International Conflict & Negotiation

Professor Denise Garcia
Ph.D. in International Relations & International Law, University of Geneva
Political Science Department and International Affairs Program
College of Social Sciences and Humanities
2016 Outstanding Teaching Award

Northeastern University
Spring 2018

Meets at beautiful West Village G 108
Mondays and Thursdays, 11:45-1:25 (be on time!)
INTL 3400

Office and advising hours start on the week of January 16th
(Please just show up, no appointment or e-mail needed)
In my office (room 210L) at Renaissance Park 2nd Floor
Wednesdays: 5:00-6:30 pm
Starts on January 17th

No office hours: January 31st and April 4th

Extra Office hours:
February 20 10:30-11:30; March 22 5-6:30; April 10 10:30-11:30
(If all these times do not work for you, please schedule a meeting time in person after class)

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Justin Haner
Head Teaching Assistant
9th floor at Renaissance Park, at the open work space
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haner.j@husky.neu.edu

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Professor Denise Garcia is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and the International Affairs program at Northeastern University in Boston and a Nobel Peace Institute Fellow. She researches on International Law, and the questions of lethal robotics and Artificial Intelligence, global governance of security, and the formation of new international norms and their impact on peace and security.
She is the recipient of Northeastern’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities Outstanding Teaching Award in 2016. In 2017, Garcia was appointed to the International Panel for the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons (Germany’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs).


She is proud to have held the title: *Sadeleer Family Research Faculty at Northeastern* (2011-2016). Prior to joining the faculty of Northeastern University in 2006 (tenured in 2013), Garcia held a three-year appointment at Harvard, at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and the World Peace Foundation’s Intra-State Conflict Program. She holds a Ph.D., International Relations and International Law—*Institut des Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement* (Graduate Institute for International Studies and Development), University of Geneva, Switzerland. She is the vice-chair of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control, a member of the Academic Council of the United Nations and the Global South Unit for Mediation in Rio de Janeiro. A native of Brazil, Garcia is a devoted yogi, her hobbies include travel and surfing. Please visit her page on Foreign Affairs: [https://www.foreignaffairs.com/authors/denise-garcia](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/authors/denise-garcia)

I dedicate this course, as well as its aspirations and aims, to Andres Alarcon, my former International Conflict and Negotiation student, lovely Geneva Dialogue leader in the Alps, NU alum, and a wonderful man. His untimely death, at age 23, in the Summer 2011, left sorrow in the hearts of many friends and his beautiful family. I will always remember his love for life, graciousness with my students in Geneva, and adorable kindness.

**Rationale and Aspirations**

This course will examine a central aspect of the relations among states: the politics, international laws, and institutions devoted to resolve or end conflict and to promote global cooperation. These processes lie at the heart of international relations and the United Nations plays a pivotal role. We will understand the work of member states in the United Nations and how they use international law to tackle problems that affect everyone.
The ultimate goals of world politics in the United Nations for the 21st century ought to be the achievement of peace, prosperous living for the peoples of the earth, and abiding by internationally agreed upon norms of conduct in international relations. World leaders need to revitalize such principled commitments and allow great negotiators to come to the fore and reverse the deadlocked and perilous situations that the world faces in the search for peace and prosperity. We will examine how, and under what conditions, international law can be a tool and a language for states and other actors.

However, do not expect theory to solve all the world’s dilemmas. To borrow the words of a great negotiator, Lakhdar Brahimi, “be ready to change and adapt to the situation. Don’t ask reality to conform to your blueprint but transform your blueprint to adapt to reality.” As Brahimi also emphasizes: we have to try to understand the other side and not hold prejudices, keeping a humble, open mind. Therefore, key prerequisites for the exciting study of conflict and negotiation are: a curious spirit, the capacity to think critically, an open mind, and the willingness to try to step into the negotiator’s shoes and sometimes to take a neutral position.

The world is very interdependent and interconnected. Therefore, interactions among states are denser, and thus the likelihood for conflict is greater. In addition, there are many more actors beyond the state that take an important role in conflict and in negotiations everywhere. We will also take these other actors into account.

The world has been changing dramatically, especially since the end of the Cold War, and most prominently in the last five years in the Middle East. Therefore, we need to have a fresh look at these rapidly changing scenarios and try to come up with new and much-needed humanitarian-inspired, multilateral thinking.

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with knowledge of key concepts of international law and international relations to better understand world politics. You will be familiar and be able to apply your knowledge to some of the major conflicts and multilateral processes of our time. Your participation and critical thinking will be actively engaged through discussions, simulations and team activities.

**Here is what you need for this class:**

You are required to bring these great books with you to class.

ISBN: 9780199239337

ISBN: 9780199399499
Read our syllabus carefully

A notebook to take as many written notes as possible

Good attitude!

A world map on your wall

Download the world map as well: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/graphics/ref_maps/political/pdf/world.pdf

To learn about countries, please start by: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/refmaps.html

Learning Objectives
-Students will understand the various historical and contemporary tools and methods of international conflict resolution.

-Students will gain practical writing, research, and conflict resolution skills by working on all assignments in pairs and groups.

-Students will develop an in-depth understanding of one particular international conflict of their choosing throughout the semester, culminating in proposing a practical solution to the crisis based upon sound negotiating principles.

Grading Policy
Late papers will not be read. In other words: I have a zero tolerance policy for late papers and assignments. You will know from day one all of your obligations for this course. All that is required, the deadlines, and the guidelines are right here. So there is no excuse not to do your work on time.

Students who are more than 15 minutes late will be marked absent. No exceptions. I shall not give any pass / fail grades, nor any incompletes for this class.

There is no make-up opportunity for a bad grade!

All research papers must be written in pairs.

I read all papers.
Presence in class

You may not miss any class. If you miss a class and that class is the deadline for one of your assignments; please have a colleague turn in a copy of your paper or e-mail Professor Garcia and the Head TA by the time and day the assignment is due. If you miss a class, there must be an extremely valid reason justifying your absence. Otherwise, your final grade will be dropped by a half-point per class missed.

Arriving late is not courteous and should be avoided, as it will count as an absence. Going out of the classroom during lectures is not desirable either. It is distracting and should be avoided unless imperative.

Use of electronics is prohibited in class except on designated days of activities and simulations.

Electronic devices are not allowed during the class. A week has 10,080 minutes. We only meet 200 minutes per week. Let us take full advantage of them! No texting under any circumstance is allowed. During debates: the use of computers is accepted within defined limits.

No texting under any circumstance!

Put your phone away from you during class.

Course requirements

Assignments:


Directions: Choose an area of international law discussed in your book (sovereignty, state cooperation, enforcement, laws of war, sanctions, environmental protection, etc.) and examine it using the context of a specific contemporary issue (migration in the European Union, famine in South Sudan, deforestation in Brazil, cyber security in the United States, etc.). What parts of international law are working well in this area and what parts are not? How, if at all, does existing international law affect the behavior of the actors in this issue? What, if anything, else needs to be done to create stronger international law governing this area?

Please refer to Guidelines for Research Sources of our syllabus on how to properly carry out research and use sources. For all citations, please use the Harvard style

Formatting Requirements: Papers need to be written in pairs, five pages long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the left, right, top, and bottom sides. Justify your text to both margins. If including graphs or tables, insert them on a separate page after the Bibliography.
Delegation Activity 1 in class on February 15th:

Directions: each delegation will write a 3000-word report answering the question: Is the world headed to World War III? Use historical and contemporary examples, as well as the Global Peace Index, to build your case. Final delegation report due by 1159pm on February 22nd by e-mail to Professor Garcia and the Head TA who will acknowledge receipt.

Please refer to Guidelines for Research Sources of our syllabus on how to properly carry out research and use sources. For all citations, please use the Harvard style.

Formatting Requirements: Papers need to be written in delegations, 3000 words long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the left, right, top, and bottom sides. Justify your text to both margins. If including graphs or tables, insert them on a separate page after the Bibliography.

Research Paper 2 due in class on March 15th


Research Topic: choose any conflict you are most interested in: for instance, North Korea, the Philippines, Uighur conflict in China, South China Sea, South Sudan, Syria, Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Ukraine, Libya, Yemen, etc. Other less geographically-constrained conflicts including topics like: migration, nuclear weapons, resource conflicts, famine, etc. may also be chosen with TA approval.

Directions: First, briefly (2 pages or less) describe the most relevant and pertinent background information to the conflict using the book’s framework (board, players, stakes, moves).

Board: is the introduction to the conflict (very brief);
Players: who is involved inside and outside the conflict (very brief);
Stakes: why it matters to the ones involved and to the world;
Moves: what has happened: what makes it a stalemate (in the case of Syria, for instance) or a peace treaty (in the case of Colombia, for instance);

Then, using what you’ve learned in this course, describe, in detail, the most viable solution you see to the conflict and why you believe it to be the best option. Be sure to include what suggestions you would make to specific world leaders seeking a resolution to this conflict.

Please refer to Guidelines for Research Sources of our syllabus on how to properly carry out research and use sources. For all citations, please use the Harvard style.

Formatting Requirements: Papers need to be written in pairs, five pages long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the
Delegation Activity 2 in class on April 5th: Peace Operations (bring your books!). This class activity has two parts:

Directions: Part I: In your delegations, please answer questions 14 (on page 341), 16 and 17 (on page 345) and 18 (on page 348) in roughly 500 words or less. Use chapter 9 of Law and Practice of the United Nations: Documents and Commentary by David M. Malone, Ian Johnstone, and Simon Chesterman, Oxford University Press, 2016, 2nd Edition. Your answers may be divided into different sections for each of the questions.

Part II: select on ongoing Peace-Keeping Operation and answer the following four questions in roughly 1000 words, to the extent that they are relevant to your operation:

- What is the operation’s effectiveness in facilitating the peace/peace agreement/ peace transition in the country/ aftermath of disaster/ humanitarian catastrophe?
- What is the operation’s effectiveness in observance of implementation of cease-fire agreement and/or monitoring human rights situations/ other mission-critical situations?
- Acting under UN Charter Chapter VII, has it been effective in protecting civilians from the threat of non-state armed groups? From threats from own government? Other threats?
- Has it helped to establish good governance?


This report should be around 3000 words in total and is due by 1159pm on April 12th by e-mail to Professor Garcia and the Head TA who will acknowledge receipt.

Please refer to Guidelines for Research Sources of our syllabus on how to properly carry out research and use sources. For all citations, please use the Harvard style.

Formatting Requirements: Papers need to be written in delegations, 3000 words long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the left, right, top, and bottom sides. Justify your text to both margins. If including graphs or tables, insert them on a separate page after the Bibliography.

Research Topic: choose a new conflict you are interested in, regionally or thematically distinct from the topic you chose for Research Paper 2. Examples: North Korea, the Philippines, Uighur


conflict in China, South China Sea, South Sudan, Syria, Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Ukraine, Libya, Yemen, etc. Other less geographically-constrained conflicts including topics like: migration, nuclear weapons, resource conflicts, famine, etc. may also be chosen with TA approval.

Directions: First, briefly (2 pages or less) describe the most relevant and pertinent background information to the conflict using the book’s framework (board, players, stakes, moves).

Board: is the introduction to the conflict (very brief);
Players: who is involved inside and outside the conflict (very brief);
Stakes: why it matters to the ones involved and to the world;
Moves: what has happened: what makes it a stalemate (in the case of Syria, for instance) or a peace treaty (in the case of Colombia, for instance);

Then, using what you’ve learned in this course, describe, in detail, the most viable solution you see to the conflict and why you believe it to be the best option. Be sure to include what suggestions you would make to specific world leaders seeking a resolution to this conflict. Make sure to address any shortcomings identified on Research Paper 2. This paper is expected to be of higher quality and demonstrate improvement in both analytic prowess and effective, concise communication.

Please refer to Guidelines for Research Sources of our syllabus on how to properly carry out research and use sources. For all citations, please use the Harvard style

Formatting Requirements: Papers need to be written in pairs, five pages long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the left, right, top, and bottom sides. Justify your text to both margins. If including graphs or tables, insert them on a separate page after the Bibliography.

Further General Format and Guidelines for all Papers for all Research Papers:
Research Papers due in class at 11:45 AM, in print. See grading policy

Expectations: Every research paper, short or long (book length), has the following organization structure:
A brief introduction (or longer in case of a 30 plus page paper/article or book): situates the issue, its main characteristics and actors, and shows the importance of the topic. In other words: what is the actual issue, why do you care (interest, significance, and implications) and why the world should care.
Body of the text: often divided in three parts (this may vary, of course): in the first part, you have to clearly state your argument (your opinion, your thesis statement). For example: you are for the use of military force in Syria because of two reasons A and B. Or you are against the use of force in Syria due to three reasons: X, Y and Z. Cite people with the same opinion and authors who inspired you to come to this argument.
The second part should show reasons to sustain and justify your argument. Here you cite authors who came before you: for and against; with the same and different opinion. Illustrate.
The third part: you should delve deeper to further develop your argument and expand it.
Conclusions. Here you briefly summarize what was argued and why. Point to the future. Give recommendations, theoretical and policy-oriented. Show why further research maybe needed.

Formatting Requirements: Research papers need to be written in pairs, five pages long, with bibliography on separate pages. No cover page. Times New Roman Font 12, 1.5 spaced, use 0.5 margins on the left, right, top, and bottom sides. Justify your text to both margins. If including graphs or tables, insert them on a separate page after the Bibliography.

Citation Requirements: Citations and bibliography following the Harvard style. Wikipedia is not an academic source. Class notes cannot be used for citation. They are to guide you.

Use of Acronyms, Synonyms, and Language
It is all right to use them; however, you must specify them when first used. For instance, observe the correct use of several acronyms in this sentence:
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an important alliance in international relations. NATO was created in 1949. Northeastern University (NU) has a Cooperative Education (COOP) opportunity with the NATO Defense College in Rome. Next Fall, NU will send two COOP students to NATO.

Please use formal proper English. You are writing an academic paper. Do not use colloquialisms such as: “I feel,” “this thing”…also do not use contractions: don’t, isn’t. It is important to remember as well: “who” refers to people only, “that” or “which” refers to nations or groups. Please use synonyms; in other words: avoid using the same word again and again. For instance: “important”. Many synonyms represent the same approximate semantic meaning of “important”, such as: significant, vital, imperative, central, chief, key, main, principal, essential, focal, etc…If you are using a PC, and type “shift F7” you will get synonyms for each word. Here is the instruction on how to use Thesaurus on Mac (using Word): Tools > Thesaurus which takes you to synonyms. One can also use the following shortcut: shift + option + command + R.

For enquiries about how to cite in the Harvard style, please see one of the librarians in our NU Library (Roxanne Palmatier is recommended). For citations: please note that to cite is not the same as to paraphrase (or to quote). In research papers, you must cite not paraphrase. As a rule of thumb, I would say at least one citation per five lines is appropriate.

Please use our Library reference services and librarians for further assistance.

Come discuss your ideas with me during my Office Hours!

Grade Breakdown: (if you miss classes, your grade will be severely deducted)

- Research Papers: 60% (20% each)
- Delegation Reports: 30% (15% each)
- Participation: 10% This includes respect to my policies (especially presence and no texting)
Guidelines for RESEARCH SOURCES - where to find the literature:
Please use our NU Library reference services and librarians for further assistance.

You will do your own research and find out the pertinent literature to read. You are exercising to be a researcher, in any area, through the development of this ability! Please use the rich resources of the NU Library online Scholar One. If you don’t know how to use it, please go the Library and learn from one of the librarians/ resource people. You can then know how to access from anywhere in the world. If you are using only Google search, you are really missing out…. So here is your road map and guidelines on how to this properly:

Five Categories of Research Sources Research Papers

Your sources must be authoritative (no Wikipedia):

Five Categories:

1) Relevant Books;


5) Primary Sources: UN website for: UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions; relevant international treaties (same as Conventions), for instance: the Chemical Weapons Convention, the UN Charter, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc.
Class Schedule
You must bring all the required books to every class!

January 11: Welcome greetings, Introductions, Syllabus presentation, setting expectations
January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

PART I - Introductions & Comprehensive Overview
January 18, 22, 25 February 5, 8

For January 18, 22, 25 and February 5, 8:
Overview of Career Paths in International Affairs. Professional advice on what do with your major! Professional conduct and demeanor, networking skills.
Writing for our class: expectations.

Introduction to International Law, the United Nations, International Negotiations of Conflict, global cooperation problems. Applications to World Politics.

📖 Homework Readings:

Read all of:

And Pages: 3-13 of:

Read chapters: 1-6 of:
And
Chapters 5 and 6 of:

📖 Homework Readings prior to PART II:
Download here: Global Peace Index 2017
From the Institute for Economics & Peace based in Sydney Australia.
And
Chapter 3 until page 93 of:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to Complex Negotiations: A flavor from top experts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29: Guest Lecture by Michael Green, NU Alum ‘2012- activist, lobbyist, and entrepreneur, CEO of the Climate Action Business Association - Climate Change Negotiations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1: Guest Lecture by Professor Mai’a Cross – European Union Negotiations</td>
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**PART II: Avoiding Conflict: Negotiating and Measuring Peace**

**February 12, 15:**
Global Peace Index: how to measure peace, building international institutions for security

February 15: Delegations’ Activity 1 on the Global Peace Index (see instructions above)

February 19: University Holiday

**PART III: Principled International Negotiations**

**February 22:** Examining Activist Negotiations and Track-two Diplomacy - The Case of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (A Common Weapon of All Conflicts), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban (Ottawa) Treaty & Chief Negotiator Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams

**February 26: The Case of top negotiator Sergio Vieira de Mello**
Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN envoy to Iraq in 2003


**PART IV: Negotiating some of the hardest conflict cases**
Iraq, Kosovo, Libya, Syria, and Ukraine

**March 1, 12, 15:** Hard Cases: Iraq, Kosovo, Libya, Syria, and Ukraine (bring your books!)
March 5, 8 – No Classes, Spring Break!

PART V: Negotiations about Countering Terrorism and Nuclear Nonproliferation

📖 Homework Readings:
Chapter 8 of:

March 19, 22: Terrorism and Nuclear & Conventional Weapons Nonproliferation (bring your books!)

PART VI: Negotiating Sanctions

📖 Homework Readings:
Chapter 10 of:

March 26: Sanctions (bring your book!): Case Studies: Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo

PART VII: Negotiations on Climate Change and Sustainability

📖 Homework Readings:
Chapter 11 of:

March 29, April 2: Climate Change & Sustainability (bring your book!)

April 5: Delegation Activity 2

PART VIII: Negotiating for Democracy

April 9:
📖 Homework Readings:
Chapter 12 to 14 and 16 of:
Homework Readings:
Chapter 17 of:

Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Development, Transitional Justice towards security and peace; the cases of Rwanda, Srebrenica, Sri Lanka, East Timor and Kosovo (bring your book!)

PART IX: Conclusions & Way Forward

**Last Class: April 12:** Future Negotiations and the United Nations Reform – The Future of Global Governance

April 16 (Monday): University Holiday / April 18: Last day of Classes on the University Class Calendar (Wednesday).

Further Policies & Advice

**Getting Acquainted with what is Going on in the World**

You are encouraged to take advantage of the following suggested news media and be informed about what is happening in the world. This will be key to taking the best advantage of our class (all our simulations will be about real events):

- BBC world service website (country profiles – overview, facts, leaders, GNI, Chronology of key events, anthem podcasts, videos, news on the hour),
- Google News,
- The International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com),
- The Economist,
- The New York Times,
- Internet radio news from around the world.

We have full-text access to The Economist through a variety of vendor databases. We also maintain a current print subscription. Below, I've pasted a list of the various databases where the Economist is available. The dates shown indicate the earliest date provided by each vendor. The easiest way to connect is through the Library's E-Journal Finder (that's where you'll find the list I've pasted below). There's a link to the E-Journal Finder in the center of the Library home page in the "Find" category. [http://www.lib.neu.edu](http://www.lib.neu.edu).

Academic Honesty and Integrity policy

From the Political Science Department: “Any student who appears to violate the University’s Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy (see www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html) may be referred to the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a proven violation involves an exam or course assignment, the student shall receive a failing grade for the assignment, in addition to sanctions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Individual faculty, with the support of the Department, can impose harsher penalties as they deem necessary. The Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and other types of dishonest activities. Plagiarism is defined broadly as taking ideas, concepts, or
actual words of another person and passing them off as your own work. Of particular note in recent years is the increase in cut-and-paste plagiarism, which involves downloading phrases from websites or other Internet sources. Your instructor will clarify specific guidelines on fair use of material for this class, but you should regard this as your official warning.”

**Use Appropriate E-mail Etiquette:** [http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor](http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor)

E-mail should only be used to contact me for serious concerns. Let us talk in person about your concerns and questions (after class and during my office hours).

E-mails to professors should always be addressed appropriately (e.g. Dear Professor Garcia, not “hey” or similar informal expressions). You should include a polite greeting and a polite personable goodbye at the end), and write using professional language. Never send e-mails without checking grammar and spelling first.

And remember, e-mail may be an immediate delivery system, but you should not expect immediate replies.

**The Harvard Reference System**

For citations: please note citing is not the same as paraphrasing. Here you must cite not paraphrase. As a rule of thumb, I would say at least one citation per five lines is appropriate. For enquiries about how to cite, please see one of the librarians in our NU Library (Roxanne Palmatier is recommended)

This is a simple referencing system which is easy to use for author and reader alike and is the one preferred by Taylor & Francis. If you use this system, you cite the author's surname, the year of publication and the page reference immediately after the quoted material, e.g. ‘Many composers ... have attempted to return to this state of childhood grace’ (Swanwick 1988: 56).

With this system it is essential that the bibliography list every work cited by you in the text. Where there are two or more works by one author in the same year, distinguish them as 1988a, 1988b, etc.

Type bibliographic entries in this order: author, initials, date, title, place of publication, publisher (see below for a sample bibliography).

Citations in the text for online material should include the surname(s) of the author(s), or the name of the ‘authoring’ organization, and the document date or date of last revision (which may require the date and month as well as the year).

As online material may be continually updated or revised, you cannot be sure that the material you refer to will not have been changed since the time you cited it. Therefore you should always include the date that you accessed the material.

Citing The Economist:

In text (The Economist August 2012) and include more details including title in the bibliography.

Citing Newspapers articles:

(NYT date) and include details including title in the bibliography.

* Same applies for other news sources. Use your good judgment and provide your reader information so s/he can find your sources!
More on Harvard Style:


