

Course Syllabus for CONF 501 Section 004: Introduction To Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Semester: Fall 2007
Class Time: Wednesday 7:20 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Classroom Location: GMU Arlington – Truland 666A
Instructor: John M. Hammang, Ph.D.
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Please Note: I will use your GMU mail account as my primary means for communicating with the class outside our normal meeting times. If you have not already done so, please activate your Mason e-mail account at <https://mail.gmu.edu/>.

As of June 1, 2006 the University requires the use of encrypted e-mail to access the Mason e-mail server. If you access your gmU.edu mail account from an e-mail program other than *the iPlanet Messenger Express* service (mail.gmu.edu), you must turn on its encryption features to send communications to your classmates or me. Please check at <http://itusupport.gmu.edu/ssl/ssl-instructions.asp> for information on how to establish e-mail encryption for e-mail programs other than the mail.gmu.edu program. The Mason mail.gmu.edu program is already encrypted

Office Hours by Appointment, I work off-campus in the District of Columbia during the day.

Welcome to the course and to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This class is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution. As an introduction and as the first course that many at ICAR will take, it is deliberately broad. Other courses at ICAR 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." It 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. The course considers appropriate responses to conflict at interpersonal, intergroup, industrial, communal, and international levels. 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. Students are required to read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation in class discussions is expected.

The agenda of this course is to build the foundation for you to work together with the rest of us in the ICAR community and with those in the field of conflict analysis and resolution. This is the course at ICAR in which it is most important for you to succeed.

Course Requirements:

In addition to regular attendance and participation, a mid-term exam, an analytical paper, a group presentation of a case study, and a take-home final are required. Email submission to jhammang@gmu.edu of the tests and the analytical paper is preferred.

Participation, short in-class exercises, and the group case study presentation will form the basis for **10 percent** of the final grade.

The mid-term exam will account for **15 percent** of the final grade. This exam will be given on June 9.

A jointly authored analysis of a conflict (i.e., a term paper) will form the basis for **40 percent** of the grade. *PLEASE NOTE:* Teams are to consist of a minimum of 2 persons and a maximum of 3 persons. The topic for this paper must be approved not later than October 17. This paper will be due on November 28.

The final examination, which will cover material from throughout the course, will form the basis of the final **45 percent** of the grade. This exam will be handed out on December 5 and will be due December 12.

PLEASE NOTE: Delays, deferrals, or a grade of “incomplete” for the course will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis.

Analytical Paper Requirements

PLEASE NOTE: This analytical paper must be jointly authored. Each paper submitted must also be presented to the class as a case study report by the authors.

Due: November 28, 2007

Length: minimum of 15 pages, maximum of 25 pages (exclusive of your bibliography and cover page). If more than one person authors a paper, the minimum and maximum number of pages is increased by 5 pages for each additional author. (e.g. if there are three authors the minimum is 25 pages and the maximum is 35 pages.)

Format: 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, one-inch margins (left, right, top, bottom), page numbered

Cover Page: Title of your paper, Course number, your name, and date submitted

Bibliography/Sources: format the paragraphs as a hanging indent with 12 pt space following each entry.

You may write your paper on one of the following cases:

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).

In the alternative, you may write your paper on any conflict that was current 25 or more years ago. This time limitation is intended to increase the likelihood that sufficient written resources are available to help you report, understand and analyze the conflict. The following are examples of conflicts you may wish to write about. You may choose one of these topics or you may submit

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a topic of your own choosing for approval by Dr. Hammang. You are not required to select any of these topics and will not receive extra credit if you do choose these topics. The URLs are included for your convenience as a way to begin exploration of a topic for your analytical paper. They are included only because I have visited these sites and judged them to be appropriate scholarly starting points.

- Abortion in America <http://users.telarama.com/~jdehullu/abortion/abhist.htm>
- American Civil Rights <http://www.ags.uci.edu/~skaufman/teaching/win2001ch4.htm>
- Cyprus Conflict <http://www.cyprus-conflict.net/www.cyprus-conflict.net/intro%20page.html>
- East Timor Independence <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/easttimor1.html> (scroll down!)
- 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>
- Zionism in Palestine <http://www.wrmea.com/html/focus.htm>

As you review materials for the analytical paper, please keep in mind that your paper will be expected to address the following questions:

1. What is this conflict about?
2. Who are the parties to the conflict and what are/were their major goals?
3. When did the conflict begin and why do you think that is the correct starting point for understanding the conflict?
4. What actions/events contributed to escalation of the conflict?
5. What is the outcome of the conflict?
6. Were there attempts made to resolve the conflict?
7. Who initiated and who participated in the efforts to resolve the conflict?
8. What was the outcome of the effort(s) to resolve the conflict?
9. Why did these efforts succeed or fail?
10. What might have been done to improve the outcomes of the parties to this conflict?

Your analytical paper must include traditional scholarly print sources in addition to any Internet sources you may choose to include. ICAR has adopted the Chicago Manual of Style for research papers, theses and dissertations. Conformity to this style is required in this course. Please pay attention to correct citation form for electronic/Internet sources. A good online summary of the Chicago style can be found at <http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citchi.htm>. An easier way to make sure you are complying with this style standard is to use the bibliographic program EndNote. I recommend that you use it. EndNote can be downloaded free from the GMU website at <http://library.gmu.edu/endnote/>. Also download the connection files to be able to search for GMU and WRLC holdings from within the program. GMU schedules EndNote training sessions. Check the library web page for training times and dates.

Criteria for success on the analytical paper

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Your analytical paper will be graded on the basis of whether you demonstrate that you can describe a conflict and analyze it on a scholarly basis. I am not looking for your opinion about who is right or wrong in the conflict you choose to study. Dispassionate presentation of the views of opposing parties to the conflict is preferred and will be rewarded.

After the papers are completed and turned in, each case will be the subject of a presentation. The author(s) will develop a plan to present its understanding of the case. If this is a group presentation, this may represent a consensus among the group or alternative perspectives may be present. The presentations will be a total of 10 minutes per author (time will be strictly enforced), followed by a brief discussion in the class.

Readings:

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

Jeffrey Z. Rubin and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004, 3rd 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

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

Hizkias Assefa and Paul Wahrhaftig, *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1990). ISBN: 0-8229-5430-3

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

OUT-OF-PRINT [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]

Optional Book:

Readings in this book are also available through online e-reserves for this course.

Chester Crocker and Fen Osler Hampson with Pamela Aall, eds., *Managing Global Chaos* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1996). ISBN: 1-8783-7958-5

Assigned readings other than those included in the above books are available through the GMU Library e-reserves for CONF501. The password for e-reserves for this course is peace.

August 29: Introduction to the Course

This week will include self-introductions, definitions, discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, and expectations for the course. We will watch the movie *Newsies* to provide us with a common point of reference for conflict analysis in the early part of the course.

I. CONFLICT ANALYSIS

September 5: Defining Conflict and the Field of Conflict Resolution

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 1

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 1-2

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

September 12: Sources of Conflict - Part I

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 2

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 3

Mohammed Ayoob, "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure," in Crocker and Hampson, *Managing Global Chaos*.

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).

September 19: Sources of Conflict - Part II

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 3-6

Janice Gross Stein, "Image, Identity, and Conflict Resolution," in Crocker and Hampson, *Managing Global Chaos*.

Ted Robert Gurr, "Minorities, Nationalists, and Ethnopolitical Conflict," in Crocker and Hampson, *Managing Global Chaos*.

September 26: Library Orientation Session

Presentation by Marissa Cachero Stone, ICAR Liaison Librarian. This is an introduction on how to locate conflict resources and to use the electronic databases available through the GMU library. It will include an opportunity to perform some sample searches.

October 3: Analytical Case Study

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

October 10: Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation

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Pruitt and Kim, ch. 7-9

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 4

II. CONFLICT INTERVENTION

October 17: Negotiations and Third Party Intervention

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 10-11

Ramsbotham et al, ch. 5-7

** Please Note: this text is out of print. I will try to make this reading available through e-reserve. Jacob Bercovitch, "Mediation in International Conflict" in Zartman and Rasmussen, *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*.**

Please come to class prepared to discuss your analytical paper. EVERYONE must have their term paper topic approved by the instructor not later than the end of this class! It is expected that you will be able to describe what the conflict is about that you will analyze in your paper and the topic specific resources you know are available to do this paper.

The instructor will also be available for advice and guidance. The purpose of this exercise is to make sure that you have a solid understanding of how to go about analyzing your conflict and reporting it in the paper and to the class.

October 24: Midterm Exam

No assigned reading this week as students study for their midterms.

October 31: Timing and Stages

Harold Saunders, "Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process," in Crocker and Hampson, *Managing Global Chaos*.

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.

November 7: Intervention Case Study – The MOVE Crisis

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

III. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

November 14: Reconciliation

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

November 21: Thanksgiving Recess – no class

November 28: Sustainability and Ethics (Term Paper is due today)

Ramsbotham et al. ch. 8-9 & 13

Laue and Cormick, *The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes*

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to see your final exam after I have graded it, please bring a self-addressed stamped envelope (2 stamps please) next week and I will return the final to all who do so.

December 5: Case Study Presentations

Take home final will be distributed at the end of class.

December 12: Final Exam Due

Electronic submission by e-mail is preferred not later than 3:30 p.m. today. If I have not received your exam electronically by 3:30 p.m. today I will be available in our scheduled classroom from 7:20 to 7:45 p.m. to receive a physical copy.