

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Section 006, Spring 2010

Class time: Wednesday 4:30 – 7:10 pm
Location: Robinson A, room 105
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
or by appointment, Robinson Hall B, Room 365

Instructor: Ekaterina Romanova
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Course Description:

In recent decades, effects and destructive potential of global conflicts became more extensive. It is imperative to not only understand the ways in which conflicts develop and manifest themselves, but also the ways in which these conflicts have been managed.

This course is designed to help students understand and analyze a number of global events that result or may result in conflict situations. These events include resource-based challenges, people's mobility, nationalism and terrorism. The interdisciplinary nature of the Conflict Resolution field enables us to touch on many other academic disciplines, such as International Relations, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology to better understand and analyze global conflicts. The course addresses conflict theories, their development and practical application.

Course Objectives:

- Familiarize students with conflict theories, terminology and concepts associated with global conflicts;
- Help students think critically, systematically and analytically about intrastate and interstate conflicts in different regions and in a variety of contexts;
- Increase understanding of various approaches to analyzing and resolving global conflicts in different contexts;
- Analyze root causes of intrastate and interstate conflicts, focusing at multiple-levels of analysis – individual, state/society, regional and global;
- Examine particular international and intrastate conflicts, mapping out their developments and examining past and present resolution efforts;

Course Requirements:

1) Class participation (10%): reflects active participation in the class discussions, demonstrated understanding of the course readings and 3 unannounced quizzes. Simply attending the class does not equal participation.

2) Reading Reflection Essays (20%): You are expected to write five 2-page essays on the course readings. The point of these essays is to critically analyze one or two arguments that were of most interest to you in the assigned readings and present your own position. Each essay is worth 5% of your grade. The lowest grade will be dropped, so only 4 essays will be counted toward your grade. You can choose any week to write the essays, but the essays should be submitted on the day the readings are due.

3) Take-Home Midterm (20%): I will hand out several essay questions and you are asked to pick one, and write a 6-7 page essay based on the introductory section (including readings, theories and class discussions) of the class. In the paper, besides using class materials, I expect you to analytically and argumentatively discuss your own views. I will hand out the essay questions on *Wednesday, February 24th* and the essay will be due in class the following *Wednesday, March 3^d*.

4) Group Presentation (20%): You will be a member of one of six research teams (4-5 students each). The teams will prepare a class presentation (not a paper) of a case study of an international conflict. Each team will have 30 minutes to present its case study to the class at the end of the semester. While it's fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the final presentation should represent a single and conceptually-linked piece of work. In your presentation, you should map the conflict, analyze conflict resolution approaches that have been used and comment on the role of the international community in this conflict situation. I will provide more information on group presentation requirements in class. Please, form your research teams by *Wednesday, March 17th*. By *Wednesday, March 24th*, submit a one-page proposal of your presentation. The proposal is not graded. It is for you to start thinking about your case study and working in the group, and for me to see what conflicts you have selected and provide feedback. Remember, it is a group assignment and the entire group is given the same grade. If a group is having trouble with a member not fulfilling his/her work obligation, then the group needs to bring the problem to the instructor's attention.

5) Final paper (30%): The final paper will cover materials from the entire course. You are required to critically reflect on the themes, conflict resolution theories and cases covered during the course. The essay should be between 12-15 pages and will be due on Wednesday, May 5th. Early in the semester I will provide you with more detailed guidelines for researching and writing this paper. It is always a good idea to start thinking about your topic early in the semester. If you have difficulties deciding what to research or would simply like to talk about your paper, I encourage you to come and discuss your ideas with me during my office hours. A brief proposal with a tentative bibliography is due in class on **Wednesday, April 7th**. The proposal is not graded. It is for you to start thinking about the final paper. I will return your proposal to you within a week with comments and suggestions.

*****Late Work**

Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one point for each day they are late. If you have a documented emergency, special arrangements can be made with the instructor. If you cannot meet the deadline or need help with the class material see me during the office hours. Do not make a habit out of turning in your assignments late.

Course Policy and Procedures

Classroom Etiquette: Please come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. The use of laptops in class is for note-taking only! We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. You are encouraged to express

your opinion and diverse perspectives, however, be mindful and respectful of the sensitivities and views of others in your comments in class.

Academic Honesty and Collaboration: George Mason University has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity and which is designed, “to promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community” (<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>). The Honor Code lays out strict penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). You can choose any citation format, however, be consistent throughout your work. If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from the course or outside readings, then ask for help. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library or online at <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>.

For individual class assignments, you may discuss your ideas with others or ask for feedback; however, you are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. You may not submit papers or presentations from other courses to fulfill assignments for this class.

Paper format: Papers should be typed, double-spaced, have 1” margins, and Times New Roman 12-point font. Make sure that your name, course number, and paper title is on the first page, and pages are numbered. Edit your papers carefully. If you need help, ask the instructor or refer to the GMU Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>. Electronic submission via blackboard is preferred.

Disability Support Services: Any student with documented learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Support Services (<http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/ods/>) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact the instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Course Materials:

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2007. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Required (available in the GMU bookstore):

Additional course materials: This course will use e-reserve (password will be provided in class) and GMU blackboard. Course materials including syllabus, Power Point class notes, supplementary readings and other relevant materials will be available on GMU Blackboard (<http://courses.gmu.edu>). Readings noted as *Supplementary* are not required, but reading them will enhance your understanding of the course material.

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

Course Schedule and Assignments:

** Subject to Change

January 20: Introduction to Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Review of the Syllabus, Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 1, pp. 3-31.

January 27: CR Field: Origins and Development

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 2, pp. 32-54.

Burton, J. 1983. "Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy," in Sandole and Merwe (eds.) *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice*. Chapter 4, pp. 55-65. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

Angell, R. 1964. "A Dynamic Theory of Peace: John W Burton, Peace Theory". *Journal of Conflict Resolution* vol.8, pp.83-85. Blackboard.

Burton, J. "Conflict Resolution: Towards Problem-Solving"

<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/burton.html>

February 3: The United Nations System. Frameworks for Conflict Analysis

Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "Agenda for Peace" – UN Secretary General Report

<http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agpeace.html>

Ramsbotham et al, Chapters 3, pp. 55-75, Chapter 4, pp. 78-97.

Dugan, M. 1996. "A Nested Theory of Conflict," *Leadership Journal: Women in Leadership*, vol. 1. pp. 9-19. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

Stephenson, C. What are Non-Governmental Organizations?

http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/role_ngo/?nid=1123

Brahm, E. Inter-Governmental Organizations

http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/role_igo/?nid=1124

Sandole, D. "A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution:

A Three Pillar Approach," <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole.htm>

Levy, J. 2001. "Theories of Interstate and Intrastate War," in Crocker et al (eds)

Turbulent Peace, chapter 1, pp. 3- 27. E-reserve.

February 10: Understanding the Sources and Dynamics of Global Conflict

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 4, pp. 97-105.

Pruitt, D. and Sung Hee K. 2004. "Escalation and Its Development," chapter 5, pp.87-

100; "Perceived Stalemate and De-escalation," chapter 9, pp. 171-188, in *Social*

Conflict. E-reserve

Supplementary:

Ayoob, M. 2001. "State Making, State Breaking and State Failure," in Crocker et al (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 9. pp. 127-142. E-reserve.

Howard, M. 2001. "The Causes of War," in *Turbulent Peace*, ch. 9, pp. 29-38. E-reserve.

February 17: Cooperation in Conflict

Axelrod, R. 1984. "The live-and-let-live system in Trench Warfare," pp. 73-87 and "How to Promote Cooperation," pp. 124-144 in *Evolution of Cooperation*. E-reserve.

Film: "Joyeux Noel" (France, 2005); Film Discussion;

February 24: Identity-based Conflict. Culture, Religion, Gender and CR

The Essay questions are handed out!

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 12, pp. 265-274; Chapter 15, pp. 302-315.

Cook-Huffman, C. 2009. "The Role of Identity in Conflict," in Sandole et al. (eds) *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*, chapter 1, pp. 17 – 30. E-reserve.

Habyarimana, J. et al. 2008. "Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways over Nationalism and Separatism," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 87(4), pp. 138-151. E-reserve.

Kimmel, P. 2001. "Culture and Conflict," in Deutsch et al (eds) *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, chapter 22, pp. 453-474. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

Kelman, H. 1997. "Negotiating National Identity and Self-Determination in Ethnic Conflicts," *Negotiation Journal*, vol. 13(4), pp. 327-340. Blackboard.

March 3: Global Challenges: Migration and Nationalism

The Midterm Papers are due!

Halliday, F. 1997. "Nationalism," in Baylis and Smith (eds) *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 20, pp. 440-455. E-reserve.

International Organization for Migration. Read section 'About Migration,' subsections 'Facts & Figures,' 'Managing Migration' <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/1>

The Economist. 2009. «Global Migration and the Downturn»

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12932296

Supplementary:

Anastasiou, H. 2009. "Encountering Nationalism," in Sandole et al. (eds) *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution* chapter 2, pp. 30-42. E-reserve.

"Minorities at Risk" (MAR) Website, <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/mar/>

Gurr, T. 2001. "Minorities and Nationalists," in Crocker et al. (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, pp. 138-188. E-reserve

Lyons, T. and Peter M. "Global Migration and Transnational Politics: a Conceptual Framework." Blackboard.

March 10: NO CLASS: Spring Break

March 17: Globalization, Collective Action, Terrorism and Conflict

Research teams for group projects should be formed!

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 11, pp. 249-264.

Nye, J. "Globalization and Interdependence," in *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 7, pp. 185-211. E-reserve.

Fukuyama, F. "History and 9/11," in Booth and Dunne *Worlds in Collision*, Chapter 2, pp. 27-36. E-reserve.

Tarrow, S. 1998 "Contentious Politics and Social Movements," in *Power in Movement*. Chapter 1, pp. 10-28. E-reserve.

March 24: Economics, Resources and Conflict

Group project proposal is due!

Collier, P. 2001. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy," in Crocker et al (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, pp. 143-162. E-reserve

Malone, D. and Sherman, J. 2007. "Economic Factors in Civil Wars," in Crocker et al (eds) *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 637-652. E-reserve

Gleditsch, N. 2001. "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict," in Crocker et al (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 4, pp. 177-196. E-reserve

Supplementary:

Upreti, B. 2004. "Resource Conflicts and Conflict Resolution in Nepal," *Mountain Research and Development*, vol. 24(1), pp. 60-66. Blackboard.

Collier, P. et al. 2008. "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers* 61, pp. 1-27. Blackboard.

Murshed S. 2009. "Revisiting Greed and Grievance Explanations for Violent Internal Conflict," *Journal of International Development*, vol. 21, pp. 87- 111. Blackboard.

March 31: Approaches to Global Conflict Resolution

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 5, pp. 106-131, chapter 14, pp. 288-301.

Stares, P. 2007. "Rethinking the 'war on terror:'," in Crocker et al (eds) *Leashing the Dogs of War*, chapter 24, pp. 425-436. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

Kriesberg, L. 2007. "Contemporary Conflict Resolution Applications," in Crocker et al (eds) *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 455-476. E-reserve.

Slim, R. and Harold S. 2001. "The Inter-Tajik Dialogue: from Civil War towards Civil Society," <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/tajikistan/inter-tajik-dialogue.php>

April 7: Peacekeeping vs. Peacemaking

A brief final paper proposal with a tentative bibliography is due!

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 6 -7, pp. 132-184.

Hansen, W. et al. "Hawks and Doves: Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution" Blackboard

Film: "No Man's Land," (France, 2001); Film Discussion;

April 14: Third Party Intervention and Post-War Reconstruction

Ramsbotham, Chapter 8 - 9, pp. 185-230; Chapter 13, pp. 275-287.

Supplementary:

Paffenholz, Th. "Designing Transformation and Intervention Process." Blackboard.

Serwer, D. and Thomson, P. 2007. "A Framework for Success," in Crocker et al (eds) *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 369-388. E-reserve.

Schwarz, R. 1994. "How to Intervene," *The Skilled Facilitator*. pp.122-145. Blackboard.

**April 21: Reconciliation, Justice and Trauma-Healing
Group Presentations I & II**

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 10, pp. 231-245.

Lederach, J. P. 1998. "Reconciliation: The Building of Relationships," in *Building Peace*, Chapter 3. pp. 23-35. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

Jeong, H. 2005. "Chapter 6: Reconciliation and Social Rehabilitation," in *Peacebuilding in Post-conflict Societies*. pp. 155-185. E-reserve

Lambourne, W. 2001. "Justice and Reconciliation," in Abu-Nimer *Reconciliation, Justice and Coexistence*. pp. 311-337. E-reserve.

April 28: Group Presentations III, IV, V & VI

May 5: EXAM PERIOD – 4:30 –7:15 pm

Your final papers are due before or during the indicated exam time. Please, submit via blackboard or e-mail.