

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

CONF 340 005, Fall 2008

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 13:15
Innovation Hall, Room 209

INSTRUCTOR

E-Reserves: Password given in class

Talha Köse

tkose@gmu.edu

Phone: (703) 993-4165

Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 or by appointment

Robinson Hall B, Room 365

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course. Global conflict, while better understood today than it was fifty years ago, still remains one of the enigmas of social scientific inquiry. To the tireless workers for peace around the world it is ever present, to social scientists from various fields of study it is an agent of both social change and social destruction. Yet, despite one's aims and perspective when approaching global conflict, global instances of conflict are next to impossible to make universal statements about and often even harder to manage and transform. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the exploring and understanding global conflict analysis and resolution. Drawing on literature and research from the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, International Relations, International Development, Psychology, and Anthropology this class will examine the many theoretical and pragmatic approaches to conflict on the global level. Our goals for the course are to:

- Consider the causes and costs of intrastate, interstate, and transstate conflicts;
- Increase our understanding of the various approaches to analyzing and resolving protracted violent social conflict on the above mentioned levels;
- Look at terrorism, ethnic and religious conflicts and environmental issues and the development of the panoply of New Social Movements in the international arena;
- Examine particular international and intrastate conflicts, mapping out the developments and dynamics and examining past and present resolution efforts; and
- Understand the importance of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution to the larger goal of a more peaceful global society.

Included among the many topics we will examine are: the relationship between globalization and conflict; outbreaks of civil war and their resolution; cultural and religious conflicts and dialogues; post-conflict reconstruction; the role of violence in conflict episodes; and the emergence of new actors in international relations.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts (available in the GMU bookstore):

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. (2007). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd

Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

White, B., Little, R., & Smith, M. (eds.) (2005). *Issues in World Politics*, 3rd Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan

Electronic Material

Course materials including syllabus, Power Point slides, reflection paper questions, relevant articles, recommended readings and other relevant material will be available on Blackboard <http://courses.gmu.edu>. Additional readings will be placed on E-reserve and Blackboard (password will be given in class).

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. Remain in class unless you have an emergency. Allow others and yourself to learn by refraining from by side conversations, passing notes, playing video games, reading e-mail, browsing websites, etc. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals.

We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. Students are encouraged to express diverse perspectives. You are likely to encounter strong opinions. You will be expected to keep a balance between arguing your own position on these issues, listening to others, and helping the class to function as collectivity to.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Collaboration

George Mason University has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity and which is designed, “to promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community” (www.gmu.edu/catalog/policies). The Honor Code lays out strict penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, etc.). *If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from course or outside readings, then ask for help.* “I wasn’t sure how to cite a source, so I left out the reference,” is not an acceptable defense for plagiarism. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk or online at <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>.

For individual class assignments, you may discuss your ideas with others or ask for feedback; however, you are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. You may not submit papers or presentations from other courses to fulfill assignments for this class.

For group class assignments, the names of all participants should appear on the work. While it’s fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the final product that’s submitted should represent a single, conceptually-linked piece of work. With rare exception, each student working in a group is given the same grade for an assignment. *If a group is having*

trouble with a member not fulfilling their work obligation, then the group needs to bring the problem to the instructor's attention immediately.

Late Work

Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one point for each day they are late. If a student has a documented emergency, special arrangements can be made with the instructor.

Paper Format

Papers for the course should be typed, double-spaced, have 1" margins, and use a common 12-point font. The pages should be numbered and stapled together. Headers should include only the course number, CONF 340. **Papers should have a title, include your name and the instructor's name, and be placed as the last page of your assignment.** Sources should be cited and consistently follow a single standard academic citation format.

STUDENT RESOURCES

GMU Writing Center

"The Writing Center seeks to foster a writing climate on campus and beyond by offering free writing support to George Mason students, faculty, staff and alumni. No matter what your writing abilities are, writing specialists can help you develop the skills you need to become a successful writer. ...Free services include: One-on-one 45 minute sessions with a writing specialist; online writing lab; one-on-one sessions with an ESL specialist; workshops on such topics as documenting sources, grammar and punctuation; writing handouts on a variety of subjects; a library of handbooks and writing manuals; [and an] online chat with a tutor about papers submitted to the Online Writing Lab"
(<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>).

Disability Support Services

Any student with documented learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Support Services (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact her or his instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

"George Mason University is committed to providing appropriate services and accommodations that allow self-identified students with disabilities to access programs and activities at the university as stated in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

To achieve this goal, the university maintains and supports the Disability Resource Center Office which is responsible for assuring that students receive the services and accommodations to which they are entitled. The professional staff of the Disability Resource Center Office coordinate services for students with disabilities, determine reasonable services and accommodations on the basis of disability, and act as a liaison between students and faculty/administration on concerns relating to services and accommodations"
(<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/dss.html>).

Library Services

The CAR library liaison is Melissa Johnson (703-993-2212). Don't hesitate to contact her with specific questions about holdings and research regarding the CAR field.

ASSIGNMENTS and EVALUATION

Participation: You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Active participation based on thoughtful consideration of the literature and experience in class discussions will be expected. Class participation will be worth **10%** of your final grade.

Reading Quizzes: You will have three quizzes during the course of the semester. Two of the quizzes will be reading quizzes and one of the quizzes will be a take home quiz of 2-4 pages. Take home quiz will be about your personal reflection and evaluation of themes that we will be discussing during the class. Each reading quiz will be worth **15%** of your final grade and take home quiz will be worth **10%** of your final grade. Each one will cover the reading material and class discussions to ensure that you are doing the readings. Dates of these quizzes will be announced prior to the quiz. No make-ups of these quizzes will be allowed so make sure you don't miss the quizzes. Each quiz will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete.

Team Presentation: You will be a member of one of the six research teams. Each team will prepare a class presentation (not a paper) of a case study of an international conflict and approaches to its resolution. Each team will have 30 minutes to present their case study to the class at the end of the semester. In your presentation you should provide an overview of the conflict or issue, explain how that conflict was analyzed by the international community and how the international community responded to the conflict. **Students are expected to be able to comment in class discussions throughout the semester whenever it is applicable to their selected case.** Besides your presentation each group is expected to submit a media portfolio and 1-3 pages outline of the presentation. In your media portfolio you will include at **least 10** articles or reports (from major newspapers, think tanks, journals and websites) related to your topic. The team presentation will be worth **20%** of your final grade. Time will be provided during class meetings throughout the semester for the teams to prepare their presentations, but it is expected that groups will plan additional meeting outside of class time to finalize presentations. Everyone is expected to attend all presentations and attendance of other's group presentations will be considered part of your final participation grade.

Research Paper: You will write an 11-14 page research paper on a topic related to the main themes we will be discussing during the course of the semester. In your research paper you will present the results of your research while incorporating the concepts we have studied in class. In analyzing your material you will draw upon at least one theoretical perspective we have studied in the course. Early in the semester I will provide you with more detailed guidelines for researching and writing this paper. It is always a good idea to start thinking about your topic early in the semester. If you have difficulties deciding what to research or would simply like to talk about your paper, I encourage you to come and discuss your ideas with me during my office hours or to schedule an appointment with me at another time. One or two paragraphs proposal and/or outline of what you plan to research with a tentative bibliography is due by **October 2nd**. I will return your proposal to you within a week with comments and suggestion. The research paper is due on **December 9th** at 5:00

PM. It will be worth **30%** of your final grade. You must leave the paper in my mailbox in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) office (Robinson B365). Papers should be submitted in an envelope marked with the instructor's name and the course number. If the office is closed, the envelope can be dropped through the mail slot in the door. Late papers will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency.

- 1) **Participation: % 10**
- 2) **Reading Quiz 1 & 2: (%15 X 2) %30**
- 3) **Take Home Quiz: %10**
- 4) **Group Presentation and Media Portfolio: % 20**
- 5) **Research Paper: % 30**

Grading Scale

Points Accumulated	Letter Grade
98 - 100	A+
93 - 97	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B +
83 - 86	B
79 - 82	B -
75 - 78	C+
72-74	C
69-71	C-
61 - 68	D
0 – 60	F

Possible Cases for Team Presentations (At least 4 people for each group)

- 1. **The Middle East:** Iraq, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Lebanon, Kurdish Problem in the Middle East (One from the list)
- 2. **Africa:** Darfur Crisis, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Congo (DRC), Rwanda (One from the list)
- 3. **Caucasus and Central Asia:** Georgia-Russia Conflict (Georgia-Abkhazia, South Ossetia and US dimensions), NATO Enlargement (One from the list)
- 4. **Global Environmental Problems and Resource Conflicts:** (Nation States, International Organizations, Ecologist Movements, Indigenous People)
- 5. **Afghanistan**
- 6. Kosovo, Greece-Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Religious Fundamentalism. (One from the list or your suggestion)

ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to change)

MEETING 1: Tue, Aug 26

Review Syllabus
Complete info sheet

I-APPROACHES to UNDERSTANDING of GLOBAL CONFLICTS

MEETING 2: Thu, Aug 28

Anarchy Order and the Changing Nature of Global Conflicts

- White et al., Chapter 1, “Issues in World Politics” pp. 1-18
- Brown, Michael E. “New Global Dangers” pp. 39-53 (ch.3 in *Leashing*). (e-reserve and blackboard)

Recommended:

- Huntington, Samuel P. “New Era in World Politics” in *Clash of Civilizations and Remaking of World Order*. Simon & Schuster. pp. 19-40. (e-reserve and blackboard)

MEETING 3: Tue, Sep 2

CR Field the Origins and the Development

- Miall, et al., Chapter 2: “Conflict Resolution: Origins, Foundations and Development of the Field” pp. 32-54.

MEETING 4: Thu, Sep 4

Understanding the sources of Global Conflict I

- Miall et al., Chapter 3: “Statistics of Deadly Quarrels” pp. 55-77.

MEETING 5: Tue, Sep 9

Understanding the sources of Global Conflict II

- Ayooob, Mohammed. “State Making, State Breaking and State Failure” (ch.7 in *Leashing*). (e-reserve and blackboard)
- White et al., Chapter 2, “States and Statehood” pp. 18-39

Look Before Class: “The Failed State Index 2008,” *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2008 (e-reserve and blackboard).

MEETING 6: Thu, Sep 11

Understanding the Dynamics of War and Violence

- Miall, et al., Chapter 4: “Understanding Contemporary Conflict” pp. 78-105

MEETING 7: Tue, Sep 16

Models for Conflict Analysis, Stages and Processes of Conflict

- Miall, et al., Chapter 1: “Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions” pp. 3-31.

Sample case: Iran Nuclear Crisis

MEETING 8: Thu, Sep 18

Ethnicity Nationalism and Identity Based Conflicts I

- White et al., Chapter 8, “Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict” pp. 137-154
- Mueller, Jerry Z. “Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol 87 (2), March April 2008, pp: 18-35. (e-reserve and blackboard).

MEETING 9: Tue, Sep 23

Reading Quiz 1

Ethnicity Nationalism and Identity Based Conflicts II

- Habyarimana, James; Humphreys, Macartan; Posner, Daniel; Weinstein, Jeremy *et al.* “Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways Over Nationalism and Separatism”. *Foreign Affairs*. Jul/Aug 2008. Vol. 87 (4); pp. 138-151.

MEETING 10: Thu, Sep 25

Terrorism (Guest Lecturer: Prof Richard Rubenstein)

- White et al., Chapter 14, “Terrorism” pp. 257-274
- Miall, et al., Chapter 11: “Terror and Global Justice” pp. 249-264

MEETING 11: Tue, Sep 30

Terrorism Contd

- “The Terrorism Index” *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2007 (e-reserve and blackboard).

II- APPROACHES to the RESOLUTION of GLOBAL CONFLICTS

MEETING 12: Thu, Oct 2

Peacekeeping (CM, CR, CT)

- Miall et al., Chapter 5: “Preventing Violent Conflict” pp. 106-131
- White et al., Chapter 7, “Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention” pp. 137-154

MEETING 13: Tue, Oct 7

Peacekeeping Conflict Resolution Processes and Issues

- Miall et al., Chapter 6: “Preventing Violent Conflict and Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping” pp.131-158.

Movie: Peacekeepers

MEETING 14: Thu, Oct 9

Peacemaking

- Miall et al., Chapter 7: “Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking” p.159-184.

Movie:

Take Home Quiz

MEETING 15: Thu, Oct 16

Peacebuilding

- Miall et al., Chapter 9: “Peacebuilding,” pp.215-230.
- Last, David. “From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding” *The Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution*, Issue 5.1 Summer 2003. (e-reserve and blackboard)
http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/5_1last.htm

- Haugerudbraaten, Henning. "Peacebuilding: Six dimensions and Two Concepts." *African Security Review*, Vol. 7 No 6, 1998. <http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Asr/7No6/Peacebuilding.html>. (e-reserve and blackboard)

MEETING 16: Tue, Oct 21

Dialogue and Reconciliation

- Miall et al., Chapter 10: "Reconciliation," p. 230.-245.

Recommended

- Schirch, Lisa. 2001. "Ritual Reconciliation: Transforming Identity/Reframing Conflict." In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. pp. 145-161 (Blackboard e-reserve)

MEETING 17: Thu, Oct 23

Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue

(Guest Lecturer: Dr. Ibrahim Kaln)

- Miall et al., Chapter 14: "Dialogue, Discourse and Disagreement," p. 288-301

MEETING 18: Tue, Oct 28

Reading Quiz 2

Peacebuilding Revisited

MEETING 19: Thu, Oct 30

Global Environment and Resource Conflicts

- White et al., Chapter 11, "Environment" pp. 194-213

Recommended:

- Lechter, & Boli (eds), Chapters 49, 50, 51, 52, pp. 404-431 (e-reserve and blackboard).

III- CASES and INTEGRATION

MEETING 20: Tue, Nov 4

Kosovo I

Background Readings

- Charles Kupchan. "Independence for Kosovo." *Foreign Affairs*, 84 (6), pp. 13-22, 2005.
- Whit Mason, "Kosovo: Unraveling the Knot." *World Policy Journal*, 23 (3), pp. 87-98. 2006.

MEETING 21: Thu, Nov 6

Kosovo II

Movie and Discussion

Clips from

- Kosovo: of blood and history

- Yugoslavia the avoidable war

MEETING 22: Tue, Nov 11

Palestine-Israel I

- Marc H Ross, Chapter 6, “Digging up the past to contest the present: politics of archeology in Jerusalem’s Old City” pp. 154-190
- Stephen Cohen. “Intractability and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” pp. in *Grasping the Nettle: Analyzing Cases of Intractable Conflict*. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds). Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press. pp 343-357, 2005.

MEETING 23: Thu, Nov 13

Palestine Israel II

Movie & Discussion

Clips from

- The 50 years war: Israel and the Arabs

MEETING 24: Tue, Nov 18

Group Presentation I

MEETING 25: Thu, Nov 20

Group Presentation II

MEETING 26: Tue, Dec 2

Group Presentation III

MEETING 27: Thu, Dec 4

Discuss group presentations, review materials, discuss final papers

Research Papers Due: Tue, Dec 9

IV COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ayoob, Mohammed. “State Making, State Breaking and State Failure”, pp. 95-115 in Crocker, C. A., Hampson, F. O., & Aall, P. (eds.), *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007.

Brown, Michael E. “New Global Dangers” pp. 39-53 in Crocker, C. A., Hampson, F. O., & Aall, P. (eds.). *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007.

Huntington, Samuel P. “New Era in World Politics” pp. 19-40 in *Clash of Civilizations and Remaking of World Order*. Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Haugerudbraaten, Henning. “Peacebuilding: Six dimensions and Two Concepts.” [African Security Review](http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Asr/7No6/Peacebuilding.html). Vol. 7 No 6, 1998.
<http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Asr/7No6/Peacebuilding.html>. (Available at Blackboard and e-reserve)

- James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, Jeremy Weinstein, *et al.* "Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways Over Nationalism and Separatism". *Foreign Affairs*. Jul/Aug 2008. Vol. 87 (4); pp. 138-151.
- Mueller, Jerry Z. "Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol 87 (2), March April 2008, pp: 18-35.
- Last, David. "From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding" *The Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution*, Issue 5.1 Summer 2003. (Available at Blackboard and e-reserve)
http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/5_1last.htm
- Lechner, Frank J., & Boli, John (eds.). *The Globalization Reader 3rd*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- Margaret E Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Environmental Advocacy Networks" pp.421-430 in Frank J. Lechner, & John Boli (eds.) *The Globalization Reader 3rd*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- Schirch, Lisa. 2001. "Ritual Reconciliation: Transforming Identity/Reframing Conflict." In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. pp. 145-161 (e-reserve)
- UN Conference on Environment and Development, "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" pp. 411-414 in Frank J. Lechner, & John Boli (eds.) *The Globalization Reader 3rd*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- World Commission on Environment and Development, "From One Earth to One World," pp. 404-410 in Frank J. Lechner, & John Boli (eds.) *The Globalization Reader 3rd*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- Ross, Marc H. "Digging up the Past to Contest the Present: Politics of Archeology in Jerusalem's Old City" pp. 154-190 in, *Cultural Contestation in Ethnic Conflict*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Stephen Cohen. "Intractability and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," pp. 343-357 in Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds), *Grasping the Nettle: Analyzing Cases of Intractable Conflict*. Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2005.
- Kupchan, Charles. "Independence for Kosovo." *Foreign Affairs*, 84 (6), pp. 13-14.
- Mason, Whit. "Kosovo: Unraveling the Knot." *World Policy Journal*, 23 (3), pp. 87-98, 2006.
- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007.
- White, B., Little, R., & Smith, M. (eds.) *Issues in World Politics*, 3rd Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- "The Terrorism Index" *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2007
- "The Failed State Index 2008," *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2008