

CONF 801: INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Semester: Fall 2015
Class Time: Mondays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm
Classroom: Founders Hall 478
Instructor: Terrence Lyons
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course and for most 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 we can just gesture at some of the important themes and issues that are developed at much greater depth in other courses.

Each of you already has a Master's degree (or equivalent) 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 not review this material but rather will build on this prior knowledge. I distributed a reading list over the summer of standard works 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 is required. 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 at SCAR and, equally importantly, for the undertaking of your own original work in your doctoral project.

Final grades will be derived from participation (20 percent), three short papers (10 percent each for a total of 30 percent), an assessment of a conflict assessment framework (20 percent) and a final paper that explores emerging research on the frontiers of the field (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 course and you will benefit from the discussion to the extent that you have completed the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Quality of participation, in terms of broadening, deepening, or complicating

our discussion, matters more than quantity. Missing more than one class in the semester will reduce your participation grade.

Short Analytical Essays. You will write three short (3-4 page, 750-1000 words) papers analyzing a particular week's set of readings. Each 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 three essays therefore worth 30 percent. You may choose whichever set of readings you prefer to analyze. If you wish to write more than three papers, the lowest grade(s) may be dropped. Papers must be emailed as a Word attachment prior to the start of class the week the readings will be discussed.

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. Not every reading requires equal attention and your focus should be on the set of readings as a set of approaches to a key issue in the field. Illustrating your points by referencing particular cases is fine but the emphasis must be on your assessment of the readings, not the case.

Assessing Conflict Assessment Framework Paper. In Week Nine we will examine the US Agency for International Development's Conflict Assessment Framework. The framework (CAF 2.0) is designed for application to international conflicts and focuses on the concerns of the US government but may be applied to other types of conflicts as well. As with any framework, it is built upon a series of theoretical orientations and assumptions and these are what we want to uncover.

Your paper should a.) Provide a concise application of the framework to a conflict about which you are familiar; b.) Write an analytical critique of the framework with particular attention to its theoretical assumptions and what it misses. This paper should be approximately 10 pages long and should be divided equally between the application and the assessment. The paper will be worth 20 percent of your final grade and must be sent as an email Word attachment before class on Week Nine.

Final Paper. The final paper will identify some new or emerging question that is at one of the research frontiers of the field. What is not settled in the existing literature but is under active consideration, research, and academic debate by scholars working on conflict analysis and resolution? Identify a set of at least 10 articles/book chapters/books that are engaging on this emerging question and write an analytical essay that assesses the potential and the limits of this emerging literature. This paper, worth 30 percent of your final grade, must be sent as an email Word attachment before 5:00 pm on 14 December 2015. A one-paragraph statement on the emerging question identified and a preliminary list of identified readings is due by email on 30 November.

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 read significant portions of the following:

Tom Woodhouse et al., eds., *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader* (London: Polity, 2015).

Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds., *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice* 3rd ed. (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014).

Christopher Mitchell, *The Nature of Intractable Conflict: Resolution in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

Marc Howard Ross, *Cultural Contestation in Ethnic Conflict* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2007).

You may purchase or read the copy that has been placed on reserve in the library.

Week One: 31 August: Introduction

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.

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>)

Kevin Avruch, "Does Our Field Have a Centre? Thoughts from the Academy," *International Journal of Conflict Engagement and Resolution* 1:1 (2013): 10-31.

NOTE: No class 7 September – Labor Day

Week Two: 14 September: 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. Here are some references to refresh your memory.

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.

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

John Burton, "Conflict and Communication," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 28-32.

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

Johan Galtung, "Conflict Theory and Practice," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 33-35.

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.

Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly, "Dynamics of Contention," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 106-112.

Lewis Coser, "The Functions of Social Conflict," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 59-63.

Edward Azar, "The Management of Protracted Social Conflict," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 28-32.

Sources

Week Three: 21 September: Psychology, Social Psychology

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

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.

Roy J. Lewicki and Edward C. Tomlinson, "Trust, Trust Development and Trust Repair," in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 104-167.

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: 28 September: Culture

Marc Howard Ross, *Cultural Contestation in Ethnic Conflict* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2007), chapters 1-3, 9.

Paul R. Kimmel, "Culture and Conflict," in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014).

Kevin Avruch, "Culture and Conflict Resolution," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp.

Donald Horowitz, "Ethnic Groups in Conflict," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp.

Week Five: 5 October: Power

Steven Lukes, ed., *Power* (New York University Press, 1986). Introduction, selections from Russell, Weber, Dahl, and Arendt.

Gene Sharp, *From Dictatorship to Democracy: A Conceptual Framework for Liberation*, chapters 1-3, pages 1-24. Available at <http://www.aeinstein.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FDTD.pdf>.

Peter T. Coleman, "Power and Conflict," in Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman and Eric C. Marcus, eds., *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice* 2nd ed. (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006), pp. 120-143.

Louis Kriesberg, "Changing Conflict Asymmetries Peacefully," *Journal of Asymmetric Conflicts* 2:1 (March 2009): 4-22.

Week Six: 13 October: Rational Choice/Bargaining Theory

NOTE: Tuesday meeting

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), ch. 25.

Barbara Walter, "Bargaining Failures and Civil Wars," *American Review of Political Science* 12 (2009): 243-61.

David A. Lake, "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations for the Iraq War," *International Security* 35:3 (Winter 2010/11): 7-52.

David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild, "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Fear," *International Security* 21:2 (Autumn 1996): 41-75.

Week Seven: 19 October: Political Economy

Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner, "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers* 6:1 (2009): 1-27.

Frances Stewart, "Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict: An Introduction and some Hypotheses." *Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict: Understanding Group Violence in Multiethnic Societies* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). 3-24.

Mary Kaldor, "New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 89-92.

David Keen, "The Economic Functions of Violence in Civil Wars," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 93-96.

Week Eight: 26 October: Mobilization and Institutions

Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics* 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 1998), Ch. 1, 5, pp. 10-25, 71-90.

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

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

Doug McAdams, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly, "Towards an Integrated Perspective on Social Movements," in Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Week Nine: 2 November: Intractability, Escalation, Ripeness

Peter T. Coleman, "Intractable Conflict" in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 708-744.

Christopher Mitchell, "The Structure of International Conflict," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 77-80.

Christopher Mitchell, *The Nature of Intractable Conflict: Resolution in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). Chapter 4, "Perpetuation: Dynamics and Intractability"

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).

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

Models of Conflict Analysis

Week Ten: 9 November: The Theory of Conflict Analysis Assessing Conflict Assessment Framework Paper Due.

Matthew Levinger, *Conflict Analysis: Understanding Causes, Unlocking Solutions* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2013), ch. 4, "Conflict Assessment Frameworks," pp. 87-111.

United States Agency for International Development, *Conflict Assessment Framework 2.0* (Washington, USAID, 2012, especially Ch. 3, "Diagnosis: Framework for Analysis."

For an example of a CAF 2.0 assessment see:

<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/Nigeria%20Cross-Sectoral%20Conflict%20Assessment%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Models of Practice

Week Eleven: 16 November: Negotiations and Third Party Roles

Saadia Touval and William Zartman, "International Mediation in Theory and Practice," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 222-224.

Fen Hampson, "Why Orphaned Peace Settlements are More Prone to Failure," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 231-233.

Roy J. Lewicki and Edward C. Tomlinson, "Negotiations" in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 795-816.

Kenneth Kressel, "The Mediation of Conflict: Context, Cognition, and Practice," in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 817-848.

Beth Fisher-Yoshida, "Creating Constructive Communication through Dialogue" in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 877-897.

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.

Week Twelve: 23 November: Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Christopher Mitchell, *The Nature of Intractable Conflict: Resolution in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). "Termination I: Keeping the Peace," "Termination II: Resolving the Issues," "Creation: Towards Transformation."

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.

Roger Mac Ginty, "Hybrid Peace: The Interaction Between Top-Down and Bottom-Up Peace," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 316-324.

Stephen John Stedman, "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes," *International Security* 22:2 (Fall 1997): 5-53.

Week Thirteen: 30 November: Reconciliation Topic for final paper due

Ervin Staub, "Reconciliation between Groups: Preventing (New) Violence and Improving Lives," in Peter T. Coleman, Morton Deutsch, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Third Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2014), pp. 971-997.

Hizkias Assefa, "The Meaning of Reconciliation," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 236-242.

John Paul Lederach, "Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies," in *The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader*, edited by Woodhouse et al., (Polity, 2015), pp. 120-124.

Christopher Mitchell, *The Nature of Intractable Conflict: Resolution in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). "Reconciliation: Ending the Hatred."

Week Fourteen: 7 December: Analyzing Third Party Interventions

Ronald J. Fisher, "Assessing the Contingency Model of Third Party Intervention in Successful Cases of Prenegotiation," *Journal of Peace Research*, 44:3 (2007): pp. 311-329.

Mara Schoeny and Wallace Warfield, "Reconnecting Systems Maintenance with Social Justice: A Critical Role for Conflict Resolution," *Negotiation Journal* 16:3 (July 2000): 253-268.

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.

Hugo Slim, “Dealing with Moral Dilemmas” in *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*, Luc Reyhler and Thania Paffenholz, eds., (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2001), pp. 497-509.

Virginia Page Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (2004): 269-292.

14 December Final Paper on Emerging Trends in the Field Due