Columbia University: International & Public Affairs
SIPA Spring 2019 Course Evaluation

Course: Civil Wars and Peace Settlements-INAFU8869_001_2019_1 - CIVIL WARS & PEACE SETTLEMENTS
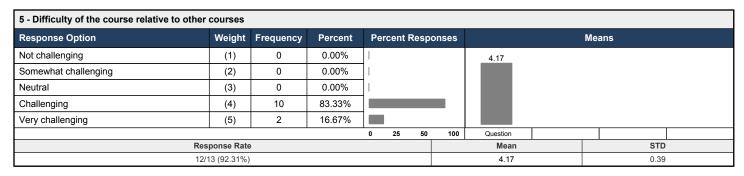**Instructor:** Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate: 12/13 (92.31 %)

1 - Covered the subject matter expected at time of enrollment

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	8.33%		4.50
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	2	16.67%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	9	75.00%		
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)				4.50	1.17

2 - Nature of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very Practical	(1)	1	8.33%		
Mostly Practical	(2)	3	25.00%		2.75
Neutral	(3)	6	50.00%		
Mostly Theoretical	(4)	2	16.67%		
Very Theoretical	(5)	0	0.00%		
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)				2.75	0.87

3 - Work load for the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very light	(1)	0	0.00%		
Moderately light	(2)	1	8.33%		3.75
Average	(3)	1	8.33%		
Moderately heavy	(4)	10	83.33%		
Very heavy	(5)	0	0.00%		
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)				3.75	0.62

4 - Organization of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%		
Excellent	(5)	12	100.00%		
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)				5.00	0.00

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5 - Difficulty of the course relative to other courses

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Not challenging	(1)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat challenging	(2)	0	0.00%		4.17
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%		
Challenging	(4)	10	83.33%		
Very challenging	(5)	2	16.67%		

Response Rate			Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)			4.17	0.39

6 - Relevance and quality of assigned readings

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		4.92
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	1	8.33%		
Excellent	(5)	11	91.67%		

Response Rate			Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)			4.92	0.29

7 - Relevance and quality of the written assignments

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.83
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	2	16.67%		
Excellent	(5)	10	83.33%		
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%		

Response Rate			Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)			4.83	0.39

8 - Overall evaluation of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.92
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	1	8.33%		
Excellent	(5)	11	91.67%		

Response Rate			Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)			4.92	0.29

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9 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the overall course organization and subject matter:	
Response Rate	12/13 (92.31%)

• The course organization and subject matter was what i expected it to be.

• The organization of the course was excellent. I particularly enjoyed the structure of the course, the orderly method applied to each class session, and the clarity it provided. I also enjoyed the syllabus. While I certainly was unable to read all of the items listed, I have shared the syllabus with colleagues for professional-development and will use it as a guide for self-development in the future.

• Fantastic course!

• The division of the class helps organize the readings and guide our learning. The course is somewhat work-heavy at the end, but it flows well and is coherently organized

• The class was excellent. The class was organized well, dividing war into the first half and peace into the second half helped organize all the material. The subject matter was also excellent. I thought the section of class about how to write a research paper was also very helpful. But moreover the class introduced me to material that I will take with me throughout my career. Esspeically the information about micro level roots to conflict, as well as critical discussion on the role of interveners are things that are sorely needed in other SIPA classes.

• Course was well organized, covering theories of conflict in the first half, and some suggestions at the end for Peacebuilding. Flow of the course makes sense, but there weren't nearly as many theories for the second half of the course.

• The course's organization, and the highly-structured nature of each session, is an advantage for students. At the end of each class we got a brief on what to focus on and prepare for the next week. The subject matter covers a wide range of topics related to civil war, including the causes, the dynamics, termination, and consolidating peace. However, the readings and class discussions for the first half are more focused on the academic literature and comparing distinct perspectives, while the second half is a more organic and practice-focused format, with a negotiation simulation and book workshop. I would have liked a bit more structured exposure to more literature on peacemaking and peacebuilding (although there were lots of recommended readings).

• The structure of the class involves many discussions. Discussions include talking about strengths, weaknesses, and main arguments of the readings. This helps tremendously in understanding the logic of the course and also the authors' writings. The class will be very fun if you prepare a lot. If not, it will be very difficult unless you already had interests in the topics that are dealt in reading materials. Highly recommend if you are passionate about peace and civil wars! Professor Autesserre is amazing and very warm-hearted.

• I really enjoyed Dr. Autesserre's course. The readings were my favorite part. All of them were informative and connected to course content. They were accessible and provided a lot of information. I felt like a lot of the coursework balanced between/connected theory and practice well. The readings and class content also flowed well from week to week. It would have been nice to read a case study of successful grassroots peacebuilding in the second half of the course, but otherwise the content and course was structured well.

• Amazing class! It provides you tools for connecting theory and practice, which is crucial in peacebuilding. It gives you a better understanding of the importance of the connection between bottom-up and top-down approaches and it asks students to critically assess one's own role as a peacebuilding intervener. Dr. Autesserre is a great facilitator!

• The course is extremely structured in the sense that students know exactly what to expect and what is expected of them in every class. The content is carefully structured and provides the tools needed to excel in the course. The readings seem at times heavy but it provokes the necessary effort to access the theory on civil wars and peace settlements and apply it to a real case.

• This was my first course in war and peace and I am so glad I had the privilege of studying under professor Autesserre. Readings are great and cover a lot of ground and truly provide a nuanced perspective on the issues analyzed.

10 - Instructor's performance inspires interest in the course content					
Response Option	**Weight**	**Frequency**	**Percent**	**Percent Responses**	**Means**
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	100.00%		

		0 25 50 100	Question		
Response Rate			**Mean**		**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)			5.00		0.00

11 - Instructor's attitude toward students					
Response Option	**Weight**	**Frequency**	**Percent**	**Percent Responses**	**Means**
Very negative	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Somewhat negative	(2)	0	0.00%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%		
Mostly positive	(4)	0	0.00%		
Very positive	(5)	12	100.00%		

		0 25 50 100	Question		
Response Rate			**Mean**		**STD**
12/13 (92.31%)			5.00		0.00

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Instructor: Severine Autesserre *

Response Rate: 12/13 (92.31 %)

12 - Instructor's responsiveness to students' questions and comments

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.92
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	1	8.33%		
Excellent	(5)	11	91.67%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	4.92	0.29

13 - Instructor's presentation of expectations to students

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%		
Excellent	(5)	12	100.00%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	5.00	0.00

14 - Instructor's ability to make complex material easy to understand

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.75
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	3	25.00%		
Excellent	(5)	9	75.00%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	4.75	0.45

15 - The exams accurately assess what students are expected to know

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	4	33.33%		
N/A	(0)	8	66.67%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	5.00	0.00

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16 - Overall evaluation of the course instructor

Severine Autesserre

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%		
Excellent	(5)	12	100.00%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	5.00	0.00

17 - Guest speakers contributed significantly to this course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		4.00
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	3	25.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	0	0.00%		
N/A	(0)	9	75.00%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
12/13 (92.31%)	4.00	0.00

18 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the instructor's performance:

Severine Autesserre

Response Rate	
	12/13 (92.31%)

• n/a

• The professor was excellent and professional. She related to students effectively, cared about our learning progress, and took on the role of mentor. This was especially clear with the writer's workshop activities, as well as with class-based final paper preparations. The objective was clear: to educate and train us in best practices, preparing us for future roles, future classes, and possible publishing in the future. It was greatly appreciated and will pay dividends for years to come.

• Dr. Autesserre is one of the best professors I've had at SIPA. She's very insightful and a great moderator. Learnt a lot!

• Dr. Autesserre was an academic mentor before I met and took her class. Her status has only been reinforced over the duration of the course.

• Severine was an amazing professor. I feel very luck I had the opportunity to take a class with her here at SIPA.

• Professor Autesserre was overt in the first class about the heavy courseload. However, if the readings are done, students get much more out of the class than "just" the theories from the syllabus. In addition to the course material, she taught how to evaluate readings and author's theories, held an incredibly useful class on how to write a research paper (something most students agreed would have been useful in our first semester at SIPA), and was open to providing professional guidance whenever questioned. She consistently made time for students despite her busy schedule, and provided an exceptional standard for guiding a discussion with many diverse perspectives. Highly recommend this course.

• Professor Autesserre was one of the most thoughtful, organized, and responsive professors at SIPA. Her fieldwork experience is an invaluable resource for students to learn about the conflict in DRC, research methodology, and the work of peacekeepers and peacebuilders.

• SEVERINE AUTESSERRE IS THE BEST. VERY INTELLIGENT, ENGAGING, UNDERSTANDING, WARM-HEARTED, AND CARES ABOUT STUDENTS' GOOD PERFORMANCE. SHE IS JUST THE BEST.

• Dr.Autesserre was an incredibly accessible professor. There were times where I wish we heard more of her expertise in class, but she was very supportive of students and great at guiding us through discussions. I would absolutely love to take a class with her again. She is knowledgeable, a great listener, supportive, and encouraging.

• Great facilitator! She creates an inclusive space for learning and exploring the academic and practical field of peacebuilding. At times, I would have liked to hear more from Dr. Autesserre, as it was sometimes more focus on discussion among the students. Dr. Autesserre has such a vast and unique experience in peacebuilding.

• Professor Autesserre was excellent. She ensured the participation of all, guiding us through the process of acquiring the necessary skills to critically analyze frameworks and theories of conflict and peace. She effectively built a bridge between research and academia and in practice work. Her comments and suggestions improved the quality of my work. Even though the work load was heavy I felt I was led to reflect and think through the knowledge transferred, something rare at SIPA and directly correlated to Professor Autesserre mode of teaching.

• Professor Autesserre really cares about the students and she does a great job in communicating clearly expectations and giving us the tools to attend to those. On top of her being a great professor, she is also an expert on the topic, which makes learning under her just great. I wish more courses and instructors at SIPA were like this.

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19 - The Teaching Assistants (TAs) contributed significantly to this course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	0	0.00%		
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%		0.00
				0 25 50 100	Question

Response Rate	Mean	STD
0/13 (0.00%)	0.00	0.00

20 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the TA's performance (if applicable)

Response Rate	0/13 (0%)