

Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Term: Summer Session I, 2012
Class Time: MWF 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Location: Founders Hall 308
Instructor: Mark Goodale, Truland 612
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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7:00, or by appt.

Introduction:

Welcome to the course and to The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR). This class is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution. As an introduction and as the first course that many at S-CAR will take, it is deliberately broad. Other courses at S-CAR develop one or another of the themes in this introduction in greater depth. This course examines definitions of conflict and diverse views of its resolution and explores thinking about human behavior and social systems as they relate to the origins of conflict and the role of conflict in violent and peaceful social change. It is designed to introduce you to academic thinking about conflict analysis and resolution and to help you to think systematically and analytically about conflict. This course will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion and student presentations. It is therefore imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation in class discussions will be expected. The agenda of this course is to build the foundation for you to work together with the rest of us in the S-CAR community and with those in the field of conflict analysis and resolution.

Course Requirements:

In addition to regular attendance and participation, an in-class mid-term exam, a presentation of a conflict case study, and an in-class final exam are required. The mid-term exam will account for 25 percent of the final grade. This exam will be held on **June 4** and will be an open book exam in response to questions that students will answer electronically and send to the professor before the end of class. An in-class presentation of your conflict case study will be held on either **June 15** or **June 18** and will account for 25 percent of your final grade. An in-class final exam will be held on the last day of class, **June 20**, and will follow the same procedure as the midterm exam. This will count for 30 percent off your final grade. The remaining 20 percent will be divided between “Conflict of the Day” and “Points for Discussion” assignments, which will be explained on the first day of class. Delays, deferrals, or a grade of “incomplete” for the course will be given only in cases of personal or family crisis.

Conflict Case Study Presentation:

A major component of this class will be a conflict case study and analysis. You will select a conflict to analyze using the theories and readings in the course; you will conduct research related to this conflict; and you will make a 15- minute presentation of your case study on either June 15 or June 18. You will submit a 3-page outline of your presentation at the same time. Further instructions on the in-class case study presentation will be distributed in the first part of the course.

Draft proposals for your case study presentation are due electronically by **June 1**. Your two paragraph proposal should tell me what conflict you would like to analyze and why you are interested in it.

Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the Arlington Bookstore. All other readings are on reserve in the Arlington Library, available through the library's electronic journals, or can be found online. Our e-reserve website is:

<http://furbo.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/ers/OSCRnexttermgen.cgi>

Password: introduce

Dean G. Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement* 3rd ed. (McGrawHill, 2004).

Hugh Miall, Oliver Ramsbotham, and Tom Woodhouse, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* 2nd ed. (Oxford: Polity Press, 2005).

Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds., *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007).

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

Hizkias Assefa and Paul Wahrhaftig, *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution* (University of Pittsburgh, 1990).

May 21: Introduction to the Course and Orientation

This class will include self introductions and a detailed discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, scheduling, and other pertinent details.

I. Conflict: Sources, Processes, and Dynamics

May 23: Defining Conflict and the Field of Conflict Resolution

Miall, Ramsbotham, and Woodhouse, Chapters 1, 2

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 1, 2

Mitchell, "Some Basic Initial Frameworks for Conflict Analysis," sent via email.

May 30: Sources of Conflict

Mohammed Ayoob, "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Leashing the Dogs of War*.

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

Charles King, "Power, Social Violence, and Civil Wars," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Leashing*.

Michael Brown, "New Global Dangers," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Leashing*.

June 1: Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 3 – 8

****Conflict Case Study Proposals due electronically****

June 4: IN CLASS MIDTERM

II. Conflict Management and Resolution

June 6: Negotiations and Third Party Intervention

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 10, 11.

Terrence Hopmann, "Bargaining and Problem Solving: Two Perspectives on International Negotiations," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, E-reserve.

June 8: Peacemaking and Peacebuilding

Roy Licklider, "Obstacles to Peace Settlements," in E-reserve.

Stephen Stedman, "International Implementation of Peace Agreements in Civil Wars: Findings from a Study of Sixteen Cases," in E-reserve.

Nicole Ball, "The Challenges of Rebuilding War Torn Societies," in E-reserve.

Tim Sisk, "Democratization and Peacebuilding: Perils and Promises," in E-reserve.

III. Conflict Analysis: Case Studies

June 11: Conflict Analysis – The MOVE Crisis

Hizkias Assefa and Paul Wahrhaftig, *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1990).

June 13: Conflict Analysis – Some Trouble with Cows

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

June 15: Conflict Case Study Presentations

Assignments TBD

June 18: Conflict Case Study Presentations

Assignments TBD

June 20: IN CLASS FINAL EXAM

Course evaluations available online