Course Overview

This course will invite students to consider the ways in which politics and law inform, undermine, and bypass one another in the realm of conflict management and military intervention.

We will draw from a rich set of cases across time and space to examine the notion of “threats to peace and security” as it has evolved. We will, then, turn to the basket of instruments that make up contemporary intervention and conflict-management, starting with prevention and the right to exercise self-defense. We will, then, move into the space of military interventions that have been framed (both strictly and loosely) as means of keeping or restoring the peace. From here, we will enter the arena of more aggressive interventions, those that aim at the breaking, making, or remaking of states. Finally, we will consider the newest frontiers of intervention, those that have been charted in the last decade.

Even as we consider the politics and geopolitics at hand, we will situate our empirical analysis of each case and/or phenomenon within the larger context of key legal doctrines, debates, and dilemmas. Unlike other survey courses on conflict management, we will not approach the material as a chronological catalog of interventions. Instead, we will engage the material thematically, juxtaposing more contemporary cases with historical ones in order to understand the various evolutions in political, legal, and operational thought.

Tuesday/Thursday,  8:15–9:30 am
Remote

INSTRUCTOR IS DIPALI MUKHOPADHYAY

Questions about the course? Email dipali@umn.edu. Need a class permission number? Email Stacey Grimes at grime004@umn.edu.