

CONF 340
GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS & RESOLUTION
Semester: Fall 2008

Class Time: Tuesday, 7:20pm — 10:00pm
Location: GMU Fairfax Campus, Innovation Hall 209
Instructor: Andrea Bartoli
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Truland 618 (Arlington Campus); or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to theories of international and global violence and conflict and examines transnational and international processes with particular reference to peace and conflict. It covers the analysis of conflicts that are addressed by or ought to be addressed by the international community. It visits the definitions of conflict and diverse views of its resolution with particular reference to conflicts having national, regional or global dimensions. It is designed to help students to think systematically and analytically about global conflict and conflict resolution.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize students with terminology and concepts associated with conflicts that are addressed by the international community, including the UN system and regional organizations
- Help students to think systematically and analytically about conflict in different regions and in a variety of contexts.
- Connect theory to practice through discussion, research and case studies of real events and interventions, including a few success stories.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to regular attendance and participation, 1) a short written comment on one of the readings for each session, 2) 1st short take-home exam, 3) a group presentation of a case study, 4) in-class quiz covering the topics and concepts learned during prior sessions, and 5) final take-home exam are required

- 1) Short Written Comment on Readings (10%):** You will write short comments, thoughts, reflections, questions, etc, on 1-page Reflection Sheet given at the beginning of each class. These comments need not be a comprehensive coverage of the entire readings for the class, nor should they be summaries of the readings. Rather, this is an exercise to elicit your critical reactions to the readings. The comments therefore should reflect your intellectual engagement with the questions, theories, or cases provided by the readings. You can focus on particular themes. The collection of these exercises will account for 10 percent of the final grade.
- 2) The first take-home exam (25%):** This exam will be handed out at the end of unit 4 and will be due at the beginning of unit 5. A 7-10 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1" margin) will ask you to choose one of the essay questions and reflect critically on the themes covered by the prior sessions.

- 3) **The group presentation (25%)** Students will be assigned randomly to a group and jointly select one case to analyze. They will be in charge of identifying sources and bibliographic references. A template of the analytical structure will be provided by the instructor. The students in each case study group will be asked to meet (time will be provided during class hours but additional meetings or coordination by email, phone, or other means may be necessary as well). The group will develop a plan to present its understanding of the case. This may represent a consensus among the group or alternative perspectives may be present. The group presentations (during Session 13) will be of equal time for all groups (time will be strictly enforced), followed by a general discussion in the class.
- 4) **In class quiz (15%)** This exam will be handed during Unit 8. It will cover all subjects covered in the prior sessions.
- 5) **The final examination (25%)** will cover materials from throughout the class. A 12-15 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1"-margin) will ask you to reflect critically on the themes, theories, or cases covered by the class, utilizing the theories of conflict analysis and resolution. This exam will be handed out two weeks before 12/9 and will be due at 5pm on 12/9 via email.

Delays, deferrals, or a grade of "incomplete" for the course will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis. Late papers will receive penalized points. Students should also read the statement of ICAR's Academic Standards and the University's Honor Code.

CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Students are responsible for completing individual and group assignments on time.
- Students will be penalized the equivalent of one full letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Assignments that are overdue by more than one week will not be accepted.
- If an emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should let the instructor know ahead of time when possible and contact a group member to find out what was missed. Students are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and date changes made in class and for all material covered in class even if they are not there.
- In this modern age, the use of the Internet for discussion and dissemination has become commonplace. Some class announcements and readings may be posted to the class website or sent via email. Students are responsible for keeping up to date with announcements and assignments placed on the site or sent via email.
- Incomplete grades will not be granted except in cases of personal or immediate family illness or emergency.

TEXTS: REQUIRED READINGS:

Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice. New York: United Nations. <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. (2005, Second Edition). Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The prevention, management, and transformation of deadly conflicts. Cambridge, UK, and Malden, MA: Polity.

Kriesberg, Louis. (1998). Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution, Rowman & Littlefield, Maryland.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, Report of the UN Secretary-General pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992, <http://www.un.org/docs/SG/agpeace.html>

COURSE READINGS/INTERNET/ELECTRONIC RESERVES:

This course will use several methods for access to class readings: the library, the library's electronic reserves, and ICAR Ning shared space. Other readings may be indicated or distributed in class. All students are responsible for downloading and reading assignments before they are discussed in class. Several readings will be noted as "SUPPLEMENTARY" and are not required, but reading them will enhance your understanding of the course material. Technical difficulties, if any, will be discussed in class.

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus or have any concerns during the course, please feel free to ask in class or contact the instructor as soon as possible.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Readings and assignments listed for a class should be prepared for and completed **before** that date, unless indicated otherwise.

Unit 1: 8/26

Themes: Introduction to global conflict analysis and resolution.

Reading:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, Chapter 1

<http://www.polity.co.uk/ccr/contents/chapters/RamsbothamCh01.pdf>

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). E-reserve.

Assignment: mutual introductions

Unit 2: 9/2

Theme: History of Early Peace Efforts, and Understanding Contemporary Conflict.

Readings:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapters 2, 3 and 4;

Ramphal, Shridath, Peace in Our Global Neighborhood

<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/ramphal.htm>

Assignment: Form small groups for group presentations – discussion

Unit 3: 9/9

Themes: Diagnosing Conflict: another framework for analysis

Reading:

Sandole, Dennis J.D., A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A Three Pillar Approach <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole.htm>

Thania Paffenholz, “Designing Transformation and Intervention Processes” in Handbook of Conflict Management, Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management at http://www.berghof-handbook.net/uploads/download/paffenholz_handbook.pdf?LANG=e&id=106

Assignment: Group update

Unit 4: 9/16

Themes: The United Nations System

Readings:

Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice. New York: United Nations. <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, “An Agenda for Peace” – UN Secretary General Report <http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agpeace.html>

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 6

Assignment: Group update – First take home exam is distributed

Unit 5: 9/23

Theme: Regional Organizations

Readings:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 5

Assignment: Group update - First take home exam is due at the beginning of class

Unit 6: 9/30

Themes: Escalation

Readings:

Kriesberg, Chapter 6

Ho-won Jeong, Chapter 5, “Process of Conflict,” *Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, (Los Angeles: Sage, 2008). E-research.

Assignment: Group update

Unit 7: 10/7

Themes: De-escalation and Peacemaking

Readings:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 7

Kriesberg, Chapter 7

Assignment: Group update

Unit 8: 10/21

Themes: Peacemaking in context: the case of Mozambique

Reading:

Bartoli, A. (1999), “Mozambicans Mediating Through Third Parties”, in Herding Cats: The Role of Mediation in Multiparty Crisis, edited by Chester A. Crocker, Fen O. Hampson, and Pamela Aall, United States Institute of Peace. E-reserve.

Bartoli, A. (2001), “Forgiveness and reconciliation in the Mozambique peace process”, in Forgiveness and Reconciliation, edited by Raymond G. Helmick and Rodney L. Petersen, Templeton Foundation Press. E-reserve.

Assignment: Group update

Unit 9: 10/28

Themes: Conflict Resolution and Terrorism

Reading:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 11

Roy Licklider, “Obstacles to Peace Settlements,” in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*. USIP 2001. E-reserve.

Assignment: In class test

Unit 10: 11/4

Themes: Peacebuilding I

Readings:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 9

Harold Saunders, “Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process,” in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*. USIP 2001. E-reserve.

Assignment: Group update

Unit 11: 11/11

Themes: Peacebuilding II

Readings:

Kriesberg, Chapter 10

Ho-won Jeong, Chapter 2, “Peacebuilding Design”, *Peacebuilding in Postconflict Societies*, (Boulder: Lynn Reinner Publishers, 2005). E-reserve.

DVD: The Imam and the Pastor – a documentary from the heart of Nigeria.

Assignment: Group update

Unit 12: 11/18

Themes: Reconciliation

Readings:

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, Chapter 10

Lederach, John Paul. 2002. “Civil Society and Reconciliation,” in *Turbulent Peace*. Washington, DC: USIP. E-reserve.

DVD: The Fog of War – a documentary with Robert McNamara.

Assignment: Group update

Unit 13: 11/25

Themes: Group presentations

Assignment: Group presentations – Final Take Home is distributed at the end of class

Unit 14: 12/2

Review – wrap-up and final discussion on the concepts and theories covered during the semester. (Group presentation, if necessary)

12/9 – **Final Take Home is due at 5pm. Send it to abartoli@gmu.edu.**