This course is serves as an introduction to the international politics of resolving crises. The focus is on the crises that have emerged since the end of the Cold War--particularly in the areas of civil war, state failure, and self-determination. This course introduces students to the core debates in this field of study as well as to cutting edge research. The course begins with competing theories of why states intervene in international crises and what are the conditions for success in different types of intervention, such as peacekeeping. Then, we will consider current issues facing the UN and how they may be addressed via a simulation of the UN Security Council. By the end of the course, students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various peacebuilding strategies in light of evidence from social science and apply their insights in a policy memo.

**Contact Information**
**Instructor:** Megan Becker  
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**Office Hour:** Tuesday 12-1 and by appt

**Course Objectives**
By the end of this course students will:
1. Have a deeper understanding of what leads to UN intervention and the prerequisites of peacekeeping effectiveness.
2. Be exposed to a set of cases of domestic instability in which the UN has intervened, as well as some in which it *may* intervene.
3. Gain a better understanding of how the UN works and how decisions to intervene are made via a simulation of the Security Council.
4. Apply the theoretical and empirical lessons from class in a Foreign Policy Memo, writing as their assigned state.

**Evaluation**
Your grade will be determined by an equally weighted average of the following:
Midterm Exam (in class, July 9)  
Participation in UN Security Council Simulation  
Final Paper (due Friday, August 1st)

**Readings**
The reading load for this course is not onerous, but close, careful reading of the
assigned articles is essential for meeting the learning objectives of the course. To be clear, you will not learn as much as you should or be able to earn an outstanding grade without doing the readings. Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned so that you can understand lecture and participate in discussion.

There is no textbook for this course. Assigned readings will be available online on TED. You need to be at UCSD or using a computer with a UCSD Proxy to access the readings.

Note: Some of the assigned readings use game theory and some pieces include statistical analyses. Students are not required to understand any mathematical sections in detail, but must closely examine the qualitative descriptions of the mathematical results in order to form a general appreciation of the logic of the arguments. For advice on getting the most out of readings, consult Leanne Powner’s article “Reading and Understanding Political Science.” Available online at: http://jayandleanne.com/lpowner/tchdocs/readingps.pdf

Class Format
This course is divided into two parts. The first half is focused on having the students gain an understanding of how the UN works, where they have intervened and whether those interventions were effective/successful. Class will be divided into lecture and discussion. During discussion, students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the readings, make arguments about debates raised, and discuss the policy implications of the day’s topic, including its implications for current events. During discussions we will also occasionally spend some time reviewing for exams and discussing research strategies for the final paper.

The second half of the class will feature a simulation of the UN Security Council. Each week we will focus on a different international issue facing the UN.

Assignment Overview:

Midterm
The midterm, administered on July 9th, will be an hour-long multiple choice examination. The goal with this exam is simply to check whether you have understood the lectures and readings. A simple note, multiple choice does not mean ‘easy.’

Security Council Simulation
We will spend three class meetings doing a simulation of the U.N. Security Council. Students (some in teams of two) will represent a nation on the Security Council. Assignments will be made according to student preferences, but the order of assignment will be based on how well the student performed on the midterm.

During the simulation weeks, Monday’s class will feature a lecture and a film to give background to the case, as well as time for students to meet and discuss potential policies and strategies. Members of the Council will be encouraged to propose
resolutions, which must be sent to the instructor by 5pm on Tuesday. During Wednesday's class, we will meet as the UN Security Council to discuss and debate resolutions on the issue. All students should come to class on Wednesdays with a one-page write-up of their state's position on the issue at hand, which may be used as 'talking points' during discussion and will be handed in at the end of class. These 'talking points' will also help prepare you for the final paper.

Final Policy Memo
Your final project will be an 8-10 page memo regarding one of the cases covered in class. While you will work in pairs during the simulation, you will write the final paper individually. This paper will require the synthesis of class materials and outside research.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1

Monday, June 30: Course syllabus and expectations. Three Cases of UN Intervention in the 1990's--Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia
To Read: 1) Course Syllabus
3) “Reading and Understanding Political Science.” Available online at: http://jayandleanne.com/lpowner/tchdocs/readingps.pdf

Wednesday, July 2: The Role of the UN and the Choice to Intervene

Week 2

Monday, July 7: What makes intervention effective?

**Wednesday, July 9:** Introduction to the UN Simulation and MIDTERM

**SIMULATION BEGINS:** Because these events are unfolding in real time, we need some flexibility in the readings assigned. All required readings will be posted to TED by **Thursday at Noon** the week before we cover the case.

**Week 3: On Sudan and South Sudan**
**Monday, July 14:** Background
**Wednesday, July 16:** UN Security Council Simulation

**Week 4: On Syria and Iraq**
**Monday, July 21:** Background
**Wednesday, July 23:** UN Security Council Simulation

**Week 5: On Crimea**
**Monday, July 28:** Background
**Wednesday, July 30:** UN Security Council Simulation

**Saturday, August 1:** Final Paper due by, in hard copy and via turnitin.com. Full details TBA.

**Academic Honesty**
All scholarship produced for this class must be original student work. To this end, all final papers will be submitted to turnitin.com in addition to hard copy. Instances of plagiarism will be reported to the University administration and will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism is the direct reproduction of another scholar’s written work without proper citation, or the use of another scholar’s idea(s) without proper citation. Please contact me with questions regarding proper and sufficient citation.
Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. I will do my best to keep the course’s TED site updated. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.