

CONF 490 – Integration Spring 2008

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Office hours: Wednesday 4:30-5:30 and by appointment (Robinson B 365)

Class: Wednesday 1:30-4:15, Innovation Hall—Room 131 and webct.gmu.edu

Conflict 490 is a capstone course in which students reflect on what they have learned, integrating and synthesizing knowledge from all their coursework in conflict analysis and resolution courses, as well as related areas of study. The course begins with an overview of the conflict field and attention to the issue of conflict and its representation. Next, Part One offers an in-depth consideration of a concept central to conflict studies. “Security” will be examined in light of conflict studies and other scholarly fields. The aim of Part Two is to focus on a specific type of conflict toward the goals of mapping that type of conflict, in other words, determining the issues that tend to arise in such conflicts and the forms of interventions that are most effective. This conflict type for Spring 2008 is “Environmental Conflict,” especially in the area of human-wildlife interaction. Part Three focuses on a technique of conflict intervention. Students will become acquainted with “Zones of Peace” and will consider the question of how to integrate theory with practice.

Conflict 490 is a designated Synthesis Course in the General Education program. Accordingly, the course is interdisciplinary; students will study conflict and specific conflicts by drawing on material and ways of knowing from literature, anthropology, conservation studies, international relations, psychology, policy studies, documentary film, public affairs, as well as conflict analysis and resolution, an interdisciplinary field itself. Students will also develop skills in a conflict resolution technique, examine writings about the technique, and reflect on the experience of conflict resolution, thus engaging in critical thinking about the integration of theory and practice. As a final project students will design conflict interventions intended to have policy and real world implications. Throughout the course students will consider their roles, resources and aspirations in relation to the conflict field.

Students are expected to attend class sessions and participate in class discussion (10% of grade). Assignments include:

- Short essay synthesizing approaches to the concept of security summary. (5 pages, 15% of grade)
- Experiential learning activity and reflection (5 pages, 15% of grade)
- A conflict assessment brief of a specific conflict. (8-10 pages, 20% of grade)
- A presentation of proposed conflict interventions at a poster session (visual and/or audiovisual) reviewed by a faculty panel (15%),
- A final portfolio (25%): presentation of learning and competencies.

Further guidelines for each of these assignments will be discussed in class.

The following books are available from the campus bookstore and online booksellers:

Chayes, Sarah. *The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan after the Taliban*.

Hancock, Landon and Mitchell, Christopher R. *Zones of Peace*.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Prodigal Summer*.

Lederach, John Paul and Jenner, Janice Moomaw, editors. *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding: Into the Eye of the Storm*.

Lederach, John Paul. *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation*

There is a course reader on e-reserve. Selections include journal articles, book chapters, policy papers, and news media accounts.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

- Jan. 23** **Introduction**
- Recommended experiential activity:** Read “A climate of conflict: The links between climate change, peace and war” (available http://www.international-alert.org/climate_change.php) and assist with teach-in on Climate Change (1/29).
- Jan. 30** **Classic Themes in the Study of Conflict and Overview of Conflict Mapping**
Presentation: Mery Rodriguez
- Reading:**
Jeong, “Concepts of Peace and Violence” and “Conflict Analysis” pp. 19-38.
Sandole, Dennis. 1998. A comprehensive mapping of conflict and conflict resolution: a three pillar approach. <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole>
Listen to podcast from the Program on Negotiation at Harvard on the Writers Guild Strike. <http://www.poncast.com/?cat=24&submit=GO>
Begin *The Punishment of Virtue*

Concepts in Conflict Studies: Security

- Feb. 6** **Definitions of Security Across Fields and Professional Sectors**
Guest
- Reading:**
Kanji, Omario. "Security." <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/security/>
Morgan, Patrick. “*Security in International Politics: Traditional Approaches*”
Paris, Roland. “Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?”
Clark, Mary. “Meaningful Social Bonding as a Universal Human Need”
Selections: <http://www.3dsecurity.org/>
- Feb. 13** **Security and Contemporary Challenges**
Guest Panel: prepare questions
- Reading:**
Rice, Susan. “Poverty Breeds Insecurity”
Senator Richard G. Lugar Opening Statement for Hearing on National Security
Fierke, K.M. “Definitions and Redefinitions”
(You should have completed reading *The Punishment of Virtue*)

Feb. 20 Security and Building Peace: On the Ground in Afghanistan.**Reading:**

Atmar & Goodhand, “The Challenge of Afghanistan” (recommended)

Selections from *Into the Eye of the Storm*, TBA

ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE by FRIDAY, February 29th: Essay on “security” that synthesizes approaches from several fields.

Current Conflicts and Interventions: Environmental Conflict
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Feb. 27 Environment, Conflict Assessment and Focus on Human-Wildlife Interface**Reading:**

Jeong, H. 2001. “Environmental Concerns” and “Environmental Politics”

Peterson, et. al. “Cultural Conflict and the Endangered Florida Key Deer”

TBA: *Afghanistan Environment and Assessment*

Mar. 5 Conflict Analysis and Framing: Writing to Inform, Presenting Competencies

Guest

Reading:

Begin *Prodigal Spring*

Selections from *Eye of the Storm*

Final Project Topic must be approved prior to Spring Break

March 12 No Class, Spring Break

Mar. 19 Narratives and the Environment

Guests

Reading:

Finish *Prodigal Spring*

Mar. 26 Intervention in Environmental Conflict**Reading:**

Elix and Lambert, “Mapping the Values of Shorebird Habitat in Tasmania”

Foley, “Environmental Conflict Resolution: ...Measures of Success”

Lederach, *Little Book of Conflict Transformation*

April 2 Oral presentation of conflict maps (final project topic)

Reading:

Paffenholz, “Designing Transformation and Intervention Processes”

Apr. 9 Planning interventions and intervenor roles

Reading:

Selections from Into the Eye of the Storm, TBA

ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE by April 11: Experiential learning activity and reflection. (May be completed earlier)

Conflict Intervention: Zones of Peace
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Apr. 16 Definitions and Techniques of ZOPs

Reading:

Zones of Peace, Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Apr. 23 Case studies of Zones of Peace: International and Domestic Guests

Reading:

TBA

Apr. 30 Poster session

Wrap-up

FINAL Project paper due Friday, May 2nd

Written conflict assessment and poster session presentation

FINAL Portfolio due on Wednesday, May 7

Course Readings

Introduction

Jeong, H. 2001. "Conflict Analysis" and "Concepts of Peace and Violence," *Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction*. Aldershot; Ashgate. Pp. 31-38 and 19-30.

Sandole, Dennis. 1998. A comprehensive mapping of conflict and conflict resolution: a three pillar approach. *Peace And Conflict Studies* 5(2). Access at <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole>

Security

Kanji, Omario. "Security." *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: October 2003
<<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/security/>>.

Rice, Susan. "Poverty Breeds Insecurity," *Too Poor For Peace? Global Poverty, Conflict, and Security in the 21st Century*. Lael Brainard and Derek Chollet, eds. Brookings Institute Press, 2007. pp.31-49

Fierke, K.M. "Definitions and Redefinitions," *Critical Approaches to International Security*. Polity Press, 2007. pp. 13-32

Paris, Roland. "Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?" *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 2. Fall 2001. pp. 87-102

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Senator Richard G. Lugar Opening Statement for Hearing on National Security Implications of Climate Change. May 9, 2007. 2 pp.

Clark, Mary. "Meaningful Social Bonding as a Universal Human Need," *Conflict: Human Needs Theory*. John Burton, ed. St. Martin's Press, 1990. p.34-59.

Atmar, Mohammed Haneef & Goodhand, Jonathan. "The Challenge of Afghanistan," *Searching for Peace in Central and South Asia*, 2002. <http://www.conflict-prevention.net/> (recommended)

Morgan, Patrick. "Security in International Politics: Traditional Approaches," *Contemporary Security Studies*. Alan Collins, ed. Oxford University Press, 2007. pp. 13-34.

Environmental Conflict

Jeong, H. 2001. "Environmental Concerns" and "Environmental Politics". From: *Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction*. Aldershot; Ashgate. Pp. 95-105 and 267-291.

Elix and Lambert, "Mapping the Values of Shorebird Habitat in Tasmania"

Foley, "Environmental Conflict Resolution: ...Measures of Success"

Peterson, et.al. "Cultural Conflict and the Endangered Florida Key Deer." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 63.4. Available at <http://apc.tamu.edu/keys/KDconflict.pdf>

Paffenholz, Designing Transformation and Intervention Processes