

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

CONF 340 Section 007, Fall 2012

Class time: Wednesdays 1.30 pm-4.10 pm

Instructor: Doga Ulas Eralp, Ph.D.

Location: West 1007

Email: ueralp@gmu.edu

Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Course Description:

Globalization could best be summarized as compression of time and space. The slight shifts in global political fault lines have consequences that are exponentially larger in different parts of the world. The field of conflict analysis and resolution provides an invaluable toolbox to understand and transform the global conflict imprints on different levels. This course introduces latest debates and developments in the field of conflict analysis and resolution such as international development, human security, religion, gender, and peacebuilding.

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 Attendance and blackboard participation (20%): Please note that class attendance is noted. If you are going to miss a class you should have a noted emergency or medical note. Attending class will ensure that you will do well in exams. You will be graded on participation in class and on blackboard. This means active participation in the class and online discussions, demonstrated understanding of the course readings. When you read course materials, you should take notes as you will be asked to share your reflections in class. Simply attending the class does not equal participation. **On blackboard sessions you are expected to submit three questions, respond to three questions (from three different colleagues), and comment on three different responses in the allocated time frame.**

2) In-Class Midterm (30%): October 3rd Wed Consists of two sections. Section 1: ID questions (40%) where students are required to explain of five terms provided. Section 2: Short essay questions (60%) where students have to discuss two questions provided. **Exam lasts 75 minutes.**

If you do the reading and come to the class prepared, the exam will only be a validation of your success. Absence from mid-term examination will not be excused except for sickness on the day of the examination or for other cause approved by the student's academic dean. The effect of missing the mid-

term examination shall be determined by the weighted value of the examination as stated in the course syllabus provided by the instructor. A student whose absence from an examination is excused may take a rescheduled examination within 10 days on a date to be arranged between the student and the instructor.

3) In-Class Final Exam (30%): Students will respond to three short essay questions provided. Exam lasts 75 minutes.

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 integrated 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, September 12th**. By **Wed, September 19th**, 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.

Course Policy and Procedures

- Students are responsible for completing individual and group assignments on time. Students will be penalized the equivalent of one full letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Assignments that are overdue by more than one week will not be accepted.
- If an **emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should let the instructor know ahead of time when possible and contact a group member 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.**
- Please ensure that you have access to Blackboard--additional guidance on individual assignments and discussion questions will be posted there. **We will conduct at least one class online** using discussion questions. Please visit our Blackboard site and check your George Mason email regularly.
- Incomplete grades will not be granted except in cases of personal or immediate family illness or emergency.

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. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor.

S-CAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. S-CAR's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

Students with special needs: Students with documented disabilities or special needs should let me know during the first class period so that I can accommodate their needs throughout the course. We will accommodate religious practices as appropriate; please let me know if there are any conflicts, so we can address any concerns equitably.

Student resources:

Academic advising center – 703-993-2470 Campus counseling center – 703-993-2380
Office of Disability Services – 703-993-2474 Writing center – 703-993-4491

Course Materials:

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2011. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution, 3rd Edition*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Required (available in the GMU bookstore)

Additional course materials: This course will use the GMU blackboard. Course materials including syllabus, and other relevant materials will be available on GMU Blackboard (<http://courses.gmu.edu>).

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*

Week 1 (Aug 29): Introduction to Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Personal Introductions, Review of the Syllabus, course expectations.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 1, pp. 3-34.

Week 2 (Sep 5): CR Field: Origins and Development

Readings: Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 2

Burton, J. "Conflict Resolution: Towards Problem-Solving" Available at <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/burton.html>

Week 3 (Sep 12): Measuring Peace in a Complex World

Hand in your group preferences by the end of the class on Wednesday.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 3

Week 4 (Sep 19): Understanding the Sources and Dynamics of Global Conflict

Bring your group research proposals to class

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 4,.

Watch the Documentary Film: 11'09"01 on Youtube (watch all episodes)

Week 5 (Sep 26) :Cooperation in Conflict and Environment

Readings: Axelrod, R. 1984. "The live-and-let-live system in Trench Warfare," (on blackboard)

P. R. MacQuarrie, V. Viriyasakultorn, and A. T. Wolf "Promoting Cooperation in the Mekong Region through Water Conflict Management, Regional Collaboration, and Capacity Building" *GMSARN International Journal* 2 (2008) 175 - 184 (on blackboard)

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 12, pp.293-304

Week 6 (Oct 3): Mid-Term 1.30 pm-2.45 pm

Week 7 (Oct 10): Migration and Conflict-Blackboard Session

Readings: Lyons, T. and Peter M. (2008) "Global Migration and Transnational Politics: a Conceptual Framework."

Facts and figures in global migration 2011-International Office for Migration
<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/facts-and-figures/lang/en>

Watch Film: Invisibles

Available at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/watch-invisibles-2010-11-02>

submit three questions, respond to three questions (from three different colleagues), and comment on three different responses in the allocated time frame.

Week 8 (Oct 17): Cosmopolitan Conflict Resolution-Gender-Religion and Culture

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 11,13,15

Richmond, O. (2004) "The Globalization of Responses to Conflict and the Peacebuilding Consensus". *Cooperation and Conflict*, 2004, 39: 129-150 (on blackboard)

Week 9 (Oct 24) : Resource Conflicts

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

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

Week 10 (Oct 31) : Third Party Intervention Models: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Reconstruction

Readings: Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 6, 7, 8

Week 11 (Nov 7): Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 9, 10

Week 12 (Nov 14): Media and Conflict Resolution

Before the class get together with your groups in the library to check out Facebook page of the **18 Days in Egypt**, The crowd-sourced on-going documentary of the Egyptian Revolution. Discuss in your group and Bring one-page reflections to class.

One page reviews should discuss the relevance of the social media in Egyptian Revolution.

Class Discussion: Role of Media

Week 13: THANKSGIVING

Week 14 (Nov 28): Group Presentations

Group Presentations: 1, 2, 3, 4

Week 15 (Dec 5): Group Presentations and Wrap Up

Group Presentations 5, 6

Last class. Wrap up, Evaluations.

Dec 12 Wed Final Exam 1.30 pm.- 2.45 pm