbitration; peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding; the protection of civilians, Responsibility to Protect, and humanitarian assistance; elections, democratization, and power-sharing; and transitional reconciliation and justice. We will do this by reading, discussing, and synthesizing classic and cutting-edge Political Science research on these topics.

### 2. Required Resources

Course website: [elms.umd.edu](http://elms.umd.edu)

Book: Kerr, Rachel and Eirin Mobekk. *Peace & Justice: Seeking Accountability After War*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007.

### 3. Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

Your grade will be determined by your performance on 3 memos and 5 pop quizzes. The pop quizzes will be given without prior notice during the first 10 minutes of class. To ensure you have the enough time to work on a pop quiz, make sure you arrive to class on time each day. Each pop quiz will cover the material in the reading assignment that week.

You are expected to complete the reading assignments before Tuesday's class in the assigned week. All readings except Kerr and Mobbekk will be posted to the course webpage on ELMS.

All memos should be typed, double-spaced, 12 Times New Roman font with 1-in margins. Each memo should be no more than 1,000 words long. In each memo, you should show that you understand the course material by relate it to a case of your choosing. Each memo must use at least 5 key terms (highlighted in **bold**) in a way that makes their meaning clear a non-academic audience. Prior to each memo deadline, I will distribute a set of guidelines that summarize the exact material you should engage in your memo.

### 4. Course Policies

**Lecture Slides:** The best way to get the information delivered during lectures is to attend class. However, I will post lecture slides to our course webpage on ELMS. I will provide videos of missed classes to any student with a valid, documented excuse for missing class.

**Recorded Sessions:** This course will be recorded. Recorded content may be shared with other students in this course.

**Cellphones:** I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your cellphone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: <http://youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk>.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Students that have completed my course are welcome to request a letter of recommendation. I will not write letters for deadlines that are less than one month away.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to have completed all of the assigned readings for each class and be prepared to discuss them. Please be on time for class and stay until the end, unless you have made special arrangements with me.

**ELMS:** Important communication regarding the class is conducted via ELMS. This includes posting of the syllabus, announcements, and grades. Students are required to be proficient users of ELMS and to ensure that their emails registered with ELMS are up to date and checked regularly.

**Contacting Me:** Do not use ELMS to email me. Instead, email me directly at [glloyd@umd.edu](mailto:glloyd@umd.edu). You are also welcome to come to my office hours (Monday/Wednesday 1-3pm) in 2117F Chincoteague Hall.

**Extra Credit:** Graded assignments in the class provide students with ample opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the materials. Therefore, no extra credit assignments will be assigned in the class. Do not ask if you can make up your own assignment for extra credit. *The answer is no.*

#### 4. Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit [www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

**Get Some Help!:** You are expected to take personal responsibility for you own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance on time management, note taking, and exam preparation, so I encourage you to consider visiting <http://ter.ps/learn> and schedule an appointment with an academic coach. Sharpen your communication skills (and improve your grade)

by visiting <http://ter.ps/writing> and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center. Finally, if you just need someone to talk to, visit <http://www.counseling.umd.edu>.

Everything is free because you have already paid for it, and **everyone needs help**...all you have to do is ask for it.

**Names/Pronouns and Self Identifications:** The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit [trans.umd.edu](http://trans.umd.edu) to learn more.

Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

**Religious Observance:** In accordance with the University's policy on the observance of religious holidays, it is the student's responsibility to inform me of any absences due to these holidays well in advance and in writing within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Absence Due to Illness:** As per University policy students may submit a self-signed note for a medically necessitated absence from a single section during the semester. Such documentation is sufficient unless it coincides with a Major Scheduled Grading Event (a paper deadline). Any student missing more than one section or a Major Scheduled Grading Event is required to provide documentation from the Health Center or from an outside health care provider that verifies the dates of treatment and time frame during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities.

**Code of Conduct:** It is assumed that all students are familiar with and adhere to the code of academic integrity. See <https://www.president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-iii-academic-affairs/iii-100a>.

## 5. Grades

Grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If you would like to review any of your grades, or have questions about how something was scored, please email me to schedule a time for us to meet in my office.

**Grade Disputes:** I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you, and if I have made a mistake I will immediately correct it. Any formal grade disputes must be submitted in writing and within one week of receiving the grade.

**Late memos** submitted without a properly documented excuse will incur a penalty of **1 point per minute late**. See information on how to provide proper documentation below.

**Make-up quizzes** will be offered to students who provide **proper documentation excusing their absence from class. See information on how to provide proper documentation below.**

### **Policy on Excused Absences related to COVID-19**

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, self-certified notes will serve as documentation for COVID-19 related absences or missed course expectations. This means that students do not need a note signed by a doctor or other health professional for COVID-19 related absences.

In the event that students cannot complete the regular course assessments due to COVID-19 related absences, faculty can suggest alternative assignments for students to make up missing work and complete the course. According to university policy, these alternative assignments are permitted and cannot be the basis for an Arbitrary and Capricious grading claim.

<b>Grade item</b>	<b>Points possible</b>
Memo 1	25
Memo 2	25
Memo 3	25
5 Pop quizzes	25
Total	100

**Final Letter Grades:** Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. To be fair to everyone I have to establish clear standards and apply them consistently, so please understand that being close to a cutoff is not the same this as making the cut (89.99  $\neq$  90.00). It would be unethical to make exceptions for some and not others.

<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>Points range</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Points range</b>
A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	66-69
B-	80-82	F	< 65

## 6. Course Schedule

September 1-3: Introduction

September 8-10: Studying conflict resolution

Reading assignment: CCR chapter 1

Guide to Writing an Effective Policy Memo

September 15-17: Non-violence, pacifism, and peaceful conflict resolution

Reading assignment: CCR chapter 5

September 22-24: Credible commitment problems

Reading assignment: Walter (2009)

September 29-October 1: Building trust through mediation and arbitration

Reading assignment: Dennis Ross *Statecraft* chapters 10 and 11

**\*\* Memo 1: Due on October 5 by 5 PM \*\***

October 6-8: Human security and human rights

Reading assignment: Thakur chapter 3

October 13-15: Violence against civilians

Reading assignment: Davenport and Stam (2009)

October 20-22: From peacekeeping to R2P

Reading assignment: Willmot and Sheeran (2013)

October 27-29: Postwar Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Reading assignment: CCR chapter 8

November 3-5: Democratization and Consociationalism

Reading assignment: Flores and Nooruddin (2012)

**\*\* Memo 2: Due on November 9 by 5 PM \*\***

November 10-12: Introduction to post-conflict justice

Reading assignment: Kerr and Mobekk introduction

November 17-19: Post-conflict justice: Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials

Reading assignment: Kerr and Mobekk chapter 1

November 24-26: Post-conflict justice: ICTY/ICTR

Reading assignment: Kerr and Mobekk chapter 2

**November 26: No class (Thanksgiving break)**

December 1-3: Post-conflict justice: ICC

Reading assignment: Kerr and Mobekk chapter 3 and 4

December 8-10: Post-conflict justice: Internationalized courts, domestic trials, and truth commissions

Reading assignment: Kerr and Mobekk chapters 5 and 6

**\*\* Memo 3 due on December 14 by 5 PM \*\***

**Note:** This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.