CONF 735
Global Context of Conflict

Monday 7:20 - 10:00
Fall 2005

Instructor: Ho-Won Jeong (hwjeong@gmu.edu)
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30 or by Appointment

The course expands students' knowledge base in a critical analysis of conflict and creative problem solving. The root causes of conflict in a global context are examined in terms of gender inequality, cultural differences, unequal economic relations, genocide, religious and ethnic struggle, and environmental conflict. Students are expected to develop their own conceptual tool boxes needed to analyze conflicts in different parts of the world by the end of the semester.

This course will help students get familiar with some basic issues in international conflict. One of the main areas which we will examine is identity related communal conflict. Violence is inflicted on the marginalized in many parts of the world, often associated with unequal distribution of resources and ecological degradation. The course will focus on inter-communal and intra-communal conflict rather than inter-state war. The creation of new social and economic relations often accompanies the penetration of state structure and integration into the global economy. This class examines ways in which forces in globalization and international political economy transform communal life and create diverse forms of struggle.

Requirements

Though the instructor offers basic concepts and theoretical approaches, all students are expected to read class assignments and contribute to class discussion. Discussion is designed to explore some of the main issues covered in the lecture at a deeper level. Reading assignments encompass primary issues and problems that have been discussed in the field. Book chapters and journal articles assigned for this class are included in a binder placed at the ICAR resource room.

There are some short essays and one research paper as well as a class project. The essays may cover major themes learned in class, but it will be more oriented toward reflecting students' ability to synthesize their knowledge and integrate different conceptual issues. The topics for a research paper should be compatible with the general orientation of the class. Class discussion will help students develop policy perspectives and will be encouraged to make reports on the ongoing events.

Grading

The essays will count for 20 percent of the course grade. The term paper will constitute 55 percent of the final grade. The remaining 25 percent of the grade will be assigned to class participation.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1 Introduction and Overview

Week 2 Conceptual Understanding

Week 3 Globalization and Conflict

Charles Lerche, 'The Conflicts of Globalization', in *International Journal of Peace Studies*, December 1997

Alan Tidwell and Charles Lerche, 'Globalization and Conflict Resolution,' in *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Summer, 2004

Nathan C. Funk and Abdul Aziz Said, 'Islam and the West: Narratives of Conflict and Conflict Transformation' in *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Summer, 2004

Ron Fisher ed., *Conflict Resolution to Peacemaking*, Lexington Books, 2005

Week 4 Transition to Globalization

Jan Aart Scholte, *Globalization*, St. Martins, 2000, pp. 13-61; 62-108.

Week 5 Change and Conflict in a Globalization Context

Jan Aart Scholte, *Globalization*, pp. 111-131; 159-204;
pp. 207-260

Week 6 Globalization and the Environment

Ho-Won Jeong, *Globalization and the Environment*

Week 7 Responses to Challenges of Globalization

Janie Leatherman and Julie Webber, eds., *Charting Transnational Democracy: Beyond Global Arrogance*, Palgrave, New York, 2004

Discussion: The impact of globalization on the marginalized groups and social movements

Class web site (http://classweb.gmu.edu/hwjeong/)

The World Social Forum
http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/eng/index.asp

Week 8 Ecological Concerns: Global and Local Dimensions

Week 9 Environmental Conflict

B. Weinberg, 'Ecological Destruction as the Roots of War,' in *War on the Land*, Zed Books, London, 1991.

P. Brecke, 'The Pathways from Environmental Change to Conflict', Paper presented at ISA
    Convention, 1997

V. Percival and T. Homer-Dixon, 'Environmental Scarcity', Occasion Paper, University of Toronto.

M. Zebich-Knos, 'Global Environmental Conflict,' *Peace and Conflict Studies*, July 1998

Week 10 Crisis of Development

V. Shiva, 'Political and Cultural Costs' in Shiva, *The Violence of the Green Revolution: Third World
    Agriculture, Ecology and Politics*, Zed Books, London, 1991

V. Shiva, 'The Seeds and the Spinning Wheel', in Shiva, *The Violence of the Green Revolution*

Week 11 Political Boundaries and Conflict: Ethnicity and Nationalism

J. Friedman, 'Culture, Identity, and World Process', in *Cultural Identity and Global Process*, Sage
Publications, 1994

P. Pamir, 'Nationalism, Ethnicity and Democracy', *International Journal of Peace Studies*, July 1997

C. Leeds, 'Managing Conflicts across Cultures', *International Journal of Peace Studies*, July 1997

Suggested Readings

B. Jorgenson, 'Ethnic Boundaries and the Margins' *Peace and Conflict Studies*, <mark>December 1997</mark>

F. Wilmer, 'Domination and Resistance' *Peace and Conflict Studies*, <mark>June 1996</mark>

S. Amin, 'Social Movements at Periphery,' in P. Wignaraja (ed.), *New Social Movements in the
South*, Zed Books, 1993

Affan Seljuq, 'Cultural Conflicts: North African Immigrants in France', *International Journal of
Peace Studies*, July 1997

Week 12 Identity Politics, Security and Conflict

K. Friis, 'From liminars to Others' *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 2000

E. Stamnes, 'Brundi: a Critical Security Perspective' in *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 2000

O. Jaeger, 'Securitising Russia' in *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 2000

M. Stern-Petterson, 'Reading Mayan Women's In/Security', *International Journal of Peace Studies*, July 1998

Suggested reading

M. Albert, 'Security as a Boundary Function', *International Journal of Peace Studies*, January 1998

Week 13 Class Projects

Week 14 Class Projects

Week 15 Developing an Analytical Framework