

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Section 003, Fall 2012
Monday- 01:30-04:10 pm/ West Building 1007

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course! Global conflicts, while better understood today than they were fifty years ago, still remain some of the most puzzling phenomenon of social scientific inquiry. Understanding that is gleaned from one instance of global conflict is not always useful in another. Still, there are some human realities that span levels and types of conflict (i.e. power dynamics, identity, values, etc.). This course is aimed at exploring these realities.

To the tireless workers for peace and social justice around the world, conflict is an ever present, and at times overwhelming, aspect of post-modern existence. To social scientists from various fields of study, conflict is both an important agent of social change and a force of social destruction. Yet, despite one's perspective on a given conflict and/or the many examples of the difficulty in managing and transforming especially protracted varieties of conflict, at some minimum level analytical tools and practices do exist to better understand and attempt resolution of global conflicts. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the exploring and understanding of global conflict analysis and resolution. Drawing on literature and research from the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, International Relations, Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology, this class will examine the many theoretical and pragmatic approaches to conflict on the global level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize students with conflict theories, terminology and concepts associated with global conflicts;
- Help students think critically, systematically and analytically about intrastate and interstate conflicts in different regions and in a variety of contexts
- Increase understanding of various approaches to analyze/resolve global conflicts in different contexts
- Analyze root causes of intrastate and interstate conflicts, focusing at multiple-levels of analysis – individual, state/society, regional and global
- Examine particular international and intrastate conflicts, mapping out their developments and examining past and present resolution efforts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation and Reflective Log: For each class, students are expected to have completed the readings listed for that day in the course schedule. Each week, you will prepare and hand in two (2) questions on the week's readings to turn in at the beginning of class. These questions may be used as discussion points during the class, and as such, count towards your participation grade.

Last 10 minutes of each week, you will keep a *reflective log* recording reflections on class assignments, readings, discussions and exercises. By this way, you will evaluate your learning, reflect on the class materials, ask questions, and develop your integrative skills.

Class participation and reflective log activity will be worth 10% of your final grade.

2. Reading Quizzes: You will have four quizzes during the course of the semester. Each one will cover the reading material and class discussions to ensure that you are doing the readings. Dates of these quizzes will not 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 minutes to complete. Each quiz will be worth %5 of your final grade.

3. Experiential Learning Activity (ELA): In the frames of the course we will conduct an Experiential Learning Activity on the gas dispute in Eastern Mediterranean. In this role play activity, you will simulate a United Nations summit aimed at preventing interstate conflict over vast undersea gas and oil fields recently discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean. This simulation uses a contemporary scenario to enhance your understanding of the complex dynamics of conflict and negotiation at interstate, regional and international levels, and the roles of identity and interests as potential drivers of escalation or resolution. Sound preparation and effective participation in this ELA is worth 20% of your final grade.

4. Midterm: I will hand out several essay questions and you are asked to pick one, and write a 5 page essay based on the introductory section (including readings, theories and class discussions) of the class. In the paper, besides using class materials, I expect you to do critical analysis. I will send the essay questions ONLINE on OCTOBER 8 and is due in class on OCTOBER 15th. (15% of final grade)

5. Team Presentation: You will be a member of one of seven research teams (3-4 students max). The teams will prepare a class presentation (not a paper) of a case study of an international conflict. Each team will have 45 minutes to present its case study to the class. While it's fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the

final presentation should represent a single and conceptually linked piece of work. In your presentation, you should map the conflict; analyze conflict resolution approaches that have been used and comment on the role of the international community in this conflict situation. I will provide more information on group presentation requirements in class. Presentations will be on November 26th and on December 3rd. Each group is expected to submit a one-page proposal of your presentation. The proposal is not graded. It is for you to start thinking about your case study and working in the group, and for me to see what conflicts you have selected and provide feedback. Even though it's a group assignment, each participant will be graded individually. If a group is having trouble with a member not fulfilling his/her work obligation, then the group needs to bring the problem to the instructor's attention. The team presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade. Time will be provided during class meetings throughout the semester for the teams to prepare their presentations. (10% of your final grade)

6. Final Paper: In addition to the presentation, each team member will write their own 10 pages paper analyzing the case. The case analysis paper will be due on December 17th. It will be worth 25% of your final grade. Late papers will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or emergency.

In your final paper, you are expected to:

- Map the conflict based on one of the conflict mapping frameworks (Sandole's three pillar framework, Mitchell's Spitzerow, or Wehr's)
- Analyze the conflict based on two-three theories that we used in the class
- Recommend conflict interventions that may help parties in the conflict to deal with it.

GENERAL PAPER INSTRUCTIONS (BOTH MIDTERM AND FINAL PAPERS)

1. Clear and sound content, including a well-stated thesis, related points to support that thesis, and applicable, logically presented, and specific evidence; clarity of argument.
2. Depth of engagement with ideas; originality; seriousness of thought; conceptual complexity.
3. Well-organized structure; text "flows" with coherent and effective transition between and among ideas; appropriate voice, tone, and style for audience and purpose (e.g. no slang or contractions); accurate word choice.
4. Sufficiently and consistently cited and documented; one style of citation used throughout the paper; references adequate number and appropriate type of sources; uses quotations and reference marks appropriately.
5. Correct mechanics including grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

Paper format: Papers should be typed, double-spaced, have 1" margins, and Times New Roman 12-point font. Make sure that your name, course number, and paper title is on

the first page, and pages are numbered. Edit your papers carefully. If you need help, ask the instructor or refer to the GMU Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>.

Possible Cases for Team Presentations/Research Papers:

1. The Middle East: Syria, Arab Spring, 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)

Summary of assignments and dates:

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Participation and Reflective Log	10%	Throughout the course
Reading quizzes	5% each (x4)	-
Experiential Learning Activity	20%	November 12 and November 19
Midterm Take Home Exam	15%	October 15
Team Presentation	10%	November 26th or December 3rd
Final Paper	25%	December 10th

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

*****Late Work/ illness/ re-write**

Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one point for each day they are late. If you have a documented emergency, special arrangements can be made with the instructor. Do not make a habit out of turning in your assignments late. We will discuss standards for specific assignments when the time arrives. Extensions are granted only in extreme cases such as illness or other family emergency and only where the student in question has established a track record of completing work on time. In most such cases, I will require certification of the situation. A student's procrastination in completing his/her work is not a basis for an extension. There will be no-rewrite of papers due to low grade.

COURSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Classroom Etiquette: Please come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. The use of laptops in class is for note-taking only! We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. You are encouraged to express your opinion and diverse perspectives, however, be mindful and respectful of the sensitivities and views of others in your comments in class.

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” (<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>). 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, Chicago, etc.).

You can choose any citation format, however, be consistent throughout your work. If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from the course or outside readings, then ask for help. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library 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.

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 (<http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/ods/>) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact the instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Course Materials (Required):

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., & Miall, H. (2005). *Contemporary conflict resolution*.

UK, US: Polity.

Lederach, J.P. (2005). *The Moral Imagination*. Oxford University Press.

Additional course materials: This course will use e-reserve (password will be provided in class) and GMU blackboard. Course materials including syllabus, Power Point class notes, supplementary readings and other relevant materials will be available on E-Reserve and or GMU Blackboard (<http://courses.gmu.edu>).

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus please feel free to ask me.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (Aug 27). Organization of the course, assignments, expectations; defining conflict

- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 1: "Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions" pp. 3-31;
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 2: "Conflict Resolution: Origins, Foundations and Development of the Field" pp.32-54.

UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYSING GLOBAL CONFLICTS

Week 2 (Sept 10). Changing Nature of Global Conflict

- Crocker et al., Chapter 1: "Leashing the Dogs of War", pp:3-17
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 3: "Statistics of Deadly Quarrels", p.55-77.
- Brown, M.E., Chapter 3: "New Global Dangers" (in Leashing), pp. 39-53
- Huntington, S. (Summer 1993). "The Clash of Civilizations." Foreign Affairs Available online at: <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/19930601faessay5188/samuel-phuntington/the-clash-of-civilizations.html>.

Week 3 (Sept 17). Theories of Conflict

- John W. Burton, "Needs Theory," in *Violence Explained* (New York: Manchester University Press, 1997).
- Johan Galtung, "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research," *Journal of Peace Research* 6:3 (1969): 167-91.
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 4: "Understanding Contemporary Conflict" pp. 78-105
- Daniel Bar-Tal, "Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts," *American Behavioral Scientist* 50:11 (2007): 1430-1453.

Week 4 (Sept 24). Analytic frameworks and Case Study

- Sandole, D.J.D., Chapter 3: "Typology" (in Cheldelin, Druckman, & Fast, 2003) pp:42-58
- Chris Mitchell: SPITCEROW: Framework for the Analysis of Conflict Systems
- Paul Wehr, Conflict Mapping, <http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/treatment/cmap.htm>
- Case: TBD

Week 5 (Oct 1). Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict

- Rubenstein, R.E. Chapter 4: "Sources" (in Cheldelin et al., 2003) pp.58-71
- Jeong, H., Chapter 3: "Sources of Conflict" pp:43-63
- Crocker et al., *Grasping the Nettle: Analyzing Cases of Intractable Conflict*. pp. 161-182
- Ayooob, M., Chapter 7: "State Making, State Breaking and State Failure", (in Leashing) pp: 95-115

October 8- COLUMBUS DAY-no class

Week 6 (Oct 15). Major Themes of Global Conflicts

Midterm Take Home Exam Due

- **Terrorism:** Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 11: "Terror and Global Justice" pp. 249-264
- **Economy:** Collier, P. 2001. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy," (in Leashing), pp. 143-162.
- **Identity:** Korostelina, K., Chapter 6: "The Factors that influence conflict dynamics", pp.127-143
- **Gender:** Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 12: "Gender in Conflict Resolution", pp:265-275
- **Media:** USIP, *New Media and Conflict After Arab Spring* ([Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, & Miall, 2005, pp. 3–31](#))

GLOBAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Week 7 (Oct 22) 3rd Party Intervention and Conflict Prevention

- Ronald J. Fisher and Loreleigh Keashly, "The Potential Complementarity of Mediation and Consultation within a Contingency Model of Third Party Consultation," *Journal of Peace Research* 28:1 (1991): 29-42.
- Nadim Rouhana, "Interactive Conflict Resolution: Issues in Theory, Methodology, and Evaluation," in Stern and Druckman, *International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War* (Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 2000).
- Pruitt, D.G., Kim, S.H. Chapter 11: "The Intervention of Third Parties"

- Bercovitch, J., Jackson, R., Chapter 7: “Preventive Diplomacy “

Recommended:

- I. William Zartman, “Ripeness: The Hurting Stalemate and Beyond,” in Stern and Druckman, *International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War* (Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 2000).
- Boutros-Ghali, Boutros (1992) “An Agenda for Peace, Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peacekeeping: A Report of the Secretary-General Pursuant to the Statement Adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992” New York: The United Nations
<http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agpeace.html>

Week 8 (Oct 29) Conflict Management (Peacekeeping) and Conflict Resolution (Peacemaking)

- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 6: “Preventing Violent Conflict and Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping” pp.131-158.
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 7: “Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking” p.159-184.
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 8: “Post-War Reconstruction” pp. 185-214.

Week 9 (Nov 5) Conflict Transformation (Peacebuilding and Reconciliation)

- John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2005).
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 9: “Peacebuilding,” pp. 215-230
- Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 10: “Reconciliation,” pp. 231.245

INTEGRATION

Week 10 (Nov 12) Experiential Learning Activity on the Gas Dispute in Eastern Mediterranean (**PART1**)

Week 11 (Nov 19) Experiential Learning Activity on the Gas Dispute in Eastern Mediterranean (**PART2**)

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Week 13 (Nov 26) Group Presentations

Week 14 (Dec 3) Group Presentations-Final Debrief

December 10th: FINAL PAPER DUE

Bibliography

- Bar-Tal, D. (2007). Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 50(11), 1430–1453.
- Bercovitch, J., & Jackson, R. (2009). *Conflict resolution in the twenty-first century: principles, methods, and approaches*. Univ of Michigan Pr.
- Burton, J. W. (1997). Needs Theory. *Violence Explained: the sources of conflict, violence and crime and their prevention* (pp. 32–40). New York: Manchester University Press.
- Cheldelin, S., Druckman, D., & Fast, L. (Eds.). (2003). *Conflict: from analysis to intervention*. London ; New York: Continuum.
- Crocker, C. (2005). *Grasping the nettle : analyzing cases of intractable conflict*. Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.
- Crocker, C. A., Hampson, F. O., & Aall, P. R. (Eds.). (2007). *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington D.C.: US Institute of Peace Press.
- Fisher, R. J., & Keashly, L. (1991). The potential complementarity of mediation and consultation within a contingency model of third party intervention. *Journal of Peace Research*, 28(1), 29–42.
- Galtung, J. (1969). Violence, Peace, and Peace Research. *Journal of Peace Research*, 6(3), 167–191.
- Jeong, H.-W. (2008). *Understanding conflict and conflict analysis*. California: SAGE.
- Korostelina, K. V. (2007). *Social Identity and Conflict Structures, Dynamics, and Implications* (1st ed.). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nadim Rouhana. (2000). Interactive Conflict Resolution: Issues in Theory, Methodology, and Evaluation. In Paul C. Stern & Daniel Druckman (Eds.), *International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War*. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press.
- Pruitt, D. G., & Kim, S. H. (2004). *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*. McGraw-Hill series in social psychology (3rd ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., & Miall, H. (2005). *Contemporary conflict resolution*. UK, US: Polity.