

**Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution  
George Mason University**

**INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT  
ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION**

**CONF 501**

Semester: Spring 2007  
Class Time: Mondays, 7:20 - 10:00 PM  
Location: Sec. 001, Truland Bldg., Room 333A  
Arlington Campus

Instructor: Ibrahim Sharqieh, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution. As an introductory course, it is intended to provide a foundation to further inquiry and application. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another of the themes discussed in this course in greater depth.

This course is designed to encourage students to think academically, systematically, and analytically about conflict analysis and resolution. To achieve this goal, the course will examine important aspects in understating conflict including, but is not limited to, definitions, underlying causes and conditions, dynamics, issues, parties, and other stakeholders. Theories that relate human behavior and social systems to the origins of conflict will be of a particular interest. Importantly, this holistic analysis of conflict and its causes should help us shed light on relevant intervention strategies and diverse views of conflict resolution. Integration between theory and practice through discussion, and a case study analysis of real world events is also expected.

## Course Format

The instructor will deliver some formal lectures, but there should be ample time for class questions, comments, and discussion. Participation in class discussion is essential to the success of this course. We value critical thinking and therefore, it is imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Please make sure you express informed opinions about the subject matter. Ask questions based on the knowledge of the readings agreeing or disagreeing with points raised by the authors of assigned readings. Please remember that you will find that your contribution is normally appreciated, even if you are not used to putting forward a point or making a case in public.

## Course Requirements

**Attendance: (10%)** As is the case with all other classes, attendance is required and excessive absences may result in a failing grade. Please consult with the course instructor in the event of your having to be absent more than one or two class meetings.

**Reflection Paper: (10%)** You will be asked during the semester to write one brief paper (2 – 4 pages) in which you will reflect on specific readings and/or topics. The topics will be announced on **February 26, 2007** and the paper is due on **March 5, 2007**.

**Research Paper: (30%)** The term paper should be between 10 to 15 pages in length (double space, approximately 4,000 words). The paper will take the form of analytical case study of an on-going or recent conflict. The case to be analyzed and written up will be chosen in consultation with the course instructor, who will advise on the suitability of the case. A preliminary working title for the paper must be submitted to the instructor for approval by week 4 (**February 12, 2007**). The paper is due week 10 (**March 26, 2007**).

Your research paper should reflect graduate level research, analysis, and writing. You are expected to use sources from books, refereed journals, and news sources. Most importantly, you are expected to use conflict analysis tools, theories, and themes that will have been covered in class and in the readings up to that point. Feel free to use Chicago, MLA or APA citation style.

**Group Presentation: (25%)** Depending on the size of the class, three or four “analysis groups” will be established to study a particular type of conflict exemplified by a specific case. Groups are free to choose a real world conflict as their case study with consultation with the course instructor.

The groups will present progress reports to the class approximately once every three weeks. The main purpose of the groups will be to see how concepts, ideas and theories presented in the remainder of the course help in the understanding of a real world conflict. Each group will be required to make an oral presentation of its analysis and findings at the end of the semester, and to hand in a full and final written report. The findings may represent a consensus among the group or alternative perspectives may be present. The presentation will be 20 minutes followed by a 40-minute general discussion in the class. Due: weeks 13 (**April 16, 2007**) & 14 (**April 23, 2007**)

The students in each case group will be asked to meet (time will be provided during class hours but additional meetings or coordination by e-mail, phone, or other means may be necessary as well).

**Final Exam: (25%):** A take-home exam will be handed out on the last day of class and will be due back three days later. This exam will cover material from throughout the class.

Please note that delays, deferrals, or a grade of “incomplete” for the course will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis. Later papers will be penalized points.

Students are expected to understand their responsibilities regarding academic integrity and the university’s policies regarding academic standards of acceptable behavior. Students should read the statement of ICAR’s Academic Standards and the University’s Honor Code.

For both the research paper and the group presentation, you can choose one of the topics below to write about. You may also submit a topic of your own to the instructor for approval. You are neither required to select any of them nor will you receive extra credits if you choose any of these topics. The following are only examples:

South Africa:

Patti Waldmeir, *Anatomy of a Miracle: The End of Apartheid and the Birth of the New South Africa* (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1997).

Copper Strike:

Jonathan D. Rosenblum, *Copper Crucible: How the Arizona Miners Strike of 1983 Recast Labor-Management Relations in America* 2nd ed. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Students may also enjoy Barbara Kingslover, *Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983* (Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press, 1989).

### The Arab-Israeli Conflict:

David Shipler. *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land*. (US, Times Books, 1986).

### 1968 Washington Riots:

Bilbert, Ben W. *Ten Blocks from the White House: Anatomy of the Washington Riots of 1968*. (New York: Paeger Press, 1968)

### The Conflict over Kosovo

Noel Malcolm. *Kosovo: A Short History*. (New York University Press, 1998).

- Abortion in America  
<http://users.telerama.com/~jdehullu/abortion/abhist.htm>
- American Civil Rights  
<http://www.ags.uci.edu/~skaufman/teaching/win2001ch4.htm>
- Cyprus Conflict <http://www.cyprus-conflict.net/intro%20page.htm>
- East Timor Independence  
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/easttimor1.html>
- Hatfield-McCoy Feud *see* Altima Waller, *Feud: Hatfields, McCoys and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988)
- Indian Removal in the USA  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2959.html>
- Northern Ireland Troubles  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/troubles/index.shtml>
- Quebec Independence Movement <http://english.republiquelibre.org/>
- Aum Shinrikyo 1995 Sarin Gas Attack in the Tokyo Subway  
<http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/aums.html>

## Grading

Assignments will be given a numeric grade according to their percentage of the total (100%) grade. At the end of the semester the cumulative percentage grade will be translated into a letter grade according to the following calculations:

A	93 - 100	C	73 - 76
A-	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89	D+	67 - 69
B	83 - 86	D	63 - 66
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
C+	77 - 79	F	59 - below

## **Readings**

The following books are available for purchase at the Arlington Bookstore.

Dean G. Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). ISBN 0-0728-5535-5

Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press 2005 2nd edition ) ISBN 0-7456-3213-0

I. William Zartman, ed., *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2005, rev. edition). ISBN: 1-9292-2236-5-X

John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997). ISBN: 1-8783-7973-9

Beth Roy, *Some Trouble with Cows: Making Sense of Social Conflict* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994). ISBN: 0-5200-8432-3

Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds., *Turbulent Peace* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001). ISBN: 1929223277

Assigned readings other than those included in the above books are available through the GMU Library e-reserves for CONF501. You can access electronic reserves: <http://oscr.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/ers/OSCRgen.cgi>

## **Class Schedule and Assignments**

Note: Reading and assignments listed for a class should be prepared and completed *before/by* that date. We will have a class activity in most of the meetings.

### **Week One (January 22, 2007): Introduction and Overview**

This week will include self-introductions, definitions, discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, and expectations for the course.

Mitchell, "Some basic Initial Frameworks for Conflict Analysis" Handout.

**Assignment:** In class, begin to form small groups for case study (3-5 people per group).

### **I. Conflict: Sources, Processes, and Dynamics**

### **Week Two (January 29, 2007): Basic Concepts and Analytical Frameworks**

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 1

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 1-2

Louis Kriesberg, "The Development of the Conflict Resolution Field," in Zartman and Rasmussen, *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. p.57

Johan Galtung, "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research," *Journal of Peace Research* 6:3 (1969): 167-91.

Ms. Marrisca Cachero Stone, Interim Head of the Arlington Campus Library, will make a presentation on the available resources. Students will also have some hands on time to practice searching the database.

### **Week Three (February 5, 2007): Sources of Conflict - Part I**

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 2

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 3

Mohammed Ayooob, "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*.

Kevin Avruch and Peter Black. "Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings; Problems and Prospects. in Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, eds., *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application* (Manchester, 1993).

**Assignment:** Finalize case study groups.

**Week Four (February 12, 2007): Sources of Conflict - Part II**

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 3-6

John W. Burton, "Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy," in Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, eds., *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application* (Manchester, 1993).

Ted Robert Gurr, "Minorities, Nationalists, and Ethnopolitical Conflict," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*.

Janice Gross Stein, "Image, Identity, and Conflict Resolution," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*.

**Assignment:** Submit individual research paper proposal and bibliography to instructor for approval.

**Week Five (February 19, 2007): Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation**

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 3 - 9

**II. Conflict Management and Resolution**

**Week Six (February 26, 2007): Negotiation and Third Party Intervention**  
**Take-home exam handed out in class**

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 10-11

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 5-7

Jacob Bercovitch, "Mediation in International Conflict" in Zartman and Rasmussen, *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*.

**Week Seven (March 5, 2007): Timing and Roles**  
**Take-home exam due at beginning of class**

Harold Saunders, "Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*.

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. E-reserve, also JSTOR database.

James H. Laue and GERAL W. Cormick, "The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes," in *The Ethics of Social Intervention*, edited by Gordon Bermant, Herbert C. Kelman, and Donald P. Warwick (Washington: Hemisphere Publications, 1978), pp. 205-232. E-reserve.

**Week Eight (March 12, 2007): Spring Break**

**Week Nine (March 19, 2007): Outcomes**

Ramsbotham, Woudhouse, and Miall, ch. 12-13

Class activity: Let us learn from each other. Students will be given a chance to share their experience writing their research papers. Tell us about your conflict and the ways you used in your analysis. What are the challenges that you have faced so far and what recommendations can you give to the class. The instructor will be available for advice and guidance.

**Week Ten (March 26, 2007): Peacemaking and Peacebuilding**  
**Term paper is due today**

Roy Licklider, "Obstacles to Peace Settlements," in *Turbulent Peace*.

Stephen Stedman, "International Implementation of Peace Agreements in Civil Wars: Findings from a Study of Sixteen Cases," in *Turbulent Peace*

Nicole Ball, "The Challenges of Rebuilding War Torn Societies," in *Turbulent Peace*.



### III. Conflict Analysis: Case Studies

#### **Week Eleven (April 2, 2007): Conflict Analysis – Case Study: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution: The Problem with Terrorism**

Choose your own reading. Students will have a chance to select the reading they want to cover the current problem with terrorism. This should give you a chance to test your skills of selecting several resources to cover a certain subject. Please come to class with three titles of books and/or articles related to terrorism and conflict resolution.

Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class

#### **Week Twelve (April 9, 2007): Some Trouble with Cows**

Beth Roy, *Some Trouble with Cows: Making sense of Social Conflict* (Berkeley: University of California, 1994)

Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class

#### **Week Thirteen (April 16, 2007): Case Study Group Presentations**

#### **Week Fourteen (April 23, 2007): Case Study Group Presentations Case Study Group Report Due.**

#### **Week Fifteen (April 30, 2007): Reconciliation**

John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington DC.: USIP Press, 1997).

Review and Integration