

GLOBAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION PRACTICE CONF 341 Section 001, Spring 2010

Class meeting time: Thursday 1:30 – 4:10 pm
Class dates: Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, and April 1 (5 days)
Room: Fine Arts Building B112
Instructor: Randy Salm
Email: rsalm@gmu.edu Phone: (703) 993-1428
Office Hours: Thursday 4:15 - 5:00 pm or by appointment.
Robinson Hall B, Room 365

Course Description

Welcome to the Global Conflict Resolution Simulation! In this course we will apply what you have learned about conflict resolution models and processes to the Colombian conflict. This class will involve intense multi-party negotiations over five class periods, with some initial preparation time and an evaluation phase at the end of negotiations. Students will take on such roles as representatives for the Colombian government, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), National Liberation Army (ELN), paramilitaries, a human rights organization, the U.S. government, and Colombian civil society. Since we have a limited number of students in class, we may just have two-party talks (govt. and FARC), plus key external stakeholders, i.e. civil society. Negotiations will deal with many issues, such as human rights, democratic representation, peace and security, and resource distribution. Given the nature of this course, student preparation and participation is critical for making the class a successful learning experience.

Course Materials

Required text (available in the GMU bookstore):

- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2007. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press. Or any other recent conflict resolution textbook.

Required articles, available on GMU Blackboard in the required readings tabs under Course Contents and Web Links.

- International Crisis Group. 2009. "Ending Colombia's FARC Conflict: Dealing the Right Card" March 26, 2009. ICG: Brussels, Belgium.
- ----- 2009. "Conflict History: Colombia." Retrieved Jan. 15, 2010 from http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?action=conflict_search&l=1&t=1&c_country=29.
- Center for International Policy's Colombia Program. "Information about the combatants." Dec. 5, 2004. Retrieved Jan. 15, 2010 from <http://www.ciponline.org/colombia/infocombat.htm>.
- ACCORD. 2004. "Colombia's Peace Processes." Conciliation resources: London. Retrieved Jan. 15, 2010 from <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/colombia/index.php>

Optional materials, available on GMU Blackboard.

- Many other materials have been placed on Blackboard in the Course Contents or Web Links tabs. Depending on your role, you need to read certain documents.

Classroom Etiquette

Please come to class on time and prepared. Bring your readings with you. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Remain in class unless you have an emergency. Laptops can be used in class only for taking notes. If you cannot attend class, let me know ahead of time when possible – via email. Contact a classmate to find out what was missed. Students are responsible for all announcements, assignments, date changes made in class, and all material covered in class, even if they are not there. The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I will respond asap. You can contact me at my office at 703-993-1428, but I may not respond as quickly as via email.

While I encourage you to respect the ideas of others in your comments in class, I also encourage open discussion and dialogue. 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, while understanding and respecting the opinions of others.

Attendance: You should attend classes regularly and on time, in part because you paid to do so. Attendance will be taken for administrative purposes. Poor attendance and chronic lateness not only affect your performance, but also the effectiveness of the whole class. Poor attendance may impact your financial aid. Come to class every week on time.

Assignments and Evaluation

You will be evaluated based on your preparation for your role and the way you negotiate. This means understanding your party's key issues and representing those accurately. You also need to be flexible, modifying positions based on the give and take of negotiations. Class assignments must be submitted on time. Late assignments earn 0 points.

- 1. *Written summary of your role's positions, interests and needs (30% of final grade):*** based on course readings, prepare a 3-4 page summary of the positions, interests and needs of the party that you are representing. Due March 4.
- 2. *Focused, serious role participation (40% of final grade):*** Since this is a simulation, participation is critical – missed days will impact your participation grade significantly. Come to class prepared to represent your role. Evaluation will be done on how well you represent your party's role and participate in the negotiations.
- 3. *Written reflection essay (30% of final grade):*** on what you learned from the simulation experience and areas that you should work to improve. Due April 3.

Grading Scale

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

Academic Policies and Information

Academic Honesty and Collaboration: GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity. It 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). Plagiarism is a serious offense. 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 material, ask for help. Style manuals are available at the GMU library. You may discuss your ideas with others; 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.

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. Papers should have a title, include your name and the instructor’s name. The GMU Writing Center is available if you need assistance with writing your papers.

Disability Support Services

The Disability Resource Center Office coordinates services for students with disabilities. Any student with learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) contact the Office of Disability Support Services (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) have the Office of Disability Support contact me – the instructor - to discuss reasonable accommodations..

Schedule:

Week 1: Feb. 25

Introductions, course overview and expectations. Negotiation roles determined. Role preparation starts.

Readings: all readings from Required folders in Course Contents and Web Links folders on Blackboard.

Week 2: March 4

Role preparation continues. General negotiation agreement developed.

Readings: specific documents for your role, either from Blackboard or Internet.

Role analysis assignment due: key positions, interests and needs for your role.

Week 3: March 18

Multi-party negotiations start in earnest.

Readings: any specific documents needed for your role.

Week 4: March 25

Multi-party negotiations start in earnest.

Readings: any specific documents needed for your role.

Week 5: April 1

Multi-party negotiations end. Evaluation of negotiation outcomes and process.

Written reflection essay due April 3, via email.