

Draft Syllabus
CONF 101, Section 005
Conflict and Our World:
Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Fall 2014

Instructor: Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr.
Tuesdays, & Thursdays
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00
2:45pm or by appointment

Classroom: West 1004

Conflict is an inherent part of human existence with various interconnecting layers: inter-personal, inter-group, and structural. Apart from this, a conflict may produce a destructive or constructive outcome. The rise in global integration along with the formation of transnational conflict parties has signaled the need for more attention to ways in which societies – both non-conflict and post-conflict – can prevent and transform conflict constructively.

An introduction to the study of conflict analysis and resolution, this course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the key questions about the nature and causes of conflicts and their resolution. The course will examine the various factors that give rise to conflicts, and actions that can be taken to mitigate a destructive conflict while reinforcing their constructive potential. Apart from a general overview, the course will examine various approaches to analyzing and intervening in conflicts, and the post-conflict processes of reconciliation and renewal, and social, economic, and political reconstruction.

Attendance is mandatory and crucial to your likelihood of success in this course. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class.

There will be two Experiential Learning Activities (ELAs) during the course of the semester in the weeks of October 22, and November 5, 2013. These ELAs are essential for understanding the course and there will be graded assignments based on each. Everyone is required to participate in these activities.

Classroom etiquette: Be prepared and on time. Switch off your cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. Do not leave the room during class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by talking, passing notes, playing video games, etc. Do not check email, facebook or surf the web during class. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goal.

Conflict 101 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Assignments, Percentages of Grade, Due Dates

Participation Participation in class discussions assessed throughout the semester	10%
2 Reflection Papers on Experiential Learning Activities, 10% each Due on October 30 and November 25	20%
2 Short Papers (3 pages), 10% each Due on September 18 and October 23	20%
One In-Class Midterm Exam October 2, 2014	20%
Final Exam December 11, 2014	30%

Except for documented personal illness or family emergency, there will be no make-up exams or extensions of deadlines for assignments. Students with documented disabilities who would be in need of such exceptions or special arrangements should contact me early in the semester.

Guidelines for preparing the short essays will be provided in class.

Grading Scale:

A+	97 – 100	B+	85 – 89	C+	70 – 74	D+	55 – 59	F	0 – 44
A	93 – 96	B	80 – 84	C	65 – 69	D	50 – 54		
A-	90 – 92	B-	75 – 79	C-	60 – 64	D-	45 – 49		

You are expected to abide by George Mason University's Honor Code for every work you do in this class. Please contact me if you have any questions about Honor Code issues (e.g., whether you are permitted to discuss an assignment with a fellow student).

Student Resources

GMU Writing Center

“The Writing Center seeks to foster a writing climate on campus and beyond by offering free writing support to George Mason students, faculty, staff and alumni. No matter what your writing abilities are, writing specialists can help you develop the skills you need to become a successful writer.

“Free services include: One-on-one 45 minute sessions with a writing specialist; online writing lab; one-on-one sessions with an ESL specialist; workshops on such topics as documenting sources, grammar and punctuation; writing handouts on a variety of subjects;

a library of handbooks and writing manuals; [and an] online chat with a tutor about papers submitted to the Online Writing Lab” (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>).

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 (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact her or his instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

“George Mason University is committed to providing appropriate services and accommodations that allow self-identified students with disabilities to access programs and activities at the university as stated in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

To achieve this goal, the university maintains and supports the Disability Resource Center Office, which is responsible for assuring that students receive the services and accommodations to which they are entitled. The professional staff of the Disability Resource Center Office coordinates services for students with disabilities, determine reasonable services and accommodations on the basis of disability, and act as a liaison between students and faculty/administration on concerns relating to services and accommodations”

(<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/dss.html>).

Library Services

The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution library liaison is Mary Oberlies. Do not hesitate to contact her with specific questions about holdings and research in these areas or whom to contact for materials in Fenwick Library.

Required Readings:

These books have been ordered through the University Bookstore:

Kriesberg, Louis and Bruce W. Dayton. *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution*. 4th Edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.

All other readings are available through blackboard, George Mason University library databases, e-journals or websites indicated on the syllabus.

It is highly recommended that you follow current events in your community and the world in general. Apart from following current events, you are strongly encouraged to use your readings as the central part of our classroom discussions in ways that advance and deepen the discussion. Liberia will be the focus of our two ELAs. You should therefore follow events about Liberia and conflicts in West Africa. In addition to the CNN, The Washington

Post, Al Jazeera, the BBC (www.bbc.co.uk/news/) and AllAfrica.com are good starting points for news about Africa.

COURSE AGENDA

Week 1 (August 26 & 28): Introduction to the Field of Conflict Resolution

Introductions, Syllabus Review, Course expectations
Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 1.

Week 2 (September 2 & 4): Nature of Conflict

Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 2

Week 3 (September 9 & 11): Sources of Conflict I

Readings: Burton, 32-40; Galtung, 39-53; Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 2. Stathis Kalyvas, 16-31.

Week 4 (September 16 & 18): Sources of Conflict II

Readings: Collier, 197-216; Murshed, 1-15.
First Short Paper Due on September 18

Week 5 (September 23 & 25): Sources of Conflict III

Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 3. Volkan, 79-91; Cook-Huffman, 19-31.

Week 6 (September 30 & October 2): MID-TERM REVIEW and EXAM (In Class)

Week 7 (October 7 & 9): Analyzing, Modeling, and Mapping Conflict and Conflict Strategies

Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 4; Kriesberg, 455 – 476; Ramsbotham et al, 9 – 21; Dugan, 365 – 369; Mason and Rychard, 1-11 (available at <http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/pdfs/Conflict-Analysis-Tools.pdf>).

Week 8 (October 14): NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 14, COLUMBUS DAY

Week 8(October16): Experiential Learning Activity I

Liberia General Country Overview

Week 9 (October 21 & 23) Experiential Learning Activity I

Group analysis and presentations
Second Short Paper Due on October 23

Week 10 (October 28 & 30): Conflict De-escalation and Third Party Intervention

Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 7; Zartman and Touval, 437- 454; Cochrane, 101 – 125; 150 – 183.
Experiential Learning Activity I Response Paper Due on October 30

Week 11 (November 4 & 6): Third Party Intervention and Post-Conflict Recovery I: Peacebuilding

Readings: Barnett, M., Kim, H., O'Donnell, M., and Sitea, L., 35- 58 (available at http://home.gwu.edu/~barnett/articles/2007_peacebuilding_gg.pdf); Hampson and Mendeloff; Doe, 1-16.

Week 12 (November 11 & 13): Post-Conflict Recovery II: Civil Society, Social Cohesion and Reconciliation

Readings: Belloni, 182-210; Lederach, 23-35; Assefas, 337 – 342; Shaw, 183-207; World Bank, 5–29 (available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTCPR/Resources/407739-1313432470798/Fragility-Summary-WEB.pdf>).

Week 13 (November 18 & 20): Experiential Learning Activity II

Week 14 (November 25 & 27): Post-Conflict Recovery III: Statebuilding, Conflict Prevention and Conflict-Sensitive Development

Readings: MacGinty, 33 – 50; Azar, 93 – 120; Smoljan, 233-250 (available at <http://www.tandfonline.com/mutex.gmu.edu/doi/pdf/10.1080/1467880032000126930>). Barbara, 307-318 (available at <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cdip20>); Center for Global Development, 1-4

**Experiential Learning Activity II Reflection Paper Due On November 25
November 27, Thanksgiving Day – No Class**

Week 15 (December 2 & 4): Integration and Review

Blackboard/E-Journal/Reading List

The following readings are available on e-reserves or e-journals:

Asefas, Hizkias. 2001. "Reconciliation." In *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*. Luc Reychler and Thania Paffenholz, eds. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 337 – 342.

Azar, Edward E. 1991. "The Analysis and Management of Protracted Conflicts." In *The Psychodynamics of International Relationships*. Vamik D. Volkan, Joseph Montville, and Demetrios A. Julius, eds. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1991, 93 – 120.

Barbara, Julien. 2008. Rethinking Neo-Liberal State Building: Building Postconflict Development States, *Development in Practice*, 18:3 (2008): 307-318.

Barnett, M., Kim, H., O'Donnell, M., and Sitea, L. 2007, 'Peacebuilding: What is in a Name?', *Global Governance*, 13 (2007): 35-58. Available at http://home.gwu.edu/~barnett/articles/2007_peacebuilding_gg.pdf

Belloni, Roberto. 2008. "Civil Society in War-to-Democracy Transitions." In *From War to Democracy: Dilemmas of Peacebuilding*. Anna K. Jarstad, and Timothy D. Sisk, eds. New York: Cambridge University Press, 182-210.

Burton, John. 1997. "Needs Theory." In *Violence Explained*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 32-40.

Center for Global Development, Statebuilding and Global Development, 1-4

Cook-Huffman, Celia. 2007. "The Role of Identity in Conflict." In *Handbook of Conflict Resolution*. Dennis J. D. Sandole, et al. eds. New York: Routledge, 2011, 19-31.

Collier, Paul. 2007. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 197-216.

Collier, Paul. 2006. Post-Conflict Economic Recovery. *A Paper for the International Peace Academy*. Oxford University. Available at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~econpco/research/pdfs/IPA-PostConflictEconomicRecovery.pdf>

Doe, Samuel Gbaydee. 2009. "Indigenizing Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: A Conceptual Framework." *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* 2:1 (2009): 1-16.

Dugan, Marie A. 2001. "Imaging the Future: A Tool for Conflict Resolution." In *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*. Luc Reychler and Thania Paffenholz, eds. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 365- 369.

Galtung, Johan. 1969. "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research," *Journal of Peace Research* 6:3 (1969): 167-191.

Hampson, Fen Osler, and David Mendeloff. 2001. "Intervention and the Nation-Building Debate." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 679-697.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2007. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 16-31.

Kriesberg, Louis. 2001. "Contemporary Conflict Resolution," In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, pp. 455-476.

Lederach, John Paul. 1997. "Reconciliation: the Building of Relationship." In *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 23-35.

Mason, Simon, and Sandra Rychard. 2005. Conflict Analysis Tools. *Center for Security Studies Tip Sheet*. Available at <http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/pdfs/Conflict-Analysis-Tools.pdf>.

McGinty, Roger. 2010. "Contemporary Peace Processes." In S. Barakat (Ed.), *After the Conflict*. London, UK: I. B. Tauris, 33 – 49.

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. 2011. "Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions." In *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 3-34.

Shaw, Rosalind. 2007. "Memory Frictions: Localizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone." *International Journal of Transitional Justice*. 1 (2007): 183-207. Available at <http://ijtj.oxfordjournals.org.mutex.gmu.edu/content/by/year/2009>.

Smoljan, Jelena. 2003. "The relationship between peace building and development." *Conflict, Security & Development* 3:2 (2003):233-250. Available at <http://www.tandfonline.com.mutex.gmu.edu/doi/pdf/10.1080/1467880032000126930>

Murshed, Mansoob Syed. 2007. The conflict-growth nexus and the poverty of nations. *DESA Working Paper* 43 (2007). Available at http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2007/wp43_2007.pdf.

Volkan, Vamik D. 2001. "Transgenerational Transmissions and Chosen Traumas: An Aspect of Large-Group Identity." *Group Analysis* 34:1 (2001): 79-97.

Wam, Per Egil, 2010 "Can Poverty Reduction Strategies Stem Violence and Build Peace? Some Lessons for Conflict Affected Countries." *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* 5:2 (2010): 86-91.

Woodrow, Peter and Chigas, Diana. 2009. "A Distinction with a Difference: Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding." Reflecting on Peace Practice Project. *CDA Collaborative Learning Projects* (2009). Available at http://www.cdainc.com/cdawww/pdf/article/RPP_Differentiating_Conflict_Sensitivity_and_Peacebuilding.pdf.

World Bank. 2012. "Societal Dynamics & Fragility: Engaging Societies in Responding to Fragile Situations." Summary Report. Washington DC: The World Bank Group, pp. 5-29. Available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTCPR/Resources/407739-1313432470798/Fragility-Summary-WEB.pdf>

Zartman, I. William, and Touval, Saadia. 2007. "International Mediation." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, pp. 437-454.