

From Fragility to Resilience: New Approaches to Global Development

Fall 2019 – Wednesdays @ 6:00pm to 8:40pm

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:00pm to 6:00pm and by appointment

Course Description

While some countries move up the development ladder on the way to greater economic growth and stability, others struggle with cyclical fragility and the negative repercussions that come with it. The path from fragility to resilience is rarely linear, requiring a mix of security, stabilization, humanitarian aid, and development assistance. This course will look at causes of fragility and examine the non-kinetic tools deployed in fragile states, especially their utility and effectiveness in specific country and regional cases. Primarily discussion-based, the course will also include regular guest speakers who are regional experts and/or practitioners.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

After taking this course, students will grow their knowledge and professional capabilities in four ways. First, students will learn how to assess the complexities of fragility and how non-kinetic tools could be deployed in various fragile contexts. Second, students will learn how to distill complex, often dense information into short written and verbal presentations simulating real world policy environments where the presenter must decide what the most important parts are for policymakers to receive. Third, students will gain specific expertise in a country or region that they will track throughout the semester. Fourth, students will have the ability to map who is active in fragile contexts – multilateral development banks, the UN, bilateral aid agencies, local and international NGOs, etc. – and what it means to work in those environments deploying non-kinetic tools.

Course Structure and Class Design

The course is divided into two broad themes: first it will look to understand why fragility exists and its effects, later diving into what can be done to increase resilience. The course is more applied than theoretical, though at times students will learn the underlying theory behind fragility – and what to do about it.

Classes are seminar-style, driven by discussion and analysis of assigned readings which are often short policy memos or reports. The goal of the assignments and readings is to prepare students for future professional activities, growing skills week-to-week that can be immediately applied outside the classroom. Most classes will include student presentations of a particular topic and/or country case, followed by discussion of the presentation and assigned readings. The success of each class and the course overall is highly dependent on the willingness of students to engage with the material and with one another. Expect that discussions will become richer more vigorous, and consequently more rewarding as the semester progresses.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Students are expected to attend (and be on time to) every class and to have completed the assigned readings and deliverables in advance of meetings. In the rare cases this is not possible, students must be formally excused ahead of time and are expected to make up the work. Under extenuating circumstances, a student may ask the professor for extended time to complete an assignment, though it is the professor's choice to grant an extension or not. No late assignments will be accepted without advance permission.

Every student will be expected to present in front of the class at least twice: once individually for presentations on an assigned topic (typically a report or group of reports) and once with a fellow classmate for the final essay presentation. Students will be assigned a country/region at the beginning of

the semester and will be responsible for following that country/region throughout the course of the semester. The individual country presentation, both policy memos, and the final essay will cover issues in that country/region from different perspectives, on different topics, and targeted at different audiences.

Thus, grading will break down into the following component parts:

- 10 percent of the grade will be for punctual attendance, constructive participation, and an ongoing assessment of a student's preparedness for each class
- 10 percent of the grade will be for 1 in-class presentation
- 30 percent of the grade will be for 2 policy memos (15 percent each)
- 30 percent of the grade will be for the final essay (authored in pairs)
- 20 percent of the grade will be for your presentation of the final essay (presented in pairs)

Syracuse University Policies: Syracuse University has a variety of other policies designed to guarantee that students live and study in a community respectful of their needs and those of fellow students. Some of the most important of these concern:

- **Diversity and Disability** (ensuring that students are aware of their rights and responsibilities in a diverse, inclusive, accessible, bias-free campus community) can be found here, at: <https://www.syracuse.edu/life/accessibilitydiversity/>.
- **Religious Observances Notification and Policy** (steps to follow to request accommodations for the observance of religious holidays) can be found here, at: http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm
- **Orange SUccess** (tools to access a variety of SU resources, including ways to communicate with advisors and faculty members) can be found here, at: <http://orangesuccess.syr.edu/getting-started-2/>

Disability-Related Accommodations:

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to meet with me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in this process. If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with ODS, please visit their website at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>. Please call (315) 443-4498 or email disabilityservices@syr.edu for more detailed information. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible to begin this process.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are

required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.

Outline of Class Sessions (schedule subject to change before start of course)

Note that readings below are a guide, additional or alternative readings may be assigned as needed

August 28: Introduction to the Course

- Recommended pre-course reading (will be required half-way through the semester): [Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty – Acemoglu and Robinson](#)

September 4: Understanding Fragility: Stakeholder Mapping of Humanitarian, Development, and Multilateral Partners

Assignment of countries

- Fragile States Index 2019 (<https://fundforpeace.org/2019/04/10/fragile-states-index-2019/>)
- Development for Peace: The World Bank Group's Work to Tackle Fragility, Conflict and Violence (<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/154641492470432833/FCV-Main-04-041717.pdf>)
- The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/the-humanitarian-development-peace-initiative>)
- Optional: Freedom in the World 2019 (<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2019>)

September 11: Understanding Fragility: Conflict-Aware Stabilization

Country/region focus: Lebanon

- Stabilization Assistance Review (<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/283589.pdf>)
- Pursuing Effective and Conflict-Aware Stabilization: Framing and Constructing a Roadmap (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/pursuing-effective-and-conflict-aware-stabilization-framing-and-constructing-roadmap>)
- Pursuing Effective and Conflict-Aware Stabilization: Partnering for Success (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/pursuing-effective-and-conflict-aware-stabilization-partnering-success>)
- Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction (<https://www.usip.org/publications/2009/11/guiding-principles-stabilization-and-reconstruction-web-version>)

September 18: NO CLASS – GSDP Career Networking Event

September 25: Understanding Fragility: Great Power and Gray Zone Competition

Country/region focus: Ukraine

Guest Speaker: Melissa Dalton, CSIS

- The New Concept Everyone in Washington Is Talking about (<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/08/what-genesis-great-power-competition/595405/>)
- National Security Strategy – 2017 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf> – pages 25-28)
- What Works: Countering Gray Zone Coercion (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-works-countering-gray-zone-coercion>)
- By Other Means – Part 1: Campaigning in the Gray Zone (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/other-means-part-i-campaigning-gray-zone>) and Part 2: U.S. Priorities in the Gray Zone (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/other-means-part-ii-us-priorities-gray-zone> - at least the Executive Summary and various fact sheets)

October 2: Understanding Fragility: Forced Migration and Displacement

Country/region focus: Venezuela (and those in the region affected by displaced Venezuelans)
Moises Rendon, Director of the Future of Venezuela Initiative, CSIS

- Confronting the Global Forced Migration Crisis (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/confronting-global-forced-migration-crisis>)
- UNHCR Global Trends 2018 (<https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/5d08d7ee7/unhcr-global-trends-2018.html>)
- Protection in Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection in a Global Era (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/protection-crisis-forced-migration-and-protection-global-era> – pages 1-7)
- Optional: Climate change creates a new migration crisis for Bangladesh (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/01/climate-change-drives-migration-crisis-in-bangladesh-from-dhaka-sundabans/>)

October 9: Understanding Fragility: The Link Between Climate Change and Fragility

Country/Region focus: Horn of Africa

Guest speaker: Dr. Jamin Greenbaum – climate scientist at the University of Texas

- Managing climate and disaster risk in fragile states (<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2019/managing-climate-and-disaster-risk-in-fragile-states.html>)
- The Intersection of Global Fragility and Climate Risks (https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TBFH.pdf)

October 16: Understanding Fragility: Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism

Country/region focus: Mali, Niger, Nigeria

Guest speaker: Ryan Greer, New America

- Preventing Extremism in Fragile States: A New Approach (<https://www.usip.org/programs/task-force-extremism-fragile-states> – read at least the final report)
- Sharpening Our Efforts: The Role of International Development in Countering Violent Extremism (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/sharpening-our-efforts-role-international-development-countering-violent-extremism>)
- How international development institutions are becoming hubs for addressing violent extremism (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/10/19/how-international-development-institutions-are-becoming-hubs-for-addressing-violent-extremism/>)
- Journey to Extremism in Africa (<http://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/> – read full report Executive Summary and pages 82-93)
- Global Extremism Monitor (<https://institute.global/insight/co-existence/global-extremism-monitor-foreword-tony-blair> – read at least Tony Blair’s foreword)

October 23: Understanding Fragility: Introduction to Root Causes

Country/region focus: Syria

- States of Fragility 2018 (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/listofstateoffragilityreports.htm>)
- [Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty – Acemoglu and Robinson](#)

October 30: From Fragility to Resilience: Theory of Change

Country/region focus: Colombia

Guest Speaker: Ambassador James Michel, former Chair of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee

- Escaping the Fragility Trap (<https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Escaping-the-fragility-trap.pdf>)
- Rethinking how to reduce state fragility (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2017/03/29/rethinking-how-to-reduce-state-fragility/>)
- Managing Fragility and Promoting Resilience to Advance Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development (https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/180108_Michel_ManagingFragility_Web.pdf)
- U.S. Leadership and the Challenge of State Fragility (<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/US-Leadership-and-the-Challenge-of-State-Fragility.pdf>)
- Optional (if you want to know how Congress is thinking about these issues): Global Fragility Act (<https://allianceforpeacebuilding.org/globalfragilityact/> - read House and Senate bills)

November 6: From Fragility to Resilience: Humanitarian Access and Engaging Local Actors

Country/region focus: South Sudan

Guest Speaker: Luka Biong Deng Kuol, Africa Center for Strategic Studies

- Programming in Fragile and Conflict-affected Countries: A learning companion (<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/programming-in-fragile-and-conflict-affected-countries-a-learning-companion-139074>)
- The Politics of Humanitarianism: Perspectives from South Sudan (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/international-development/Assets/Documents/ccs-research-unit/Conflict-Research-Programme/policy-reports/The-Politics-of-Humanitarianism-Perspectives-from-South-Sudan.pdf>)
- Change in Challenging Contexts: How does it happen? (<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9829.pdf>)
- Forthcoming Fall 2019 CSIS task force report on humanitarian access

November 13: From Fragility to Resilience: Food Insecurity

Country/region focus: Yemen

- Recurring Storms: Food Insecurity, Political Instability, and Conflict (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/recurring-storms-food-insecurity-political-instability-and-conflict>)
- Food security and violent conflict: Introduction to the special issue (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X19300130/pdf?md5=b9dae4e6d2b41d2b589e2dd6795628c9&pid=1-s2.0-S0305750X19300130-main.pdf>)
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000022480/download/> - pages 26-29)
- Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Chapter 6, Special section on drought (<https://gar.unisdr.org/chapters/chapter-6-special-section-drought>)

November 20: From Fragility to Resilience: Governance, Anti-Corruption, and Human Rights

Country/region focus: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Guest Speaker: Judd Devermont, Africa Director, CSIS

- Governance, Fragility and Conflict (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/923711468331836671/pdf/639160WP0Gover00Box0361531B0PUBLIC0.pdf>)
- Corruption: The Unrecognized Threat to International Security (<https://carnegieendowment.org/2014/06/06/corruption-unrecognized-threat-to-international-security/hcts>)
- Human Rights and State Fragility: Conceptual Foundations and Strategic Directions for State-Building (<https://academic.oup.com/jhrp/article/1/2/181/2188655>)

November 27: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

December 4: From Fragility to Resilience: Economic Development and Private Sector Growth

Country/region focus: Afghanistan, Pakistan

- Economic development in fragile contexts: Learning from success and failure (https://set.odi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SET-Fragile-contexts-briefing_Final.pdf)
- The Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/sites/default/files/Data/reports/ieginights_psd.pdf)
- Final Essay Presentations

December 11: Working in Fragile States

- Final Essay Presentations
- Followed by guest speakers to discuss working in fragile states