

Conflict 601: 001 Theories of Conflict and Conflict Resolution  
Spring 2009  
Cheryl Duckworth, Ph.D.  
Mondays, 7:10-10PM

Welcome to Conflict 601! This course will explore a variety of conceptual frameworks for analyzing and resolving conflict. Our objectives include:

1. Examining and critiquing social theories that may prove useful in analyzing various types of social conflict;
2. Evaluating the usefulness of these social theories by applying them to specific conflict situations;
3. Assisting students to become better critics of conflict-related theories and more acute conflict analysts;
4. Enabling them to develop their own abilities to construct useful theories of conflict and conflict resolution; and
5. Empowering students to become explicitly aware of their own personal and cultural assumptions about the causes of conflict and possibilities for its resolution.

Instructor and Office Hours

This section of the course is taught by Cheryl Duckworth. She can be reached at [cheryl.duckworth@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.duckworth@gmail.com). Her office hours are before class and by appointment; she is available to discuss the course or other matters of interest.

Grading and Related Matters

Grades in this course will be based on three major components. The first will be a take-home mid-term (35%). The second will be a final oral presentation in which each student will select a conflict of particular interest to him or her, and offer original analysis and proposals for resolution (40%). Finally, participation will count 25%, reflecting its importance to the course.

In order to receive a passing grade, it is necessary to attend classes prepared to discuss the week's reading. Late examinations or papers will be graded down one full grade for each day or part of a day that the paper is late, unless the student furnishes written documentation of the medical or family emergency which made timely completion of the work impossible. Please note that it is ICAR policy to refuse to grant grades of Incomplete for reasons other than documented medical or family emergencies. (For more information about grading, please look at the statement on academic standards in the ICAR Handbook and GMU's Honor Code.)

Course Materials

Most of the articles and book chapters will be placed on GMU's electronic reserves, or on ICAR's ning website (<http://icarcommunity.ning.com>). To access e-reserve reading, go to: <http://oscr.gmu.edu/cgibin/ers/OSCRgen.cgi>

When the page opens, select the course # and section for the course, the faculty name, and the password as listed below: paraguay

There are two categories of reading materials, required reading and further reading. Required reading materials are mandatory. The instructors will facilitate discussions in class based on the assumption that all students have read and reflected on all the required reading. Further reading materials are optional yet useful for students to deepen their understanding of the particular subjects under study. In addition, students are encouraged to follow and critically examine daily news reports on current events related to social conflict, for they will be discussed in class to supplement the assigned reading materials.

NB: Two books are required for purchase: Ambd. John McDonald's *The Shifting Grounds of Conflict and Peace Building* and Johan Galtung's *Peace by Peaceful Means*.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### **Week One: Monday, Jan 26**

Introduction to the Course (no required reading)

#### **Week Two: Monday, Feb 2**

*Realism and Functionalism*

#### Required Reading

Lewis A. Coser. 1956. Chapters 2, 3, and 4. *The Functions of Social Conflict*. pp. 338-385. (in folder)

James E. Dougherty and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr. 2001. Chapter 2: From Realist to Neorealist and Neoclassical Realist Theory. *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey*, 5th edition. pp. 63-103. (e-reserves)

#### For Further Reading:

Ricks, Thomas. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. (Part 1, pages 1-111).

For Further Viewing: *The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert McNamara*. (Dir: Errol Morris, 2004).

#### **Week Three: Monday, Feb. 9**

*Basic Human Needs*

Burton, John. "Introducing the Person into Thinking About Social Policies." Online at [http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6\\_1/Burton3.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6_1/Burton3.htm)

Sites, Paul. "Needs as Analogues of Emotions." *Conflict: Human Needs Theory*. Edited by John Burton. pp 7-33.

Galtung, Johan. "International Development in Human Need Perspective."

*Conflict: Human Needs Theory*. Edited by John Burton. pp. 301-335.

Rubenstein, Rich. 1996. "Basic Human Needs: Steps Toward Further Theory Development." (Available at <http://www.richrubenstein.com/articles.htm> or [http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6\\_1/Rubenstein.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6_1/Rubenstein.htm))

Burton, John. "Where Do We Go From Here?" Online at [http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6\\_1/Burton4.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/academic/ijps/vol6_1/Burton4.htm)

#### **Week Four: Monday, Feb. 16**

*Relative Deprivation, Origins of Violence*

##### Required Reading

Dougherty, James E. and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr. 2001. Chapter 7: Microcosmic Theories of Violent Conflict. *Contending Theories of International Relations*, 5 th ed. pp. 231-263

Gurr, Ted R. 1970. Chapter 2: Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence. *Why Men Rebel*. pp. 22-58.

##### Further Reading

Hedges, Chris. *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. Public Affairs: New York, NY, 2002.

Gilligan, James. *Violence*. Vintage Books: New York, NY, 1996.

#### **Week Five: Monday, Feb 23**

*Theories of the Person and Identity*

##### Required Reading

Stevenson, Leslie and David L. Haberman, eds. (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) *Ten Theories of Human Nature*. "Chapter 8: Freud: The Unconscious Basis of the Mind." (pgs. 156-175).

Mitchell, Stephen A and Margaret J. Black. *Freud and Beyond*. Basic Books: New York, NY, 1995. "Psychologies of Identities and Self: Erik Erikson and Heinz Kohut." Chapter 6. Pgs. 139-169.

Jabri, Vivienne. "A Structurationist Theory of Conflict." *Discourses on Violence*. Manchester UP: Manchester, NY, 1996.

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Revised Ed. Verso: London, 2003. Chapter 1

##### Further Reading

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York, NY, 2008.

**Week Six: Monday, March 2**

*Theories of Worldview and Culture*

MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED

Required Reading

Black, Peter and Kevin Avruch. "Cultural Relativism, Conflict Resolution and Social Justice." Vol 6, No. 1 and 2. Nov 1999. Online at <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/BlackAvruch61PCS.html>

Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations" *Foreign Affairs*. Summer 1993. (Available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/19930601faessay5188/samuel-p-huntington/the-clash-of-civilizations.html>)

Barber, Benjamin. "Jihad Vs. McWorld" *The Atlantic Monthly*. March 1992. (Online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199203/barber>).

For Further Reading.

Sadowski, Yahya. *The Myth of Global Chaos*. Brookings Institute Press: Washington, DC, 1998.

For Further Viewing

*Crash* (Dir: Paul Haggis, 2005)

**Week Seven: Monday, March 9**

NO CLASS—HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!

**Week Eight: Monday, March 16**

Class Case Study: Which Theories Can Best Explain and Transform the Violence in Iraq?

MIDTERM EXAM DUE

**Week Nine: Monday, March 23**

*Economies, Class and Conflict*

Required Reading

Stevenson, Leslie and David L. Haberman, eds. (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) *Ten Theories of Human Nature*. "Chapter 7—Marx: The Economic Basis of Human Societies." Pgs. 138-156.

Gunder Frank, Andre. "The Development of Underdevelopment." In Wilber, Charles K. Wilber's *The Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment*. Random House: New York, NY, 1988.

Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom*. Anchor Books. New York, NY, 1999. Chapters 4, 5 and 7

For Further Reading

Chang, Ha-Joon. *Kicking Away the Ladder: Development Strategy in Historical Perspective*. Anthem Press: London, 2002.

Simon, Roger. *Gramsci's Political Thought*. Lawrence and Wishart: London, 1991.

**Week Ten: Monday, March 30**

*Modernity, Globalization and Conflict*

Croucher, Sheila. *Globalization and Belonging*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Oxford, England, 2004. Chapter 1.

Galbraith, James K. "A Perfect Crime: Inequality in the Age of Globalization." *Daedalus*. Boston. Winter 2002. Vol 131, Iss 1. pp 11-26.

Dollar, David and Aart Kraay. "Spreading the Wealth." *Foreign Affairs*. Jan/Feb 2002. Vol 81, Iss 1. Pg 120.

Babb, Sarah. "The Social Consequences of Structural Adjustment." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 2005: 31. 199-222.

For Further Reading

Stiglitz, Joseph. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W. W. Norton: New York, NY 2002.

Bhagwait, Jagdish. *In Defense of Globalization*. Oxford UP: New York, NY, 2007.

**Week Eleven: Monday, April 6**

*Post-Modernism*

Foucault, Michel. 1975. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. pp. 3-31, 257-292.

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Univ. of Minn. Minneapolis, MN, 1996. Part 1 (pgs. 1-46)

**Week Twelve: Monday, April 13**

*Interventions and Resolutions*

Required Reading

Galtung, Johan. *Peace by Peaceful Means*. Sage Publishers. 1996.

**Week Thirteen: Monday, April 20**

*Interventions and Resolutions*

Guest Speaker: Ambd. John McDonald

Required Reading

McDonald, John. *The Shifting Grounds of Conflict and Peace Building*. Lexington Books. 2008.

**Week Fourteen: Monday, April 27**

No required reading

Case Study Presentations

**Week Fifteen: Monday, May 4 (Final Class!)**

No required reading

Finish Case Study Presentations