

DEPARTMENT:	School of International Development & Global Studies (EDIM)
TERM	<i>Fall 2022</i>
PROFESSOR:	<i>Benjamin Zyla</i>
RESEARCH TITLE:	<i>Canada and UN Peacekeeping</i>
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	<i>2-4</i>
LANGUAGE:	<i>English, French</i>
ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN FRENCH	YES

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION:

In the so-called Golden Age of Canadian foreign policy under then Minister of External Affairs Lester B. Pearson, Canada was perceived internationally as an emerging middle power with a reputation of a helpful fixer, honest broker, and mediator. Indeed, back then the world wanted more Canada, and Canada did not shy away from this responsibility. Indeed, Canada became obsessed with international peacekeeping, which gave it visibility internationally. The international community recognized Canada's commitments to world peace, and awarded Pearson and the Ministry of External Affairs the Nobel Peace Prize in 1956.

These days are long gone, but there's an assumption in much of the literature on Canadian engagement in United Nations peacekeeping operations that we need to get Canada ready to contribute to the more multidimensional stabilization missions, like the UN's United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which reflect the shift of UN peacekeeping toward more COIN-style missions. But what about the massive, costly, and long-term missions that are more "traditional" peacekeeping missions like those in Lebanon? The future of many of the ongoing, decades-long missions is most likely not going to be multidimensional stabilization style mandate updates. So are these missions meant to be forgotten by Canada?

In this project, we are trying to get answers to these questions. Specifically, we engage with the most recent middle-power literature and look at Canada's capabilities as not only military and technical, but also in terms of social and political capital, where the myth of Canadian credibility and neutrality has real weight abroad, making us uniquely suited to engage in traditional missions which need more legitimacy on the ground to enact the lessons learned we list.

KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

This course will allow students to:

- *Participate and be a full member of an existing research team*
- *Expand your research knowledge (methodologies, techniques, analysis, etc.) on peacekeeping and Canadian foreign policy*
- *Gain an understanding of current Canadian peacekeeping operations*
- *Increase or validate student's interests in graduate studies and gain a first practical experience of social science research;*
- *Learn how to do a literature review for grad school*