

CONF 801: INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Semester: Fall 2012
Class Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm
Classroom: Founders Hall 479
Instructor: Terrence Lyons
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course and to many of you welcome to SCAR. This class is designed as an introduction to the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution for entering doctoral students. As an introduction it is deliberately broad and can just gesture at some of the important themes and issues that are developed at much greater depth in other courses.

Each of you has a Master's degree and I therefore assume a Master's degree level of familiarity with the core concepts and themes of conflict analysis and resolution. This course will build on this prior knowledge and will seek to dig deeper into these issues in a more focused manner. I distributed a reading list over the summer of standard works often assigned at the Master's level to give you some reference points to understand our expectations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The class will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion. It is therefore imperative that each of you read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation based on thoughtful consideration of the literature in class discussions is 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 SCAR and, equally importantly, for the undertaking of your own original work in a doctoral project.

Final grades will be derived from participation (20 percent), four short papers (10 percent each for a total of 40 percent), and a final literature review paper (40 percent). Late papers will be penalized one half grade per day so please be sure that deadlines are met.

Participation. To reflect the importance of class discussion, 20 percent of the final grade will be based on your participation. This is a doctoral seminar, not a lecture course. My role is to facilitate and guide discussion. Your active participation is essential to the success of the seminar and you will benefit from the discussion to the extent that you have completed the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Missing more than one class in the semester will reduce your participation grade.

Short Analytical Essays. You will write **four** short (3-4 page, 750-1000 word) papers analyzing a particular week's set of readings. The essay is due on the day those readings will be discussed in class. Each essay will be worth 10 percent of your grade and the four essays therefore worth 40 percent. Given that we will discuss the readings in class, no late papers can be accepted.

These short papers should analyze the assigned books and articles, place them in the context of the literature on the topic, and assess both their contributions to the field and their weaknesses. They should emphasize a thoughtful understanding of the week's readings and should not merely summarize the authors' arguments.

Final Paper. Each student will select a specific sub-field, major concept, or significant debate in the broader field of conflict analysis and resolution and write a twenty-page literature review. Your review should frame a certain body of scholarly writing around a set of core questions, outline the major debates, identify the key scholars and schools of thought, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the specific literature. The point of a literature review is not to summarize lots of books and articles or to present original research but to synthesize and reorganize the information published in scholarly publications in a way that captures what you think are the core arguments, underlying assumptions, and unanswered puzzles. This is the first step for any major research project, most notably a dissertation proposal. Additional information and some links to published literature reviews in conflict analysis and resolution (or related disciplines) will be handed out in class.

This paper is worth 40 percent of your final grade. I will divide the class in two and on November 28 and December 5 half of the class will present their literature review. We will organize panels and each student will have 12 to 15 minutes to present. The final paper must be submitted as an email attachment in Word format by 4:30 pm on December 12. Please label your file YOURNAME_801Lit Review.docx

Honor Code and Plagiarism:

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

English Language Institute:

The English Language Institute offers free English language tutoring to non-native English speaking students who are referred by a member of the GMU faculty or staff.

For more information contact 703-993-3642 or malle2@gmu.edu.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center is a free writing resource that offers individual, group, and online tutoring. For general questions and comments please contact wcenter@gmu.edu or 703-993-4491.

READINGS

Most of our readings will be from a collection of articles and book chapters that are either on electronic reserve or available through the Mason library's e-journal subscriptions. We will also read Vivienne Jabri, *War and the Transformation of Global Politics* and John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, both available for purchase at the university bookstore and are available in most research libraries. The password to access CONF 801 e-reserves is "power."

Week One: August 29: Introduction: What is the Field?

Hugh Miall, *Conflict Transformation: A Multi-Dimensional Task* (Berghof, http://berghof-handbook.net/documents/publications/miall_handbook.pdf)

Bernard S. Mayer, "Conflict Resolution: A Field in Crisis," in *Beyond Neutrality: Confronting the Crisis in Conflict Resolution* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004), pp. 3-40. Available through e-reserves.

Nike Carstarphen, Craig Zelizer, Robert Harris, and David J. Smith, *Graduate Education and Professional Practice in International Peace and Conflict*, (USIP Special Report 246 (August 2010). Available at <http://www.usip.org/publications/graduate-education-and-professional-practice-in-international-peace-and-conflict>)

Michael D. English, "Global Ambitions: A Critical Reading of the Report 'Graduate Education and Professional Practice in International Peace and Conflict,'" *Unrest Magazine* January 15, 2011, available at <http://www.unrestmag.com/global-ambitions-a-critical-reading-of-the-report-on-graduate-education-and-professional-practice-in-international-peace-and-conflict/>

Herman Schmid, "Peace Research and Politics," *Journal of Peace Research* 5:3 (1968): 217-232. Available through e-journals.

Week Two: September 5: Definitions and Key Concepts

I assume familiarity with key theories and concepts of conflict analysis such as realism, structural functionalism, rational choice, social mobilization, basic human

needs, structural violence, and the work of social psychologists such as Dean Pruitt. Please review the following.

Hans J. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics," *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (Boston: McGraw-Hill), 2006), pp. 3-16. Available through e-reserves.

John W. Burton, "Needs Theory," in *Violence Explained* (New York: Manchester University Press, 1997). Available through e-reserves.

Johan Galtung, "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research," *Journal of Peace Research* 6:3 (1969): 167-91. Available through e-journals.

Dean Tjosvold, "Defining Conflict and Making Choices about Its Management: Lighting the Dark Side of Organizational Life," *International Journal of Conflict Management* 17:2 (2006): 87-95. Available through e-journals.

Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams, "Introduction: Mapping Critical Security Studies, and Travelling without Maps," in *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2010), pp. 1-13. Available through e-reserves.

Week Three: September 12: Psychology and Social Psychology

Daniel Bar-Tal, "Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts," *American Behavioral Scientist* 50:11 (2007): 1430-1453. Available through e-journals.

Janice Gross Stein, "Psychological Explanations for International Conflict," in *Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons (Sage, 2002), pp. 292-308. Available through e-reserves.

Roy J. Lewicki, "Trust, Trust Development and Trust Repair," in Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Second Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006), pp. 92-121. Available through e-reserves.

Herbert C. Kelman, "Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation: A Social-Psychological Perspective on Ending Violent Conflict Between Identity Groups," *Landscapes of Violence* 1:1 (2010). Available at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/lov/vol1/iss1/5>

Week Four: September 19: Rational Choice and Political Economy

Michael Nicholson, "Negotiation, Agreement and Conflict Resolution: The Role of Rational Approaches and Their Criticism," in *New Directions in Conflict Theory: Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation*, Raimo Vayrynen, ed. (Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1991). Available through e-reserves.

Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner, "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers* 6:1 (2011): 1-27. Available through e-journals.

Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, "Civil War," *Journal of Economic Literature* 48:1 (2010): 3-57. Available through e-journals.

C. Cramer, "Homo Economicus Goes to War: Methodological Individualism, Rational Choice and the Political Economy of War," *World Development* 30:11 (November 2002): 1845-1864. Available through e-journals.

Week Five: September 26: Social Mobilization

Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics* 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 1998), Ch. 1, 5. Available through e-reserve.

Mark Irving Lichbach, *The Rebel's Dilemma* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 1998), ch. 1-2 (pp. 3-32). Available through e-reserve.

Donald L. Horowitz, *The Deadly Ethnic Riot* (California University Press, 2001), ch. 1 (pp. 1-42). Available through e-reserve.

Jeremy M. Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 1-24. Available through e-reserve.

Week Six: October 3: Culture

Peter W. Black and Kevin Avruch "Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings," in *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice*, edited by Denis J. D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe. (Manchester University Press, 1993).

Paul R. Kimmel, "Culture and Conflict," in Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Second Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006), pp. 625-648.

Guy Olivier Faure, "Culture and Conflict Resolution," in Jacob Bercovitch, Victor Kremenyuk, and I. William Zartman, eds., *SAGE Handbook of Conflict Resolution* (Sage, 2010): 506-524.

I. William Zartman, "A Skeptics View," in Guy Oliver Faure and Jeffrey Z. Rubin, eds. *Culture and Negotiation* (Sage, 1993), pp. 17-21.

Week Seven: October 10: Dynamics: Intractability and Escalation

Peter T. Coleman, Robin R. Vallacher, Andrzej Nowak, and Lan Bui-Wrzosinska, "Intractable Conflict as an Attractor: A Dynamical Systems Approach to Conflict

Escalation and Intractability," *American Behavioral Scientist*, 50:11 (2007): 1454-1475. Available through e-journals.

Peter Coleman, "Intractable Conflict," in *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, eds. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006), pp. 533-559. Available through e-reserves.

Edward E. Azar, "Conflict Escalation and Conflict Reduction in an International Crisis: Suez," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 16:2 (June 1972): 183-201. Available through e-journals.

Christopher R. Mitchell, "Conflict, Social Change, and Conflict Resolution. An Enquiry," Berghoff Handbook. Found at http://www.berghoff-handbook.net/documents/publications/mitchell_handbook.pdf

Week Eight: October 17: Negotiations and Third Party Roles

Ronald J. Fisher and Loreleigh Keashly, "The Potential Complementarity of Mediation and Consultation within a Contingency Model of Third Party Consultation," *Journal of Peace Research* 28:1 (1991): 29-42. Available through e-journals.

I. William Zartman, "Ripeness: The Hurting Stalemate and Beyond," in Stern and Druckman, *International Conflict Resolution after the Cold War* (Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 2000). Available through e-reserves.

Dean G. Pruitt, "Readiness Theory and the Northern Ireland Conflict," *American Behavioral Scientist* 50:11 (July 2007): 1520-1541. Available through e-journals.

James Laue and Gerald Cormick, "The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes," in Gordon Bermant, Herbert C. Kelman and Donald P. Warwick, eds., *The Ethics of Social Intervention* (Washington, DC, Hemisphere Publishing, 1978), pp. 205-232. Available through e-reserves.

Week Nine: October 24: Critical Social and Political Approaches

NOTE: Jabri will be the Lynch Lecturer this year and will speak at 7:00. We will break class early so that we may all attend.

Vivienne Jabri, *War and the Transformation of Global Politics* (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2010).

Week Ten: October 31: Analyzing Third Party Interventions

Marc Howard Ross, "Creating the Conditions for Peacemaking: Theories of Practice in Ethnic Conflict Resolution," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23:6 (2000): 1002 -1034. Available through e-journals.

Marc Howard Ross, "‘Good-Enough’ Isn’t So Bad: Thinking about Success and Failure in Ethnic Conflict Management" *Peace and Conflict* 6:1 (2000): 27–47. Available through e-journals.

Reina C. Neufeldt, "Interfaith Dialogue: Assessing Theories of Change," *Peace and Change* 36:3 (July 2011): 344-372. Available through e-journals.

Paul F. Diehl and Daniel Druckman, *Evaluating Peace Operations* (Lynne Rienner, 2010), pp. 1-10, available at <https://www.rienner.com/uploads/4c33490447f42.pdf>

Susan Allen Nan, *Theories of Change and Indicator Development in Conflict Management and Mitigations* (USAID June 2010). Available at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADS460.pdf

Week Eleven: November 7: Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Anna K. Jarstad, "Dilemmas of War-to-Peace Transitions: Theories and Concepts," in Anna K. Jarstad and Timothy D. Sisk, eds., *From War to Democracy: Dilemmas of Peacebuilding* (Cambridge University Press, 2008): 17-36. Available through e-reserves.

Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk, "Introduction: Understanding the Contradictions of Postwar Statebuilding," in Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk, eds., *The Dilemmas of Statebuilding: Confronting the Contradictions of Postwar Peace Operations* (London: Routledge, 2009): 1-20.

Stedman, Stephen John. "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes." *International Security* 22:2 (Fall 1977): 5-53. Available through e-journals.

Edward Newman, "Peacebuilding as Security in 'Failing' and Conflict-Prone States," *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 4:3 (September 2010): 305-322. Available through e-journals.

Week Twelve: November 14: Reconciliation

John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

November 21: Thanksgiving

Week Thirteen: November 28: Presentations of Literature Review Papers

Week Fifteen: December 5: Presentations of Literature Review Papers

Week Sixteen: December 12: Final Paper Due