

CONF 801

INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Fall 2009

Wednesday 7:20-10:00 pm., Rm. 648 Truland Bldg.

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Hours: Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm, Thursday 3:00-4:00 pm, and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course and to ICAR. This class is designed as an introduction to the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution for entering doctoral students. As an introduction and as the first course that most ICAR doctoral students will take, it is deliberately broad. Given this, your instructor *knows* how much we are missing, leaving out, or only glancing at. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another of the themes in this introduction in greater depth—or touch on matters left untouched here.

The sorts of social conflicts studied by ICAR are mostly what those in our field have called deep-rooted, protracted, or intractable ones, conflicts which, even when ostensibly about material resources or interests, are also entangled with issues of ethnicity, race, religion, nationalism—with matters of *identity*. ICAR was founded on asserting the unity of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at all levels of social conflict—from interpersonal to global—and on the crucial linkage between theory and practice in the field. Thus the course examines a range of issues in the field, including the sources and dynamics of social conflict and different approaches to its management, resolution, or transformation. After some readings describing the development (and the “ethos”) of the field, the first part of the course focuses upon “theory” broadly defined, and thus on conflict analysis. The second part of the course explores different modes of “practice” in conflict resolution, especially forms of third party interventions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The class – even given its size -- will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion. It is therefore imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation based on thoughtful consideration of the literature and experience in class discussions will be expected. There is a lot of reading assigned but it is a must for the success of this kind of class and will prepare you for future classes in ICAR and, equally importantly, for the undertaking of your own original work in a doctoral project.

In addition to classroom participation, requirements include three essays written to specific topics or questions, assigned and due as indicated on the syllabus. Each essay will be worth 10% towards the final grade. I expect each to be between 1000-1250 words in length. A term paper, to be discussed later, will be due on Monday, December 14 by 4:00 p.m. in my ICAR mailbox. (Earlier submission allowed and encouraged.)

READINGS

Most of our readings will come from the following books, all available at the Arlington Bookstore. Additional readings (marked “E-reserve”) are available online through the GMU libraries. Instructions for E-reserve access and the required course password will be given in class. (Any readings not specifically assigned from our edited collections can be considered as “recommended” based upon your own research or practice interests.)

Chester Crocker, F.O. Hampson and P. Aall, eds. *Leashing the Dogs of War*. (Marked as *Leashing* on syllabus.)

Marc Gopin, *To Make the Earth Whole*

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*

Oliver Ramsbotham, T. Woodhouse & H. Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*.
Second edition

Luc Reyhler & T. Paffenholz, eds., *Peace-Building: A Field Guide*. (Marked *Guide* on syllabus.)

I.W. Zartman, ed. *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods & Techniques*. (Marked as *Peacemaking* on syllabus.) **Revised edition.**

For those with *no* background in the field, the following is recommended as supplementary reading:

Dean Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate & Settlement*.
Third edition

COURSE PROGRAM

Part One: Orientations

1. Week of (9/2): Course Orientation. Some basic questions to consider (hand-out).

- 2. Week of (9/9): Conflict Resolution as a discipline: Who are we? What are we (to be) about?**
Read: C. Wright Mills, especially chs. 4-6, 9-10.
 John Burton, "Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy" (E-Reserve)
- 3. Week of (9/16): Introduction to the field: history, background, and assumptions**
Read: Ramsbotham et al., chs. 1-2, pp. 1-54
 Lou Kriesberg, "The Conflict Resolution Field" (ch. 1 in *Peacemaking*; see also ch. 26 in *Leashing*)
 Kevin Avruch, "Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution" (E-Reserve).
 Dennis Sandole, "Traditional 'Realism' versus the 'New' Realism: John Burton, *Conflict Prevention*, and the Elusive 'Paradigm Shift'" (E-Reserve)
Essay # 1 assigned

Part Two: Conflict Analysis

- 4. Week of (9/23): Sources of Social Conflict: Systems**
Read:
 Ramsbotham et al., ch. 3, pp. 55-77.
 Jack S. Levy, "International Sources of Interstate and Intrastate War" (ch. 2 in *Leashing*)
 Martha Crenshaw, "Terrorism and Global Security" (ch. 5 in *Leashing*)
 Nils Petter Gleditch, "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict" (ch. 11 in *Leashing*)
 Howon Jeong, "Structure" (E-Reserve)
Essay #1 due
- 5. Week of (9/30): Sources of Conflicts: States and Internal Dynamics**
Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 4, pp. 78-105
 Mohammed Ayoob, "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure" (ch. 7 in *Leashing*)
 Paul Collier, "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and their Implications for Policy" (ch. 12 in *Leashing*)
 Ted Robert Gurr, "Minorities, Nationalists and Islamists: Managing Communal Conflicts in the 21st Century" (ch. 9 in *Leashing*)
 Robert Rotberg, "The Challenge of Weak, Failing, and Collapsed States" (ch. 6 in *Leashing*)
 Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Turbulent Transitions: Why

Emerging Democracies Go To War” (ch. 10 in *Leashing*)

6. Week of (10/7): The Dynamics of Conflict

Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 5, pp. 106-131

Dean Pruitt & Sung Hee Kim, “Escalation”

(E-Reserve)

Johan Galtung, “Violence, Peace, and Peace Research” (E-Reserve).

Frances Stewart & Graham Brown, “Motivations for Conflict: Groups and Individuals” (ch. 13 in *Leashing*)

Janice Gross Stein, “Image, Identity and the Resolution of Violent Conflict” (E-Reserve)

Herbert Kelman, “Social Psychological Dimensions of International Conflict” (ch. 2 in *Peacemaking*)

Peter Black, “Identities” (E-Reserve)

Essay #2 assigned

Part Three: Conflict Resolution Theory & Practice

7. Week of (10/14): Conflict Resolution Techniques and Processes (Theory & Research)

Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 6, pp. 132-158

Daniel Druckman, “Negotiating in the International Context,” (ch. 3 in *Peacemaking*)

Jacob Bercovitch, “Mediation in International Conflicts: Theory, Practice, Developments” (ch. 4 in *Peacemaking*)

Harold Saunders, “Prenegotiation and Circum-negotiation: Arenas of the Multilevel Peace Process” (E-Reserve)

I.W. Zartman & Saadia Touval, “International Mediation” (ch. 25 in *Leashing*)

Essay #2 due

8. Week of (10/21): Third Party Intervention: Techniques & Critiques

Read: Ramsbotham, et al., ch. 7, pp. 159-184 and ch. 14, pp. 288-301.

Robert Art & Patrick Cronin, “Coercive Diplomacy” (ch. 17 in *Leashing*)

David Cortright, “Sanctions and Stability Pacts: The Economic Tools of Peacemaking” (ch. 10 in *Peacemaking*)

Ronald J. Fisher, “Interactive Conflict Resolution” (ch. 6 in *Peacemaking*)

Christopher Mitchell, “The Processes and Stages of Mediation: Two Sudanese Cases” (E-Reserve)

John W. Burton, “Facilitated Conflict Resolution Procedures” (E-Reserve)

9. Week of (10/28): Some Outstanding Issues-I: Power and Gender

Read: Peter Coleman, "Power and Conflict" (E-reserve)
Jayne Docherty, "Power in the Social and Political Realm" (E-Reserve)
Charles King, "Power, Social Violence, and Civil Wars" (ch. 8 in *Leashing*)
Lawrence Freedman, "Using Force for Peace in an Age of Terror" (ch. 14 in *Leashing*)
Jane Holl Lute, "The Role of Force in Peacemaking" (ch. 11 in *Peacemaking*)
Brian Urquhart, "Limits on the Use of Force" (ch. 15 in *Leashing*)
Joseph Nye, Jr., "The Place of Soft Power in State-Based Conflict Management" (ch. 22 in *Leashing*)
Nadim Rouhana, "Group Identity and Power Asymmetry in Reconciliation Processes: The Israeli-Palestinian Case" (E-Reserve)
Ramsbotham et al., ch. 12, pp. 265-274
Anita Taylor and Judi Miller, "The Necessity of Seeing Gender in Conflict" (E-Reserve)
Tamra Pearson D'Estree & Eileen Babbitt, "Women and the Art Of Peacemaking: Data from Israeli-Palestinian Interactive Problem-Solving Workshops" (E-Reserve)

10. Week of (11/4): Outstanding Issues-II: Culture and Religion

Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 15, pp. 302-315
Kevin Avruch, "Culture" (E-Reserve)
Raymond Cohen, "Language and Conflict Resolution: The Limits of English" (E-Reserve)
Gopin, *To Make the Earth Whole*, pp. 3-90
Cynthia Sampson, "Religion and Peacebuilding" (ch. 7 in *Peacemaking*)
Joseph Montville, "Religion and Peacemaking" (E-Reserve)

Part Four: Conflict Resolution "In the Field"

11. Week of (11/11): 1. Preliminaries—Ethics, etc.

Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 13, pp. 275-287
J. Laue & G. Cormick, "The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes" (E-Reserve)
Various Authors, "Preparing for the Field," in *Guide*, pp. 3-69
2. Negotiation and Mediation Revisited. Read: Various Authors, "Working in the Field," in *Guide*, pp.75-198.

12. Week of (11/18): Related Issues in the Field: Other Actors, Security, Stress, etc.

Read: Various Authors on “Monitoring Human Rights, Aid & Development, Local Training and Media,” in *Guide* pp. 199-311.
Various Authors on “Security,” in *Guide*, pp. 376-440.
Quintayn on “Stress,” in *Guide* pp. 443-452; H. Slim on “Moral Dilemmas,” in *Guide*, pp. 497-509.
Essay # 3 assigned

13. Week of (11/25): Thanksgiving Recess. No Class

14. Week of (12/2): Post-Settlement Concerns, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation

Read: Ramsbotham et al., chs 8-10, pp. 185-245
Howon Jeong, “Reconciliation and Social Rehabilitation” (E-Reserve)
Neil Kritz, “The Rule of Law in Conflict Management” (ch. 23 in *Leashing*)
Diana Chigas, “Capacities and Limits of NGOs as Conflict Managers” (ch. 31 in *Leashing*)
Pamela Aal et. al., “Addressing Conflict through Education” (ch. 8 in *Peacemaking*)
Various Authors, “Dealing with the Past and Imaging the Future,” in *Guide*, pp. 322-372
Essay # 3 due

15. Week of (12/9): Remaining Issues and Open Questions: The Future of the Field, Mitchell and Mills Revisited

Read: Ramsbotham et al., ch. 16, pp. 316-331
Gopin, *To Make the Earth Whole*, pp. 93-231
Andrew Mack, “Successes and Challenges in Conflict Management” (ch. 29 in *Leashing*)
Bernard Mayer, “Conflict Resolution: A Field in Crisis” (E-Reserve)

Term paper due Monday 12/14 by 4:00 pm

NOTES: