

CONF 801

INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Fall 2006

Tuesdays, 4:30-7:20 pm., Rm. 666B Truland Bldg.

Professor Kevin Avruch

Office: 604 Truland

Tel.: 703-993-3607

E-Mail: kavruch@gmu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course and to ICAR. This class is designed as an introduction to the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution for entering doctoral students. As an introduction and as the first course that most ICAR doctoral students will take, it is deliberately broad. Given this, your instructor *knows* how much we are missing, leaving out, or only glancing at. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another of the themes in this introduction in greater depth—or touch on matters left untouched here.

The sorts of social conflicts studied by ICAR are mostly what those in our field have called deep-rooted, protracted, or intractable ones, conflicts which, even when ostensibly about material resources or interests, are also entangled with issues of ethnicity, race, religion, nationalism—with matters of *identity*. ICAR was founded on asserting the unity of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at all levels of social conflict—from interpersonal to global—and on the crucial linkage between theory and practice in the field. Thus the course examines a range of issues in the field, including the sources and dynamics of social conflict and different approaches to its management, resolution, or transformation. After some readings describing the development (and the “ethos”) of the field, the first part of the course focuses upon “theory” broadly defined, and thus on conflict analysis. The second part of the course explores different modes of “practice” in conflict resolution, especially forms of third party interventions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

In addition to classroom participation, requirements include four essays written to specific topics or questions, assigned and due as indicated on the syllabus. Each essay

will be worth 10% towards the final grade. I expect each to be between 1000-1250 words in length. A term paper, to be discussed later, will be due on Wednesday, December 13 by 4:00 p.m. in my ICAR mailbox. (Earlier submission allowed and encouraged.)

READINGS

Most of our readings will come from the following books, all available at the Arlington Bookstore. Additional readings (marked “E-reserve”) are available online through the GMU libraries. Instructions for E-reserve access and the required course password will be given in class. (Any readings not specifically assigned from our edited collections can be considered as “recommended” based upon your own research or practice interests.)

Chester Crocker, F.O. Hampson and P. Aall, eds. *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. (Marked as *Turbulent* on syllabus.)

Hugh Miall, O. Ramsbotham & T. Woodhouse, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, second edition

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*

Dean Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate & Settlement*, third edition

Luc Reyhler & T. Paffenholz, eds., *Peace-Building: A Field Guide*. (Marked *Guide* on syllabus.)

COURSE PROGRAM

Part One: Orientations

- Week 1 (8/29):** **Course Orientation. Some basic questions to consider (hand-out).**
- Week 2 (9/5):** **Conflict Resolution as a discipline: Who are we? What are we (to be) about?**
Read: C. Wright Mills, especially chs. 4-6, 9-10.
John Burton, “Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy” (E-Reserve)
- Week 3 (9/12):** **Introduction to the field: history, background, and assumptions**
Read: Miall et al., chs. 1-2, pp. 1-54
Pruitt & Kim, ch. 1, pp. 3-14
Kevin Avruch, “Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution” (E-

Reserve).
Essay # 1 assigned

Part Two: Conflict Analysis

- Week 4 (9/19):** **Sources of Social Conflict: Systems**
Read: Pruitt & Kim, chs. 2-4, pp. 15-84
Miall et al., ch. 3, pp. 65-94.
Jack S. Levy, “Theories of Interstate and Intrastate War: A Levels-Of-Analysis Approach” (ch. 1 in *Turbulent*)
Michael Howard, “The Causes of War” (ch. 2 in *Turbulent*)
Charles A. Kupchan, “Empires and Geopolitical Competition: Gone for Good?” (ch. 3 in *Turbulent*)
Nils Petter Gleditch, “Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict” (ch. 4 in *Turbulent*)
Jean-Marie Guehenno, “The Impact of Globalization on Strategy” (ch. 6 in *Turbulent*)
Essay #1 due
- Week 5 (9/26):** **Sources of Conflicts: States and Internal Dynamics**
Read: Miall et al., ch. 4, pp. 78-105
Mohammed Ayoob, “State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure” (ch. 9 in *Turbulent*)
Paul Collier, “Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and their Implications for Policy” (ch. 10 in *Turbulent*)
Ted Robert Gurr, “Minorities and Nationalists: Managing Ethno-Political Conflict in the New Century” (ch. 11 in *Turbulent*)
Janice Gross Stein, “Image, Identity and the Resolution of Violent Conflict” (ch. 12 in *Turbulent*)
Michael E. Brown, “Ethnic and Internal Conflicts: Causes and Implications” (ch.13 in *Turbulent*)
- Week 6 (10/3):** **The Dynamics of Conflict**
Read: Pruitt & Kim, chs. 5-8, pp. 87-168
Miall et al., ch. 5, pp. 106-131
Johan Galtung, “Violence, Peace, and Peace Research” (E-Reserve).
Phil Williams, “Transnational Criminal Enterprises, Conflict, and Instability” (ch. 7 in *Turbulent*)
Roy Licklider, “Obstacles to Peace Settlements” (ch. 41 in *Turbulent*)
Essay #2 assigned
- Week 7 (10/10):** **No class: Mid-semester recess**

Part Three: Conflict Resolution Theory & Practice

- Week 8 (10/17): Conflict Resolution Techniques and Processes (Theory & Research)**
Read: Pruitt & Kim, chs. 9-10, pp. 171-225
Miall et al., ch. 6, pp. 132-158
P. Terrence Hopmann, "Bargaining and Problem-Solving: Two Perspectives on International Negotiation" (ch. 27 in *Turbulent*)
Harold Saunders, "Prenegotiation and Circum-negotiation: Arenas of the Multilevel Peace Process" (ch. 29 in *Turbulent*)
Saadia Touval & I.W. Zartman, "International Mediation in the Post-Cold War Era" (ch. 26 in *Turbulent*)
C. Crocker et al., "Is More Better? Pros and Cons of Multiparty Mediation" (ch. 30 in *Turbulent*)
Essay #2 due
- Week 9 (10/24): Third Party Intervention: Techniques & Critiques**
Read: Pruitt & Kim, ch. 11, pp. 226-258
Miall, et al., ch. 7, pp. 159-184 and ch. 14, pp. 288-301.
Christopher Mitchell, "The Processes and Stages of Mediation: Two Sudanese Cases" (E-Reserve)
John W. Burton, "Facilitated Conflict Resolution Procedures" (E-Reserve)
Edward Luttwak, "The Curse of Inconclusive Intervention" (ch. 16 in *Turbulent*)
Stanley Hoffmann, "The Debate About Intervention" (ch. 17 in *Turbulent*)
Richard Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Interevention" (ch. 18 In *Turbulent*)
Fen O. Hampson, "Parent, Midwife or Accidental Executioner? The Role of Third Parties in Ending Violent Conflicts" (ch. 24 in *Turbulent*)
- Week 10 (10/31): Some Outstanding Issues-I: Power and Gender**
Read: Peter Coleman, "Power and Conflict" (E-reserve)
Jayne Docherty, "Power in the Social and Political Realm" (E-Reserve)
Joseph Nye, Jr., "Soft Power and Conflict Management in The Information Age" (ch. 22 in *Turbulent*)
Nadim Rouhana, "Group Identity and Power Asymmetry in Reconciliation Processes: The Israeli-Palestinian Case" (E-Reserve)
Miall et al., ch. 12, pp. 265-274
Anita Taylor and Judi Miller, "The Necessity of Seeing Gender in Conflict" (E-Reserve)
Tamra Pearson D'Estree & Eileen Babbitt, "Women and the Art

Of Peacemaking: Data from Israeli-Palestinian Interactive Problem-Solving Workshops” (E-Reserve)

Week 11 (11/7): Outstanding Issues-II: Culture, Religion, and Conflict
Read: Kevin Avruch, “Culture” (E-Reserve)
Miall et al., ch. 15, pp. 302-315
Raymond Cohen, “Negotiating Across Cultures” (ch. 28 in *Turbulent*)
R. Scott Appleby, “Religion as an Agent of Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding” (ch. 48 in *Turbulent*)
Essay # 3 assigned

Part Four: Conflict Resolution “In the Field”

Week 12 (11/14): 1. Preliminaries—Ethics, etc.
Read: Miall et al., ch. 13, pp. 275-287
J. Laue & G. Cormick, “The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes” (E-Reserve)
Various Authors, “Preparing for the Field,” in *Guide*, pp. 3-69
2. Negotiation and Mediation Revisited. Read: Various Authors, “Working in the Field,” in *Guide*, pp.75-198.
Essay #3 due

Week 13 (11/21): Related Issues in the Field: Other Actors, Security, Stress, etc.
Read: Various Authors on “Monitoring Human Rights, Aid & Development, Local Training and Media,” in *Guide* pp. 199-311.
Various Authors on “Security,” in *Guide*, pp. 376-440.
Quintayn on “Stress,” in *Guide* pp. 443-452; H. Slim on “Moral Dilemmas,” in *Guide*, pp. 497-509.

Week 14 (11/28): Post-Settlement Concerns, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation
Read: Miall et al., chs 8-10, pp. 185-245
Howon Jeong, “Reconciliation and Social Rehabilitation” (E-Reserve)
Neil Kritz, “The Rule of Law in the Postconflict Phase: Building A Stable Peace,” (ch. 47 in *Turbulent*)
John Paul Lederach, “Civil Society and Reconciliation” (ch. 49 In *Turbulent*)
Various Authors, “Dealing with the Past and Imaging the Future,” in *Guide*, pp. 322-372
Essay #4 assigned

Week 15 (12/5): Remaining Issues and Open Questions: Mitchell and Mills Revisited
Read: Miall et al., ch. 16, pp. 316-331

Pauline Baker, "Conflict Resolution versus Democratic Governance: Divergent Paths to Peace?" (ch. 44 in *Turbulent*)
Essay #4 due

Term paper due Wednesday 12/13 by 4:00 pm

NOTES: