GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Sections 04 and 02, Spring 2011

Class meeting time and place: Friday 10:30-1:15 pm, Innovation Hall, Room 209;
Friday 1:30 – 4:15 pm; Robinson Hall A Room 249
Instructor: Randy Salm
Email: rsalm@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Friday 9:30-10:30 Robinson Hall B, Room 365; or by appointment.

Course Description

Welcome to Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution! In this course we will review an interdisciplinary set of theories, models and processes that help understand and resolve international or global conflict. This course will build on your previous knowledge of conflict resolution, leading to a solid framework for analyzing global conflict.

This course focuses on understanding global conflict and conflict resolution processes. By global conflict, we include large scale intra-national armed conflicts like violent ethnic conflict or civil war, international conflict, and complex conflict dynamics that exist with globalization, such as trade issues, resource usage and global migration. We will study a number of conflicts as case studies, including Colombia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda. Interdisciplinary conflict analysis is key to understanding these conflicts: we will address: power, resources; ethnic identity; religion and ideology; foreign policy; international financial institutions; human rights norms and institutions; collective action for social, political, and economic justice; and civil society, political society, corporations, and global institutions.

We also address conflict resolution for international conflicts and globalization tensions. We will review several problem solving mechanisms or peace processes used in the past two or three decades in diverse global conflicts as case studies. Class discussions and assignments shall reflect upon the extent to which these theories help us understand conflict. Student participation in discussions and prior preparation (as specified below), shall be critical in making the class a successful learning experience.

Course Materials

Required text (available in the GMU bookstore):
- Ramsbotham, O.,Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2007**.** *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*", 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Additional articles will be made available on GMU Blackboard.

Classroom Etiquette

Please come to class on time and prepared. Bring your readings with you. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Remain in class unless you have an emergency. The use of laptops in class is discouraged except for course related activities. We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. Students are encouraged to express

diverse perspectives. You are likely to encounter strong opinions. You will be expected to keep a balance between arguing your own position on these issues, as well as encouraging, hearing, and respecting other opinions.

If an emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should let me know ahead of time when possible. Please contact a classmate 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. The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I shall respond to your query within 48 hours. Please use your GMU email account when communicating with me.

Assignments and Evaluation

There will be no mid-term or final exam in this class. Instead, a series of short quizzes will be given to test your knowledge of the course material, several individual conflict analysis exercises will test your individual analysis skills, and a group project will be used to test your ability to work collaboratively to jointly analyze a conflict and develop recommendations for conflict resolution on a specific case study. These multiple evaluation formats are frontloaded in the class to give you and I some idea early of how you are doing in class early in the semester.

Participation (10% of your final grade): Classes shall follow an interactive seminar format. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings. Regular attendance and active participation based on thoughtful reflection of the literature and class discussions are necessary.

Quizzes (30% of your final grade)
We will have three quizzes (due weeks 3, 5 and 11) that cover our readings this semester. Each quiz will be a take-home assignment consisting of a few short essay questions and will be worth 10% of your final grade. The purpose of the quizzes are to assess your understanding of the course material, and promote class discussion.

Individual Conflict Analysis Exercises (30% of your final grade)
You will conduct two individual conflict analysis exercises of specific conflicts – (due weeks 6 and 10). Each analysis will draw cumulatively upon the theoretical approaches that we discuss during the semester. Each exercise will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Group Conflict Analysis Exercise and Presentation (30% of your final grade)
Teams will be formed of 2-3 persons. Your team will analyze a global conflict or issue and prepare a 10-15 page paper and a class presentation. The team must confirm with me which conflict they will study by week 8. Each team will have 15 minutes to present their case study to the class on week 14, followed by a short Q&A. *Papers will be graded, not presentations.* The team paper and presentation should include:

- Provide a brief overview of the conflict – who, where, when, how and general impact.

- Summarize key conflict resolution issues – parties, attitudes, behavior, power, underlying causes, interests, needs, and/or peace processes.
- Develop recommendations for the best way to resolve or transform the conflict.

References must be cited in the paper. While it is fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the final product should represent a single, integrated piece of work. With rare exception, each student working in a group is given the same grade for an assignment. If a group is having trouble with a member not fulfilling their work obligation, then the group needs to bring the concern to my attention immediately.

Grading Scale

98 - 100 A+	87 - 89 B +	75 - 78 C+	61 - 68 D
93 - 97 A	83 - 86 B	72- 74 C	0 – 60 F
90 - 92 A-	79 - 82 B -	69- 71 C-	

Academic Policies and Information

Academic Honesty and Collaboration: GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity. The Honor Code reads: "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, etc.). If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from course or outside readings, then ask for help. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk 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.

Late Work: Class assignments that are submitted late will be accepted and graded at the discretion of the professor, generally only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency.

Paper Format: Papers for the course should be typed, double-spaced, have 1" margins, and use a common 12-point font. The pages should be numbered and stapled together. Papers should have a title, include your name and the instructor's name. Sources should be cited using a single standard academic citation format.

Student Resources. GMU Writing Center. The Writing Center is available if you need assistance with writing your papers. (http://writingcenter.gmu.edu).

Disability Support Services. Any student with learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) contact the Office of Disability Support Services (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) have the Office of Disability Support contact me – the instructor - to discuss reasonable accommodations. The Disability Resource Center Office coordinates services for students with disabilities. They are your first point of contact if you need assistance. See: http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/dss.html.

Library Services. The CAR library liaison is Melissa Johnson (703-993-2212). Contact her for specific questions about holdings and research regarding the CAR field.

Schedule: All classes meet on Fridays

Week 1: Jan. 28
Introductions, course protocol, overview, and expectations.   Assessment of student knowledge of global conflict.   Review Ramsbotham, Ch. 1: Introduction to Conflict Resolution and basic conflict analysis concepts.
<u>Readings</u>:   None.

Week 2: Feb. 4
General conflict analysis models. Interdisciplinary conflict analysis. History of CR field. Scale and scope of global conflict. Intra-national and international conflict.
<u>Readings</u>:   Ramsbotham. Ch. 1: Introduction to Conflict Resolution. Ch. 2: Origins, Foundations. Ch. 3: Statistics of Deadly Quarrels.

Week 3: Feb. 11
Theoretical models of conflict analysis - Protracted social conflict.
<u>Readings</u>:   Ramsbotham. Ch. 4: Understanding Contemporary Conflict. Findley 2007, "Weak-Actor Social Structure in Asymmetrical Wars" (see Blackboard)
Quiz #1 due.

Week 4: Feb. 18
Managing Conflict - Preventing violent conflict Peacekeeping and Peacemaking
<u>Readings</u>:   Ramsbotham. Ch. 5: Preventing Violent Conflict, Ch. 6 Peacekeeping and Ch. 7 Peacemaking

Week 5: Feb. 25
Deeper Conflict Resolution – Post-war Reconstruction, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
<u>Readings</u>:   Ramsbotham. Ch. 8 Post-war Reconstruction, Ch. 9 Peacebuilding and Ch. 10 Reconciliation
Quiz #2 due.

Week 6: March 4
Terrorism, Gender and Ethics of Intervention. Form teams for group projects
<u>Readings</u>:   Ramsbotham et al. Ch.11: Terror and Global Justice. Ch. 12. Gender in CR. Ch. 13, Ethics of Intervention

Week 7: March 11 (Spring break March 14-18)
Communication and culture. Review Chua's World on Fire.
Readings: Ramsbotham Ch. 14, Dialogue and Discourse. Ch. 15: Culture, Religion.
Individual conflict analysis exercise #1 due.

Week 8: March 25
Deeper Conflict Resolution. Peace, security and development.
Readings: Ramsbotham Ch. 16, Towards Cosmopolitan CR. Kofi Annan, 2005, In
                 Larger Freedom, p. 1-39. (see Blackboard)
Team conflict topics due.

Week 9: April 1
Information, commitment and peace processes; collective action; globalization and
inequality.
Readings: Kirschner, 2010, Knowing your enemy; Milanovic 2007, Globalization
                 and Inequality; van Zomeren, 2009, Introduction to …Collective Action
                 (see Blackboard)

Week 10: April 8
Colombia case study. Guerrillas, paramilitaries, state, DDR, and peace initiatives.
Readings: Colombian Labyrinth (2001), USIP Peace Initiatives Colombia (2006);
                 (see Blackboard)
Individual conflict analysis exercise #2 due.

Week 11: April 15
Colombia case study continued.
Readings: ACCORD Alternatives to War (2004); Garcia-Godos, 2010 Transitional
                 Justice and Victim's Rights (see Blackboard)
Quiz #3 due.

Week 12: April 22
Great Lakes Region case study – DR Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi
Readings: van Leeuwen. 2008. Imagining the Great Lakes Region; Hudson, 2009,
                 Peacebuilding through a Gender Lens… Rwanda.

Week 13: April 29
Great Lakes Region case study continued.
Readings: ACCORD 2010 Northern Uganda peace processes.

Week 14: May 6
Readings: none.
Group paper and presentation due.