

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

CONF: 340

Class Day: Wednesday
Class Time: 1:00-4:10 pm
Classroom: Robinson Hall B201

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (appointment only)
Office Location: 116 Northeast Module II
Contact: Patrick Hakizimana - ghakizim@gmu.edu; 215-901-8062

Course Description

This class will examine conflict, conflict resolution and conflict prevention. In the course we will begin with the theories that attempt to explain and impact the different dimensions of conflict. We will look at five major theories for human behavior and how these play out in terms of war and violence. We will seek to determine whether or not violence and war are increasing or decreasing and what role, politics, economics and terrorism play in the increase or decrease of conflict. The second portion of the class will examine different ways of managing conflict as well as theory and practice on how to actually resolve conflict. We will examine the human factor in conflict studying human migration as well as the psychological and social dimensions of war. Finally we will look at peacemaking, peacekeeping and reconciliation and theories of peace, which may determine the future of a conflict. Although this course will review many theories of conflict and peace, it will also be very practical. We will look at a number of case studies to see how theory and practice intersect and students will be expected to evaluate the value of theory in practice.

Course Materials

- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. and Miall, H. 2011 (3rd edition). Contemporary Conflict Resolution. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Online – can be found in course reading on blackboard

Assignments and Grading

Participation: 10%
Hourly Exams: 50%
Conflict Analysis Memoranda: 40%

Participation

Students are expected to participate actively in class, which includes completing the assigned readings in advance so that they are able to participate in class discussions. Participation is evaluated based on class discussions, class activities and attendance. Students are allowed to miss one class per semester without impacting their participation grade. Please email Professor Hakizimana in advance of class to notify him that you will be absent. Students are responsible for course material covered during their absence and must coordinate with other class members to review what they missed. If a student misses more than one class they will receive half off of their final participation grade per class missed. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Exams

There will be two exams for this class. The mid-term exam will be on October 21, 2015. The final exam will be on December 16, 2015. The exams will include both short and long essay questions. Every student will be responsible for bringing blue books to complete the exam.

Conflict Analysis Memoranda

Over the course of the semester you will write four different memoranda. Each memorandum will cover different topics. You may not do more than one memorandum on the same topic or theory. The memorandum is designed to be brief memo, which analyzes a current conflict using the theories and frameworks discussed in class. Sources for the memorandum should include recent news sources that cover current events as well as course materials or supplementary articles. Memos should include a **brief** summary of the current situation **as well as** an analysis and recommendations regarding next steps. They should be no more than two pages in length and they will be due periodically throughout the semester based the dates outlined below. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style for sourcing. Students who are not satisfied with their grades on the memo may write a 5th memo due at the end of the semester and the best four grades will be calculated into your final grade.

Grading Expectations

A Meets all expectations: shows creative and original thinking, is well organized and clearly written without grammatical and spelling errors, and demonstrates thorough reading and reflection of assignments. Actively participates in all class discussions and activities.

B Meets most expectations: good work with a strong argument, thorough organization and solid writing that demonstrates a clear understanding of the course material. Participates in class discussion and activities.

C Meets some expectations with work that completes the assignment, but demonstrates limited analysis and understanding of course material. Participates in some class discussions and activities.

D Does not meet expectations due to lack of engagement with concepts and theories discussed in class and in readings. Shows effort in class discussions and activities but is lacking.

F Unacceptable and/or incomplete work that does not engage with the concepts and theories discussed in class and readings, does not participate in class discussions and activities

George Mason University Honor Code

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the Honor Code, which states:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, trust, and fairness among all member of the Mason community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the students 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. <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

Violations of the GMU Honor Code will be sent to the Honor Committee for review. SCAR 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. SCAR's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

Student Resources

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, visit <http://eli.gmu.edu/>, call 703-993-3642 or e-mail 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 visit <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>, e-mail wcenter@gmu.edu, or call 703-993-4491.

Disability Support Services

GMU is committed to providing support to student with disabilities. Please speak with the Disability Resource Center office and Professor Hakizimana regarding any accommodations you may need.

“George Mason University is committed to providing appropriate services and accommodations that allow self-identified students and activities at the university as stated in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The staff of the Disability Resource Center Office coordinate 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>).

Course Outline

- Week 1. September 2nd – Syllabus, Logistics, Introduction
 Week 2. September 9th – Major Theories that Impact Conflict
 Week 3. September 16th – Measuring War: Declinists vs. Pessimists
(Conflict Memorandum due before class)
 Week 4. September 23rd – Politics, Economy and Civil War
 Week 5. September 30th – Case Study Israel/Palestine (TBA)
 Week 6. October 7th – Terrorism **(Conflict Memorandum due before class)**
 Week 7. October 14th - Mid-term exam
 Week 8. October 21st – Human Migration and Conflict
 Week 9. October 28th – Psychological and Social Dimensions of War
 Week 10. November 4th – Peacemaking **(Conflict Memorandum due before class)**
 Week 11 November 11th Postwar Reconstruction & Peacebuilding
 Week 12 November 18th - Reconciliation
(Conflict Memorandum due before class by 5:00 pm Tuesday, November 24th)
 Week 13 November 25th – no class (Thanksgiving Recess)
 Week 14 December 2nd – Syria Case Study
 Week 15 December 9th – Conclusion
 Week 16 December 16th – Final Exam

Weekly schedule and reading assignments

Week 1. September 2nd – Syllabus, Logistics, Introduction

- CCR: Chapter 1 & 2

Week 2. September 9th – Major Theories that Impact Conflict

- Jervis, Robert, 1978. “Cooperation under the security dilemma” *World Politics* 30 (2): 167- 214. Online.
- Kant, Immanuel. Excerpts from *Perpetual Peace*. Online
- Russett, Bruce and Johan Oneal, *Triangulating Peace*, pp.15-42. Online
- Balibar, Etienne. 2010. “Marxism and War” *Radical Philosophy* 160: 9-17. Online
- CCR, Chapter 1,4, and 19.
- Huntington Samuel P. 1993. “The Clash of Civilization”. *Foreign Affairs* 3: 22-49. Online

Week 3. September 16th – Measuring War: Declinists vs. Pessimists

- Human security Report 2013. Online
- CCR, Chapter 3
- Gleditsch, Nils Peter ed. The Forum: The Decline of War. *International Studies Review* (2013) 15, 396–419. Online

Week 4. September 23rd – Politics, Economy and Civil War

- Collier et al, Chapter 1-4. Online
- CCR, Chapter 4
- Stewart, Frances. “Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict: An Introduction and some Hypotheses”. Online

Week 5. September 30th – Case Study - Israel and Palestine

- Readings TBA

Week 6. October 7th – Causes of Terrorism

- CCR. pp. 79-84 and 283-292
- Tessler, Mark and Michael Robbins. 2007. “What Lead Ordinary Arab Men and Women to Approve of Terrorism Acts Against the United States”? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(2): 305-328. Online.
- Abrahms, Max. 2008. “What Terrorist Real Want” *International security* 32 (4), pp.78-115. Online
- Kam Cindy D, and Donald R Kinder. 2007. “ Terror and Ethnocentrism: Foundation of American Support for the War on Terrorism” *Journal of politics* 69(2): 320-338. Online.
- Lee Alexander. 2011. “Who Becomes a Terrorist? Education, and the Origins of Political Violence”. *World Politics* 63 (2), pp. 203-245. Online.
- Pape, Robert A. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism” *American political Science review*. 97(3): 343-361. Online.

Week 7. October 14th - Mid-term exam**Week 8. October 21st – Human Migration (Refugees, IDP’s) and Conflict: The Case of Central Africa**

- Salehyan, I. (2008). “The externalities of civil strife: refugees as a source of international conflict”. *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(4), 787-801.
- Salehyan, I. & Gleditsch, K. S. (2006). “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War”. *International Organization*, 60(02). 335-366. Online.
- Autesserre, Séverine. 2008. “The Trouble with Congo: How Local Disputes Fuel Regional Conflict”. *Foreign Affairs*. 87(3), pp94-110.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63401/s%C3%83%C2%A9verine-autesserre/the-trouble-with-congo>

- Marfleet, P. (2008). "Exploration in Foreign Land: State, Refugees and the Problem of History". *Refugee Survey Quarterly*. 32 (2) pp.14-34. Online
- Emizet, K.N.F. (2000). "The Massacre of Refugees in Congo as the Case of UN Peacekeeping failure and international law". *The Journal of modern African studies*. 38 (2) pp. 163-202. Online.

Week 9. November 4th: – Psychological and Social Dimensions of War

- CCR, Chapter 4
- Bar-Tal, Daniel. 2000. "From Intractable Conflict through Conflict Resolution to Reconciliation: Psychological Analysis," *Political Psychology* 21(2): 351–365. Online.
- Paez, Dario and Hou-Fu Liu, James. "Collective Memory of Conflicts. In D. Bar Tal, (2011). *Intergroup conflicts and their resolution: a social psychological perspective*. (p. 125 – 144). London: Psychology Press. Online.

❖ Sexual violence during civil war

- Sivakurman, Sandeesh. 2007. "Sexual Violence Against men in Armed Conflict," *European Journal of International Law*, 18(2): 256-276. Online.
- Steiner, Birthe, Benner, Marie , Sondorp, Egbert, Schmitz, K Steven, Mesmer, Ursula and Rosenberger, Sandrine. 2009. "Sexual Violence in the protracted conflict of DRC programming for rape survivors in South Kivu," *Conflict and Health* 3(3): 1-9. Online.

❖ Testimonials

- Beah, Ishmael. "A Long Way Gone," New York, NY: Sarah Crichton Books. Chapters 15–16 (pp. 126–151). Online.

Week 10. October 28th: Peacemaking (frameworks of peacemaking?)

- CCR, Chapter 7
- Collier, pp.140-150. Online.
- CCR, Chapter 19
- Walter, Barbara F. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International organization*, 51(3), 335-364. Online
- Mac Ginty, R. (2011). Hybrid peace: how does hybrid peace come about? In S. Campbell, S., D. Chandler, & M. Sabaratnam, (2011). *A liberal peace?: the problems and practices of peacebuilding*. (p. 209 – 224). London; New York: Zed Books. Online.

Week 11 November 11th – Postwar Reconstruction & Peacebuilding

- Collier, pp. 150-172. Online.
- United Nation. Peace operations (UNPKO's) Online.
- CCR, Chapter 6, 8 & 9
- Paris, Roland. 2004. *At War's End: Building Peace After Civil Conflict* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1,2 and 9. Online.

Week 12 November 18th - Reconciliation

- Lederach, J. P., (1997). *Building peace: Sustainable peace in divided societies*. Ch 3 "Reconciliation, the building of relationship, pg 23-25, Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press. Online.
- Clark, J. N. (2008). The three R's: retributive justice, restorative justice and reconciliation. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 11(4), 331-350. Online.
- Sarkin, J. (2000). "Promoting justice, truth and reconciliation in transitional societies: evaluating Rwanda's approach in the new millennium of using community based gacaca tribunals to deal with the past". *International Law FORUM*, 2, 112- 121. Online.
- Haider, H. (2014). "Transnational Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: The Participation of Conflict-generated Diasporas in Addressing the Legacies of mass Violence". *Journal of refugee studies* 27(2), 207-233. Online.
- CCR: Chapter 10

Week 13 November 25th – No class - Thanksgiving Recess**Week 14 December 2nd – Case Study: Syrian Case Study**
Reading (TBA)**Week 15 December 9th – Conclusion****Week 16 December 16th - Final Exam**