

POGO 750
Peace Operations: Theory and Practice
Fall 2025 - Tuesdays
4:30 PM – 7:10 PM

Professor: Arslan Malik

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Office Hours: Agreed upon time with student on-line or in-person.

This course, Peace Operations: Theory and Practice, will be a survey course that will combine theory and the practical aspects Peace Operations.

Course Objectives

- Familiarize students with terminology and concepts of Peace Operations
- Help students to think systematically and analytically about Peace Operations
- Connect theory to practice through discussion and case studies of real events and operations

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (15 points): Regular attendance is extremely important and absences will affect your grades and may even result in failure. Discussion is critical to student learning and to exhibit that the required reading is being completed. Should you not be able to attend a class over the course of the semester because of an unforeseen emergency, please discuss with me.

Blackboard Weekly Updates (10 points): The updates should draw-upon the material covered in the previous class and should be submitted before the next class. The first update should provide background about the conflict.

International Conflict and Crisis Response Quiz (15 points)

History and Conflict Analysis Paper (30 points)

Recommendations Memo (30 Points)

Completion of UNITAR-POCI Course will be mandatory.

Total points possible for the class: 100

Texts: The first text for this class will be obtained through the correspondence course detailed below.

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A second text is – Williams, Paul B. with Alex J. Bellamy. 2021. *Understanding peacekeeping*, 3d ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.

The third text - Lederach, John Paul (1997) *Building Peace: Sustainable reconciliation in divided societies*. Washington, D.C. US Institute of Peace Press

The fourth text is - USIP, 2009, *Guiding Principles For Stabilization And Reconstruction*, USIP Press. Specific readings will be assigned during the course of the semester. You should be able to get this for free.

I will add to the Library reserves or post on blackboard a few contemporary articles, as well as texts of some recent Security Council resolutions. I will also ask students to watch a few video clips.

Process: The classroom times will be used to present an overview of the topic areas and to highlight additional readings. Full lectures will be the exception rather than the norm. This class will be run as a participative seminar; we expect candid and frequent participation from every student. But remember: Emotional arguments are less meaningful than factual ones. Back up your opinions.

Correspondence Course: This semester we will be including a correspondence course from the Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) as part of the requirements. *The History of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations from 2000–2020*. The course must be completed and a photocopy of the graded certificate turned in no later than November 11, 2025. Please make sure you are using the reduced discount for “university student” page provided above, otherwise it costs more! If the website is asking you for an “eligibility code” it means a “student”-based question or two may have been answered incorrectly—call the Registrar at 757.253.6933 and indicate you are a Peace Ops student with us and they can fix it in their computer system.

Academic Accommodation for a Disability: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <https://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu. Phone: (703) 993-2474.

FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the disclosure of education records for eligible students and is an essential aspect of any course. Students must use their GMU email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

Use of AI Tools: We have multiple writing assignments in this class. Because the act of composing a response in your own words actually increases your learning, it is important that you complete the task yourself, rather than rely on an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. Completing these writing assignments yourself will help strengthen your performance in this class on later assignments and activities, as well as help you develop professionally and succeed in your career goals. You should also be aware that AI text generation tools may present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses; thus they are not yet prepared to produce text that meets the standards of this course. If you do choose to

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experiment with AI text generation, you are expected to indicate your usage of it and give credit for text that has been generated by AI. Use of AI-generated text without proper attribution is a violation of academic integrity.

Academic Standards

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one's work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, coauthored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one's own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. [The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is outlined in the university's procedures here.](#) Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University's academic community.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of

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University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit the [Disability Services website](#) for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu. Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor in advance of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

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Student responsibility: Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

Title IX Resources and Required Reporting

As a part of George Mason University's commitment to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Accordingly, **all non-confidential employees, including your faculty member, have a legal requirement to report to the Title IX Coordinator, all relevant details obtained directly or indirectly about any incident of Prohibited Conduct** (such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, dating/domestic violence). Upon notifying the Title IX Coordinator of possible Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the individual the report is about (the "Complainant") will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, offering that person the option to meet with a representative of the Title IX office.

For more information about non-confidential employees, resources, and Prohibited Conduct, please see University Policy 1202: [Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence](#). Questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator via email to TitleIX@gmu.edu, by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373.

Student opportunity: If you prefer to speak to someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential employees in [Student Support & Advocacy \(SSAC\)](#), Counseling and [Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), [Student Health Services \(SHS\)](#), and/or the [Office of the University Ombudsperson](#).