

CONF 601-001
THEORIES OF CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Fall 2012

Monday: 7:20 pm 10:00 pm

Instructor: Mohammed Cherkaoui, PhD
Location: Founders Hall, Room 320

Email: mcherkao@gmu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Objectives:

The multi- and inter-disciplinary nature of Conflict Resolution entails the need for a nuanced knowledge of the works of the parents of the field as well as other theories derived from Psychology, Sociology, International Relations, and other social sciences. Before considering the objective of resolving or at least transforming social conflict, the imperative of analyzing issues, motives, positions, and trajectories, either among individuals, groups, states, or other stakeholders, requires a minimum familiarity with leading conceptual frameworks which offer various interpretations of how the world works. Accordingly, the objectives of this course include:

1. Examining and critiquing social theories that may prove useful in analyzing various types of social conflict;
2. Evaluating the usefulness of these social theories by applying them to specific conflict situations;
3. Assisting students to become better critics of conflict-related theories and more acute conflict analysts; and
4. Enabling them to develop their own abilities to construct useful theories of conflict and conflict resolution.

The Course Format:

The course will be run as a combined lecture and graduate seminar with an emphasis on discussion of the readings and students' reflections. It is therefore imperative that students read the assigned material prior to class. Active participation based on *thoughtful consideration* of the literature will be expected. In evaluating class participation, the instructor will look for evidence that you have done the readings with sufficient attention that you can contribute to the discussion. Missing more than one or two classes will inevitably reduce your overall participation and hence result in a lower participation grade.

There are two categories of reading materials: required reading and recommended reading. Required reading materials are mandatory. Recommended reading materials are optional but useful for students to deepen their understanding of the particular subjects under study. The course will also include selected segments of video presentations of several theorists and critics to help reinforce the readings and enrich the class discussion. In addition, students are encouraged to follow and critically examine daily news reports on current events related to social conflict, and read relevant articles in *American Sociological Review*, *World Politics*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, and other leading journals.

Exercises, Grades, and Course Requirements:

Grades will be based on three exercises:

- **Active participation** in class discussions: 20% of the overall grade.
- **Take-home mid-term exam:** 30% (12 pages, font 12, double space excluding endnotes – due October 22 @ 7pm).
- **Take-home final exam:** 50% (20 pages, font 12, double space excluding endnotes – due December 16 @ 5pm).

In these two exercises, you will analyze two real world conflicts based on the theoretical perspectives discussed in class, providing you with the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding and assessment of those theories which have led the field literature. The objective of these two assignments is to draw lessons from these abstract theoretical arguments to apply them toward the integration of theory, research and practice. Further description of these exercises will be provided in class. It is S-CAR policy to grant grades of “Incomplete” only in cases of proven illness or other personal emergency.

Honor Code Policy:

I expect you to understand and abide by the University’s policy regarding the Honor Code, which may be found at <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode>. In short, the University’s policy regarding the Honor Code prohibits any form of cheating on exams or written assignments. It also prohibits plagiarism, so be certain to properly cite all information that you use in your papers.

Course Materials:

Most of the book chapters and articles will be placed on GMU’s electronic reserves. To access e-reserve reading, go to: <http://furbo.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/ers/OSCRnexttermgen.cgi>. When the page opens, select the course # and section for the course, the faculty name, and the password as listed below: Cherkaoui, Mohammed – CONF 601.001. [Password: TBA in class.] The rest of the reading material will be emailed.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: August 27

Introduction

- Self-introductions
- Overview of the syllabus, course requirements, and expectations for the course
- Discussion: Why Conflict theory?

Week 2: September 3

No class [Labor Day]



Week 3: September 10

Realism

- ✓ **Hans, J. Morgenthau.** (1967) *Politics among Nations*, Alfred A. Knopf (5th edition), pp. 3-15, 27-39, and 167-177
- ✓ **Waltz, Kenneth.** (2000) "Structural Realism after the Cold War", *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 5–41
- ✓ **Little, Richard.** (2009) "Revisiting Realism and the Balance of Power", in *Rethinking Realism in International Relations: Between Tradition and Innovation*, Freyberg-Inan, A. and Harrison, E. and James, P. (Eds), The Johns Hopkins University Press, ch. 1, pp. 21-44
- ✓ **Wolfowitz, Paul.** ""Think Again: Realism", *Foreign Policy*, Sept/Oct. 2009 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Walt, Stephen. Et al.** "Is Paul Wolfowitz For Real", *Foreign Policy*, August 27, 2009 (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Shimko, Keith.** (2009) "Realism, Neorealism, and American Liberalism" in *War, Peace, and Political Realism*, University of Notre Dame Press, ch. 16, pp. 321-341
- ✓ **Falk, Richard.** "Kenneth Waltz is Not Crazy, But He Is Dangerous: Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East", *Foreign Policy Journal*, July 7, 2012 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Mearsheimer, John. & Walt, Stephen.** "An Unnecessary War", *Foreign Policy*, January 1, 2003 (Emailed)

Video Presentation:

John Mearsheimer on Realism

Week 4: September 17

Functionalism

- ✓ **Coser, Lewis A.** (1956) *The Functions of Social Conflict*, pp. 33-65
- ✓ **Collins, Randall.** (2009) "A Theory of Stratification", in *Conflict Sociology*, Paradigm Publishers, ch. 2, pp. 13-53
- ✓ **Alexander, Jeffrey C. and Colomy, Paul.** "Toward Neo-Functionalism", *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Autumn, 1985), pp. 11-23

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Rodrigo Cordero, et al.** (2008) "Performing Cultural Sociology: A Conversation with Jeffrey Alexander", *European Journal of Social Theory* 11; 523 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Davis, Kingsley. and Moore, Wilbert E.** (1944) "Some Principles of Stratification", *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 242-249

Week 5: September 24

Basic Human Needs

- ✓ **Maslow, A. H.** (1943) "A Theory of Human Motivation", *Psychological Review*, 50, pp. 370-396

- ✓ **Burton, John.** (1979) "Institutional Values & Human Needs" in *Deviance, Terrorism, and War: The Process of Solving Unresolved Social and Political Problems*, pp. 55-84
- ✓ **Galtung, Johan.** (1991) "International Development in Human Perspective", in *Conflict: Human Needs Theory*. Ed. John Burton, pp. 301-335
- ✓ **Rubenstein, Richard E.** (1996) "Basic Human Needs: Steps Toward Further Theory Development" www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6_1/Rubenstein.htm

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Coate and Rosati,** (1988) *The Power of Human Needs in World Society*, Lynn Rienner

Video Presentation: John Burton interview with Rich Rubenstein

Week 6: October 1 *Aggression & Relative Deprivation*

- ✓ **Gurr, Ted R.** "Psychological Factors in Civil Violence", *World Politics*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Jan. 1968), pp. 245-278
- ✓ **Gurr, Ted R.** (1970) "Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence", in *Why Men Rebel*, Ch. 2, pp. 22-58
- ✓ **Dougherty, James E. and Pfaltzgraff, Robert L. Jr.** (2001) "Microcosmic Theories of Violent Conflict", in *Contending Theories of International Relations*, 5th ed., ch. 6, pp. 231-263 (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Davies. James C.** (1972) "Toward a Theory of Revolution", *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Feb., 1962), pp. 5-19 in *Anger, Violence and Politics*, Ed. I.K. Feierabend, R.L. and T. R. Gurr., pp. 67-84
- ✓ **Hedges, Chris.** (2002) *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*, Public Affairs

Video Presentation: Chris Hedges (ICAR conference 2009)

Week 7: October 9 (Tue.) *Psychoanalysis*

- ✓ **Freud, Sigmund.** (1955) *Psychoanalysis: The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychoanalytical Works of Sigmund Freud*, vol. XVIII, pp. 235-254
- ✓ **Freud, Sigmund** (1932-36) "Why War: The Freud-Einstein Correspondence" (Emailed)
- ✓ **Erikson. Erik** (1950) *Childhood and Society*, ch. 7, pp. 247-274 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Volkan, Vamik** (1997) "Ethnic Tents" pp. 19-29, "Chosen Trauma", pp. 36-49, "Wenness" pp. 81-100, in *Bloodlines: from Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Marcuse, Herbert.** (1966) *Eros and Civilization: A Philosophical Inquiry into Freud*. (Especially Ch. 1 to 4, pp. 11-105)

- ✓ **Volkan, Vamik.** (2004) *Blind Trust: Large Groups and Their Leaders in Times of Crisis and Terror*, pp. 23-55

Video presentation: Beirut to Bosnia – The Road to Palestine by Robert Fisk

Week 8: October 15 ***Culture and Social Identity***

- ✓ **Myers, Linda.** (2008) "Toward Fuller Knowledge in Peace management and Conflict Resolution: The Importance of Cultural Worldview", in *Re-centering Culture and Knowledge in Conflict Resolution*, Trujillo, Mary. et al. (Eds), Syracuse University Press, ch. 2, pp. 20-31
- ✓ **Avruch, Kevin.** (2012) "Culture Theory, Culture Clash, and the Practice of Conflict Resolution", in *Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution: Culture, Identity, Power, and Practice*, Paradigm publishers, Ch. 6, pp. 81-95
- ✓ **Huntington, Samuel P.** (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*. Summer, vol. 72 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Tajfel, Henri and Turner, John** (1979) "An Integrative Theory of Intergroup Conflict", in WG Austin & S. Worchel *The Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations*, pp. 33-47 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Brubaker, Rogers. & Cooper, Frederick.** (2000) "Beyond Identity", *Theory and Society* Vol. 29, No. 1 pp. 1-47 (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Geertz, Clifford** (1973) "Thick description: toward an interpretive theory of culture", in: *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays* Basic Books, pp. 3-30 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Alexander, Jeffrey.** (2004) "Cultural Pragmatics: Social Performance Between Ritual and Strategy" *Sociological Theory*, 22 (4), 527-573 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Galtung, Johan.** "Cultural Violence", *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (August 1990) 291-305 (Emailed)

Video presentation: Philosopher and Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan

Week 9: October 22 ***Marx and Class Struggle***

- ✓ **Marx, Karl. & Engels, Friedrich.** (1848) Manifesto of the Communist Party (Emailed)
- ✓ **Fraser, Nancy.** "Rethinking Recognition," *New Left Review*, May-June 2000 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Rubenstein, Richard E.** (1993) "Analyzing and Resolving Class Conflict", in *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application*. Ed. D.J.D Sandole and H. van der Merve, ch. 10, pp. 146-157 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Eagleton, Terry** (2011) *Why Marx Was Right*, Yale University Press, Ch. 4, pp-64-106

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Marx, Karl. & Engels, Friedrich.** (1994) *The German Ideology, Part I* (selections). *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*. Edited by L. H. Simon, 102-156
- ✓ **Sion, Roger.** (191) *Gramsci's Political Thought*, Lawrence & Wishart
- ✓ **Trotsky, Leon.** *The Permanent Revolution* www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1931/tpr/pr-index.htm

Week 10: October 29

Battle of Algiers

Video presentation: Be prepared to discuss how the theories studied so far may apply in the analysis and resolution of the conflict(s) described in the film.

Mid-term exam due 7pm

Week 11: November 5

Dilemma of Transformative Power

- ✓ **Roy, Beth.** (2008) "Power, Culture, Conflict", in *Re-centering Culture and Knowledge in Conflict Resolution*, Trujillo, Mary. et al. (Eds), Syracuse University Press, ch. 14, pp. 179-194
- ✓ **Avruch, Kevin.** (2012) "Conflict Resolution and the Dilemma of Power", in *Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution: Culture, Identity, Power, and Practice*, Paradigm publishers, Ch. 9, pp. 141-175
- ✓ **Hayward, Clarissa. & Lukes, Steven.** "Nobody to shoot? Power, Structure, and Agency: A dialogue", *Journal of Power*, Vol. 1, No. 1, April 2008, 5–20 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Sobek, David.** (2009) "The Rise and Fall of States", in *The Causes of War*, Polity, Ch. 7 pp. 151-171

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Foucault, Michel.** "The Subject and Power", *Critical Inquiry* 8, (summer 1982)

Video presentation: Leslie H. Gelb, President Emeritus, Council on Foreign Relations

Week 12: November 12

Social Mobilization

- ✓ **Boulding, Elise.** (1986) *The Changing Nature of Peace Movements: Interview with Elise Boulding* (Emailed)
- ✓ **Tarrow, Sidney** (1998) *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics* (2nd ed.), Cambridge University Press, pp. 10-25 and 71-90
- ✓ **Buechler, Steven.** (2011) "Political Process Theory", in *Understanding Social Movements: Theories from the Classical Era to the Present*, Paradigms Publishers, ch. 8, pp. 125-140
- ✓ **Cherkaoui, Mohammed.** (2011) "Conflict Resolution à la Asabiya: Ibn Khaldun is back" (Emailed)

- ✓ **Gierer, Alfred.** (2001) Ibn Khaldun on Solidarity “Asabiya”: Modern Science on Cooperativeness and Empathy: a Comparison, *Philosophia Naturalis* 38, pp. 91-104 (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Alexander, Jeffery.** (2010) *Power, Politics and the Civil Sphere*, In K.T. Leicht and J.C. Jenkins (eds.) *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*, ch. 6, pp. 111-126 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Margaret Levi and Gillian H. Murphy,** “Coalitions of Contention: The Case of the WTO Protests in Seattle”, *Political Studies* 54:4 (December 2006), pp. 651-670
- ✓ **Haidt, Jonathan.** “*The Moral Foundations of Occupy Wall Street*”, (August 12, 2012) <http://newmediajournal.us/indx.php/item/6374>

Video presentation: Naom Chomsky on Activism, Anarchism, and Power

Week 13: November 19

Modernization and Globalization

- ✓ **Kant, Immanuel.** (1784) *What is Enlightenment?* (Emailed)
- ✓ **Blokland, Hans.** (2006) "The Modernization of Politics and Society" in *Modernization and Its Political Consequences*, Yale University Press, Ch. 5, pp. 183-209
- ✓ **Smith, Anthony.** (2009) "Perennialism and Modernization", in *Ethno-Symbolism and Nationalism: A Cultural Approach*, Routledge, Ch. 1, pp.3-21
- ✓ **Friedman, Thomas L.** (2005) *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. pp. 3-47, 414-438 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Galbraith, James. K.** “A Perfect Crime: Inequality in the Age of Globalization.” *Daedalus* 131:1 (Winter 2002), pp-11-26

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Barber, Benjamin.** “Jihad vs. MacWorld,” *Atlantic Monthly*, Mar. 1992 (Emailed)

Video presentation: Yale political scientist Seyla Benhabib on Globalization

Week 14: November 26

Non-Western Perspectives: Islam, Ubuntu, and Buddhism

- ✓ **Salem, Paul.** "In Theory: A Critique of Western Conflict Resolution from a Non-Western Perspective", *Negotiation Journal*, 9:4 (1993) 361-9 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Abu-Nimer, Mohammed.** (2010) “An Islamic Model of Conflict Resolution”, in *Crescent and Dove: Peace and Conflict Resolution in Islam*, Qamar Ulhuda (Ed.), USIP, ch. 4, pp. 73-92
- ✓ **Moussalli, Ahmad.** (2009) “Two Discourses on Modern Islamic Political Thought: Fundamentalism and Modernism”, in *Conflict, Identity, and Reform in the Muslim World*, Blumberg, D. and Shehata, D. (Eds) Ch. 5, pp. 101-125

- ✓ **Masina, Nomonde** (2000) Xhosa Practices of Ubuntu for South Africa. *Traditional Cures for Modern Conflicts*. Edited by I.W. Zartman. pp. 169-181 (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Galtung, Johan.** (1988) Peace and Buddhism: An Evaluation of Strong and Weak Points. *Transarmament and the Cold War: Peace Research and the Peace Movement*, pp-369-380 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Takamura, S.** (1986) Buddhism and Leadership for Peace, pp. 16-28 (Emailed)

Video Presentation: John Esposito on Islam

Week 15: December 3

Postmodernism

- ✓ **Edgar, Andrew. & Sedgewick, Peter.** (1999) "Postmodernism" in *Key Concepts in Cultural Theory*, pp. 294-298
- ✓ **Lyotard, Jean-François** (1979) "The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge" (Emailed)
- ✓ **Foucault, Michel** (1979) "The Body of the Condemned" and "Illegalities and Delinquency", in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, pp. 3-31 and 257-292 (Emailed)
- ✓ **Amy Zalman and Jonathan Clarke,** "The Global War on Terror: A Narrative in Need of a Rewrite," *Ethics and International Affairs* 23:2 (Summer 2009) (Emailed)

Recommended readings:

- ✓ **Hughes, Scott.** "Understanding Conflict in a Postmodern World", *Marquette Law Review*, Vol. 87, issue 4, (2004)
- ✓ **Baudrillard, Jean,** (1989) *From Marxism to Postmodernism and Beyond*, Stanford University Press
- ✓ **Havel, Vaclav.** (1994) The Need for Transcendence in the Postmodern World <http://www.worldtrans.org/whole/havelspeech.html>

Video Presentation: What is Postmodernism?

Discussion: Toward a Conflict Theory

Final Paper due by email by December 16 at 5 pm