Along with the Political Science Department, the Mansfield Center offers “Transitions from War to Peace,” taught by Dr. Kimberly Maynard, Mansfield Fellow in International Affairs.

As the United States grapples with questions about its role in the conflict against ISIS/ISIL in Syria and beyond, and conflicts across the Middle East are causing a mass human migration, it is more important than ever to examine the conditions and causes of violent conflicts, how international intervention can mitigate and improve them, and the effectiveness of these efforts.

Transitions from War to Peace will provide graduate and advanced undergraduates with an introduction to modern civil wars and, for those that have ended, their evolution to peace. This introduction will include theories in why people fight, how to support conflict recovery with a focus on international actors, establishing aid priorities, conflict analysis, and community-level programming for war-affected countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia, and Burma. Students will acquire both analytical and practical skills that will help them pursue careers in the fields of humanitarian assistance, development, human rights, foreign policy, research in international affairs, military operations, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.

Dr. Maynard has 25 years of experience as working in conflict-ridden areas of Africa, the Balkans, Central America, Central Asia, the Middle East, and East Asia with the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.N. agencies, the Red Cross, and numerous international non-governmental organizations. She currently works with the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Transition Initiatives and as an independent consultant. She holds a Ph.D. in international affairs, researched and authored many publications, and taught graduate courses at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and American University School of International Service.

Registration requires the consent of the instructor for juniors and seniors. Students may drop off consent of instructor forms at the Mansfield Center to be signed.