

**CONF 340**  
**GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS & RESOLUTION**

**Semester:** Spring, 2008

**Section/CRN:** 001/11273

**Class Time:** Monday, 1:30 pm — 4:15 pm

**Location:** George Mason University, Fairfax, Room IN 131

**Instructor:** Alfred A. Farrugia Phone: (301) 657-9195  
[afarrug1@gmu.edu](mailto:afarrug1@gmu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday, 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm, Robinson Hall B Room 365;  
or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to theories of international and global violence and conflict, and examines transnational and international processes with particular reference to peace and conflict. It covers the analysis of conflicts that are addressed by or ought to be addressed by the international community. It visits the definitions of conflict and diverse views of its resolution with particular reference to conflicts having national, regional or global dimensions. It is designed to help students to think systematically and analytically about global conflict and conflict resolution.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Familiarize students with terminology and concepts associated with conflicts that are addressed by the international community, including the UN system and regional organizations such as the OSCE.
- Help students to think systematically and analytically about conflict in different regions and in a variety of contexts.
- Connect theory to practice through discussion, research and case studies of real events and interventions, including a few success stories.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance and participation: (10%) Attendance is extremely important because the course will be interactive in nature. Participation in the class discussions is critical to student learning and to show that the required readings are being completed. Students will be expected to take part in the discussions and engage each other in discussions about the assigned readings. Students can also participate by asking questions, circulating emails, organizing study groups, exchanging writing or introducing new ideas and resources.

Media Assignment: (20%) At the beginning of the semester the students will select an intrastate or interstate conflict with international implications, and monitor developments every week. It is recommended that students keep up with developments in the relevant conflicts through the use of newspaper and/or journal articles, and official web sites through the Internet. Each month, students will deliver a brief update, and where appropriate apply the lessons covered up to that stage to the analysis of these conflicts. Brief written assignments will be required on a regular basis – normally once every four weeks, and evidence of

application of the readings to these conflicts will count towards the above-mentioned student's participation grade.

Short Assignments: (20%) These assignments – including a paper proposal and proposal presentation - are intended to help students prepare for the research paper and to integrate the material and become more familiar with the concepts presented. They also give the instructor feedback regarding what the students are getting from the class. A five to ten minutes formal presentation will be required in class as one of the short assignments. For these assignments, students will be required to select an intrastate or interstate conflict different from the one covered in the media assignment, and preferably from a different region. Further details will be discussed in class.

Group Presentation: (20%) At the beginning of the semester the class will be asked to form into groups so that each group could choose a conflict that has been addressed by the UN, and/or a regional organization, and/or a non-governmental organization. It could also cover a conflict that has been resolved, or that could be considered as a success story. At the end of the term each group will be expected to make a presentation providing an overview and an analysis of the group's case. Additionally the groups will prepare a portfolio on the conflict selected. Sections of the portfolio may be placed on the class website. Presentation and portfolio requirements will be discussed further in class.

Research Paper: (30%) With the instructor's approval, each student will be expected to select a conflict addressed by the international community, and write a 2000 to 3000 word analytical research paper. The paper should be a case study, emphasizing and utilizing the concepts discussed in class. CONF 340 is an under-graduate seminar, which means that the instructor expects the research paper to reflect under-graduate level research and analysis. The research paper should show that the appropriate amount of research was undertaken, including the use of sources from books, journals, and other news sources as well as possible Internet sources. Papers should be double-spaced and legible.

#### **CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

- Students are responsible for completing individual and group assignments on time. Students will be penalized the equivalent of one full letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Assignments that are overdue by more than one week will not be accepted.
- If an emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should let the instructor know ahead of time when possible and contact a group member to find out what was missed. Students are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and date changes made in class and for all material covered in class even if they are not there.
- In this modern age, the use of the Internet for discussion and dissemination has become commonplace. Some class announcements and readings may be posted to the class website or sent via email. Students are responsible for keeping up to date with announcements and assignments placed on the site or sent via email.
- Incomplete grades will not be granted except in cases of personal or immediate family illness or emergency.

<b>TEXTS: REQUIRED READINGS/SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:</b>
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*Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*. New York: United Nations. <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Woodhouse, Tom, and Miall, Hugh. 2005 (Second Edition). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution – The prevention, management, and transformation of deadly conflicts*. Cambridge, UK, and Malden, MA: Polity.

Lederach, John Paul. 1998. *Building Peace – Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC.: USIP.

**Supplementary Readings:**

*Basic Facts about the United Nations* (Print version or PDF version), New York: UN Publications.

<http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/>

UN Peacekeeping Operations: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

Bellamy, Alex J., Williams, Paul and Griffin, Stuart. 2004. *Understanding Peacekeeping*. Cambridge, UK, and Malden, MA: Polity.

*OSCE Handbook*, Vienna, OSCE Publication. (Print version or PDF version)

[http://www.osce.org/publications/osce/2005/04/13858\\_222\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/publications/osce/2005/04/13858_222_en.pdf)

Cohen J. 1999. *Conflict Prevention in the OSCE: An Assessment of Capacities*. The Hague: Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael.

[http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2000/20000900\\_cli\\_study9.pdf](http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2000/20000900_cli_study9.pdf)

Bothe, Ronzitti, and Rosas (eds.). 1997. *The OSCE in the Maintenance of Peace and Security: Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes*. The Hague: Kluwer Law International

Gheballi and Warner. 2001. *The Operational Role of the OSCE in South-Eastern Europe: Contributing to regular stability in the Balkans*. Aldershot: Ashgate

<b>GROUP PROJECTS:</b>
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Students will form groups and each group will choose an intrastate or interstate conflict that has been addressed by the UN, and/or a regional organization, and/or a non-governmental organization. It could also cover a conflict that has been resolved, or that could be considered as a success story. Groups are to be made up of at least four and not more than six students. Further details will be discussed in class.

**COURSE READINGS/INTERNET/ELECTRONIC RESERVES:**

This course will use several methods for access to class readings: the library, the library's electronic reserves, a class website, and internet access. Other readings may be indicated or distributed in class. All students are responsible for downloading and reading assignments *before* they are discussed in class. Several readings will be noted as "SUPPLEMENTARY" and are not required, but reading them will enhance your understanding of the course material.

The Library's Electronic Reserves are located at: <http://ers2000.gmu.edu/>

Click on the link that says, "Search Electronic Reserves." Then select course CONF 340-001 from the drop down menu, along with the instructor name – Farrugia, Alfred.

The password for the Electronic Reserves will be indicated to students in class.

The course website can be accessed by directing your browser to <http://webct41.gmu.edu>

All GMU students will login by using their Mason ID as the WebCT ID. The password is the same as the one used for the GMU email account. Technical difficulties, if any, will be discussed in class.

***If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus or have any concerns during the course, please feel free to ask in class or contact the instructor as soon as possible.***

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Note:** Readings and assignments listed for a class should be prepared for and completed **before** that date, unless indicated otherwise.

**Week 1: January 28**

- Themes:** Welcome, administrative matters and getting acquainted.  
Introduction to global conflict analysis and resolution.
- DVD:** *The Peacekeepers* – the Democratic Republic of Congo and MONUC, Chapters 1 – 5 (first half).
- Reading:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, Chapter 1  
<http://www.polity.co.uk/ccr/contents/chapters/RamsbothamCh01.pdf>
- Assignment:** Selection of an intrastate or interstate conflict for media assignments:  
[http://www.pcr.uu.se/publications/UCDP\\_pub/Conflict\\_List\\_1946-2005.pdf](http://www.pcr.uu.se/publications/UCDP_pub/Conflict_List_1946-2005.pdf)

**Week 2: February 4**

- Theme:** History of Early Peace Efforts, and Understanding Contemporary Conflict.
- Readings:** Miall, Ramsbotham & Woodhouse, Chapters 2, 3 and 4;  
Ramphal, Shridath, *Peace in Our Global Neighbourhood*  
<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/ramphal.htm>  
Lederach, Chapters 1 and 2
- DVD:** *The Peacekeepers (cont.)* – Chapters 6 – 11 (second half)
- Assignment:** Form small groups for group presentations - discussion

**Week 3: February 11**

- Themes:** Diagnosing Conflict: another framework for analysis – Sandole's Three Pillar Approach
- Reading:** Sandole, Dennis J.D., *A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A Three Pillar Approach*  
<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole.htm>
- Assignment:** Media Assignment – discussion (group 1)

**Week 4: February 18**

- Themes:** The United Nations System.
- Readings:** The United Nations Charter  
<http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agpeace.html>  
<http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agsupp.html>  
[http://www.un.org/peace/reports/peace\\_operations/](http://www.un.org/peace/reports/peace_operations/)  
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 6
- Assignment:** Media Assignment – discussion (group 2); Short Assignment I

**Week 5: February 25**

**Theme:** Regional Organizations: The OSCE – Institutions and Field Operations

**Readings:** <http://www.osce.org/>  
<http://www.osce.org/about/13509.html>  
<http://www.osce.org/about/13510.html>  
[http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/1975/08/4044\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/1975/08/4044_en.pdf)  
 Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 5

**Assignment:** Short Assignment I due; Media assignment – discussion (group 3)

**Week 6: March 3**

**Themes:** Civil Wars

**Readings:** Michael W. Doyle, "War making and Peace Making: The United Nations' Post-Cold War Record," in *Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, DC: USIP, 2001. (e-reserves)

Alex J. Bellamy & Paul Williams, "Who's Keeping the Peace? Regionalization and Contemporary Peace Operations," *International Security*, vol. 29, no. 4, Spring 2005 (e-journals)

J. Michael Greig & Paul F. Diehl, "The Peacekeeping-Peacemaking Dilemma," *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 49, no. 4, December 2005 (e-journals)

**Assignment:** Short Assignment II – research paper proposal and presentation.

**Week 7: March 10-16      Spring Break – no class****Week 8: March 17**

**Themes:** Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking

**Readings:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 7

**Internet:**

United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Special Report 66, Peacekeeping in Africa, PART ONE:

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr66.html>

USIP, PART TWO: <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr66-part2.html>

**Assignment:** Short Assignment II due.

**Week 9: March 24**

**Themes:** Post-War Reconstruction

**Reading:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 8

**Assignment:** Media assignment – discussion (Group 1)

**Week 10: March 31**

**Themes:** Conflict Resolution and Terrorism

**Reading:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 11

**Assignment:** Media assignment – discussion (groups 2 and 3)

**Week 11: April 7**

**Themes:** Peacebuilding I

**Readings:** Lederach, Chapters 3 to 6  
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 9

**Assignment:** Submit first draft of individual papers for peer review.

**Week 12: April 14**

**Themes:** Peacebuilding II

**Readings:** Lederach, Chapters 7 to 11

**DVD:** *The Imam and the Pastor* – a documentary from the heart of Nigeria.

**Assignment:** Submit first draft of group presentation.

**Week 13: April 21**

**Themes:** Reconciliation

**Readings:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 10

Lederach, John Paul. 2002. "Civil Society and Reconciliation," in *Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, DC: USIP. (e-reserves).

Barsalou, Judy. April 2005. "Trauma and Transitional Justice in Divided Societies," USIP Special Report 135 ([www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org))

Hannum, Hurst. December 2006. "Peace Versus Justice: Creating Rights as well as Order out of Chaos," *International Peacekeeping*, vol. 13, no 4. (e-journals)

Kelsall, Tim. 2005. "Truth, Lies, Ritual: Preliminary Reflections on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone," *Human Rights Quarterly*, vol. 27, no. 2. (e-journals)

**DVD:** *For the Love of Tomorrow* – the story of Irène Laure who discovered forgiveness to be stronger than hatred.

**Week 14: April 28**

**Themes:** Group presentations

**Readings:** Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapters 13, 14 & 16

**Week 15: May 5**

Review – wrap-up and final discussion on the concepts and theories covered during the semester.

**Assignment:** Individual papers due by 1.30 pm Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

A copy of the paper is to be submitted electronically to the instructor by not later than the time and date indicated above.

**Supplementary Readings (optional)**

Diamond, Louise. 1997. "Training in Conflict-Habituated Systems: Lessons from Cyprus." *International Negotiation*, Vol. 2, No. 3: 353-380.

Fetherston, A.B. and Nordstrom, C. January 1995. "Overcoming *Habitus* in conflict management: UN peacekeeping and war zone ethnography." *Peace & Change*, Vol. 20, No. 1:94-119.

Goldstone, Richard J. Spring 1996. "Justice as a tool for peace-making: truth commissions and international criminal tribunals." *New York Journal of International Law and Politics*, Vol. 28, No. 9: 485-504.

Kriesberg, Louis. October 2002. "The Relevance of Reconciliation Actions in the Breakdown of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, 2000." *Peace & Change*, Vol. 27, No. 4: 546-571.

USIP, Special Report 112, International Judges and Prosecutors in Kosovo, A New Model for Post-Conflict Peacekeeping.  
<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr112.html>