

CONF 695 Section 003: Conflict and Conflict Resolution in Africa

Semester: Spring 2016
 Class Time: Thursday, 7:20 to 10:00
 Classroom: Founders Hall 468
 Instructor: Terrence Lyons
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Welcome to the course. This graduate seminar will use African cases and research to explore a variety of theories regarding conflict and conflict resolution, particularly in cases of civil war. It does not start with the assumption that there is a category of "African" conflicts that are different from "European" or "Asian" conflicts but rather from the desire to use the rich literature on conflicts in Africa to develop our understanding of universal patterns of conflict and conflict resolution.

Requirements. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

		Due date
Case Study Paper	25 percent	February 25
Policy Paper	25 percent	April 21
Book Review	10 percent	May 5
Three analytical essays		
3 x 10 percent =	30 percent	Throughout semester
Participation	10 percent	Throughout semester

Case Study Conflict Analysis Paper: Due February 25

The purpose of this paper is to write an analysis of a contemporary violent conflict in Africa. The case may be one that remains on-going or one that has gone through some kind of peace process. The point of this paper is to present the case according to a common framework and then to present the case to the class so that we all have a number of common cases to which we may refer.

I will ask each of you to select a different case, so please consult with me regarding what case you wish to analyze. We will discuss the Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, and Congo cases together February 18th so those cases may not be selected.

Once you have your case, write a ten-page paper that covers the following: 1. Background/context of the conflict; 2. Origins/causes; 3. Dynamics; organizational dimensions (resource mobilization, factionalization/ coalition processes); 4. Peace process (or lack thereof); 5. Prospects for sustainable peace.

For different cases different parts of this outline will be most relevant. At the end, your paper should be able to tell your classmates what they need to know about the

conflict so that they can consider how this case compares to others on some of the key variables relating to conflict and conflict resolution in Africa.

This paper will be due February 25 before class. It should be 10 pages in length (approximately 2500 words) and include citations and a bibliography. I will make papers available to all members of the class on Blackboard so that all will have background documents available as cases are raised over the course of the semester. Each of you will be asked to do a ten-minute, five-slide presentation of the case during class on February 25. This presentation will be included in your participation grade.

Short Analytical Essays: Due various weeks.

You will write three short (3-4 page, 750-1000 word) papers analyzing a particular week's set of readings. The essay is due before the day those readings will be discussed and must be submitted as email attachments in Word format. Each essay will be worth 10 percent of your grade and the three essays therefore worth 30 percent. Late papers cannot be accepted. You may choose any three of the following week's assigned readings – week 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, or 14.

These short papers should analyze the assigned books and articles, place them in the context of the literature on the topic, and assess both their contributions to the field and their weaknesses. They should emphasize a thoughtful understanding of the week's readings and should not merely summarize the authors' arguments.

Policy Analysis: Due April 21.

Policy-oriented research matches a well-grounded, conceptually sound, analysis of a specific conflict with policy-oriented recommendations. Think of this as a ten page International Crisis Group style analysis. It should begin with a one page Executive Summary with the main findings highlighted and the policy recommendations presented in a clear, jargon-free manner. The analysis should represent a full and complex assessment of the conflict issues currently at stake and link this analysis to recommendations to both local and international actors. You should imagine that your audience is the global policy community (government officials, the media, think tanks, advocacy organizations), not the graduate seminar.

Papers are due on **April 21, 2016** as Word attachments sent to my email. Students will present short versions of their findings with a particular focus on how policy choices and debates are framed.

Book Review: Due May 5, 2016.

Select a book relating to conflict and conflict resolution in Africa. Please send a short email with the proposed book to confirm that it is appropriate for this assignment. A

list of supplemental readings will provide you with some ideas. The book review should be five-pages long and emailed as Word attachments by **5 May 2016**.

A book review should engage with a work of scholarship and assess its contributions and its weaknesses. In order to provide the context for your assessment you should succinctly draw out the main argument(s), the author's use of data, and whether or not the conclusions are sufficiently linked to the argument. It should provide a critical evaluation of the work and its contributions to the literature on conflict analysis and resolution in Africa. It should emphasize a thoughtful understanding of the book and not merely summarize the author's arguments.

Participation. To reflect the importance of class discussion, 10 percent of the final grade will be based on the student's participation. This is a graduate seminar, not a lecture course. My role is to facilitate and guide discussion. Your active participation is essential to the success of the course and you will benefit from the discussion to the extent that you have completed the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Supplemental Requirements for Doctoral Students. Doctoral students will have additional requirements that will be distributed by the professor.

All books have been ordered and should be available at the university bookstore as well as through the major on-line outlets. All should also be available in most university libraries. All articles are available through Blackboard.

Week One: 21 January 2016: Introduction

Paul Williams, *War and Conflict in Africa* (Polity, 2013).

Week Two: 28 January 2016: Regime Type and the Influence of Colonialism

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton, 1996).

Week Three: 4 February 2016: Regime Type and State Violence

Scott Straus, *Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa* (Cornell University Press, 2015).

Week Four: 11 February 2016: Protest and Resistance

Adam Branch and Zachariah Mampilly, *Africa Uprising: Popular Protest and Political Change* (Zed, 2015).

Week Five: 18 February 2016: Case Study

Choose either:

Mike McGovern, *Making War in Côte d'Ivoire* (Hurst, 2011).

Or

Julie Flint and Alex De Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War* (Zed, 2008).

Or

Jason Stearns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of Congo and the Great War of Africa* (Public Affairs, 2012).

Week Six: 25 February 2016: Case Study Presentations**Week Seven: 3 March 2016: International Development Policies**

Peter Uvin, *Aiding Violence: The Development Enterprise in Rwanda* (Kumarian, 1998).

10 March 2016 – SPRING BREAK**Week Eight: 17 March 2016: Literary Perspectives**

For this week, students will choose one of the following novels to read. We will spend the first hour of class in “book club discussion” where students will share ideas with those who chose the same book. Students will then report back to the group about the main ideas of the book and the key questions it raises for conflict analysis and resolution.

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgraced: A Novel* (Penguin, 2008).

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (Anchor, 2007).

Chris Abani, *GraceLand* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004).

Nega Mezlekia, *Notes from the Hyena's Belly: An Ethiopian Boyhood* (Picador, 2002).

Week Nine: 24 March 2016: International Intervention

Michael Barnett, *Eyewitness to a Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda* (Cornell University Press, 2003).

Week Ten: 31 March 2016: Peacekeeping

Adebajo. *UN Peacekeeping in Africa: From the Suez Crisis to the Sudan Conflicts*. Lynne Rienner, 2011.

Week Eleven: 7 April 2016: Elections and Conflict: Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

Jacqueline M. Klopp and Elke Zuern, "The Politics of Violence in Democratization: Lessons from Kenya and South Africa," *Comparative Politics* 39 (2007): 127-146.

Susanne Mueller, "The Political Economy of Kenya's Crisis," *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 2:2 (2008): 185-210.

Dorina Bekoe, *Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa* (USIP, 2012), chapter one.

Nic Cheeseman and Blessing-Miles Tendi, "Power-sharing in Comparative Perspective: The Dynamics of 'Unity Government' in Kenya and Zimbabwe," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 48:2 (June 2010): 203-229.

Week Twelve: 14 April 2016: Advocacy and Conflict

This week will examine how advocacy groups frame conflict and try to influence public policy with regard to African conflicts. We have two required common reading for a conceptual framework on advocacy, conflict, and Africa.

Mahmood Mamdani, "The Politics of Naming: Genocide, Civil War, and Insurgency," *London Review of Books* 8 March 2007.

Clifford Bob, *The Marketing of Rebellion: Insurgents, Media, and International Activism* (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 1-10. Chapter 3, "From Ethnic to Environmental Conflict: Nigeria's Ogoni Movement."

In addition, each student will select an advocacy organization and issue and prepare a brief five-minute presentation so that we might compare across cases. Here are some of the advocacy organizations where you may look to find examples:

International Crisis Group: www.crisisgroup.org. Recent research includes Mali, Kenya, Somaliland, Ebola, Niger Delta, CAR and many others.

Enough: www.enoughproject.org. Focuses on genocide and crimes against humanity with particular emphasis on Sudan, South Sudan, Eastern Congo, and the LRA

Institute for Security Studies: <https://www.issafrica.org/>. A South African based think tank that covers all issues relating to conflict in Africa. Its Addis Ababa branch covers the Africa Union particularly well.

ACCORD: <http://www.accord.org.za/>. A South Africa based research and policy institute that covers a broad range of issues and publishes *Conflict Trends* and *African Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org. Emphasizes the resource links to conflicts and corruption, particularly in Nigeria, eastern Congo, CAR, Liberia, Angola.

Sustainable Development Institute: <http://www.sdiliberia.org/>. Liberia based research organization, focus on land conflicts.

Invisible Children: www.invisiblechildren.com. Child soldiers and LRA.

Bring Back Our Girls: www.bringbackourgirls.ng. Women abducted by Boko Haram. See also <https://www.facebook.com/bringbackourgirls/>.

Heritage Institute for Policy Studies: <http://www.heritageinstitute.org/>. Somali based research institute. Focus on Somali peace process.

Week Thirteen: 21 April 2016: Presentations of Advocacy Papers

Week Fourteen: 28 April 2016: A Critical Look

Séverine Autessere, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (Cambridge, 2014).

5 May 2016 - Deadline for Book Review