

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Section 003
Spring 2015

Lecture: Mondays - 7:20 pm - 10:00 pm
Classroom: Robinson Hall A412
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Office Hours: By Appointment (at office or via skype)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course! Global conflicts, while better understood today than they were fifty years ago, still remain some of the most puzzling phenomenon of social scientific inquiry. Understanding that is gleaned from one instance of global conflict is not always useful in another. Still, there are some human realities that span levels and types of conflict (i.e. power dynamics, identity, values, etc.). This course is aimed at exploring these realities.

To the tireless workers for peace and social justice around the world, conflict is an ever present, and at times overwhelming, aspect of post-modern existence. To social scientists from various fields of study, conflict is both an important agent of social change and a force of social destruction. Yet, despite one's perspective on a given conflict and/or the many examples of the difficulty in managing and transforming especially protracted varieties of conflict, at some minimum level analytical tools and practices do exist to better understand and attempt resolution of global conflicts. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the exploring and understanding of global conflict analysis and resolution. Drawing on literature and research from the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, International Relations, Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology, this class will examine the many theoretical and pragmatic approaches to conflict on the global level.

Conflict 340 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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 analyze/resolve 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

Summary of Assignments and Deadlines

This course will be evaluated in the following way:

Assignment	POINTS	Deadline
Crisis Updates	5	Every week by team of students
Pop Quizzes (4)	5 each	Not announced
International Negotiations Simulation (participation)	15	April 6, 13, 20, 27
International Negotiations Simulation (assignments)	10	April 15, April 22
ELA Debrief	5	May 4
Midterm Exam	15	February 23
Final Paper	30	May 8

Crisis Updates

In every class, a team of students (the instructor will arrange the teams) will make a 5-10 minutes update on one current international conflict (please get the opinion of the instructor on the conflict you picked). The main goal of this assignment is to be informed about the current conflicts in the world and to analyze their escalation and de-escalation processes.

What you need to do:

1. Find out who your team members are.
2. Discuss the potential current conflicts.
3. Pick two of them and ask the instructor if any of them is acceptable for the presentation
4. After getting approval, start analyzing the conflict with the team members. Please do not overload one of the team members. This is a team activity and everybody has responsibility in contributing the whole process.

5. Divide the workload to prepare the presentation.
6. Prepare the presentation by focusing on the origins of the conflict, main issues, the parties, the dynamics (escalation-deescalation), tactics used by the parties, and so on.
7. Please make your presentation colorful (use pictures, videos, graphs etc.)
8. You can use powerpoint, prezi or any other presentation tool.
9. Crisis Watch or BBC International can be good sources to use.
10. After your presentation is over, you will facilitate 10 minutes discussion on the conflict. Prepare 2-3 discussion points/questions to facilitate the discussion.
11. You have ONLY 5-10 minutes to finish your presentation.

Pop Quizzes

You will have 4 pop quizzes throughout this course. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced in advance. The quiz questions will come from the readings of that week. The questions will be short answered.

Midterm Exam

This will be an in-class exam and will be worth **of 15 points**. It will include a combination of brief definition of key concepts we will cover in our class and essay questions. You will be given 75 minutes to take the exam. The exam shall evaluate your familiarity with various conflict theories and models studied thus far. The additional questions on midterm will be discussed in the class.

International Negotiations Simulation

You will have an experiential learning activity (ELA) on the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Dispute and the Island Cyprus. This activity will be an opportunity for you to look at a conflict from a global conflict analysis and resolution perspective and to implement negotiation skills into a real-time conflict. **Participation into this activity is a MUST. You will be graded based on your participation into four sessions (preparation (1-2), Summit 1 and Summit 2). Your total participation grade is %15 in total. Since the activity needs your full participation, if you don't participate any of these four days, your total participation grade will be 0) and on the assignments related to the activity, your assignments will be %10 total. If you don't work with your team and if you skip writing your assignment, your total assignment grade will be 0.** More information on the activity will be provided in the class.

Final Individual Paper

This research paper will be based on an international conflict of your interest. Based on your research, the course lectures, readings and discussions, you will write 8-10 pages research paper (double spaced and 12pt Times New Roman font). Proper grammar and spelling, citations, cover pages, page numbering, footnotes, and bibliography is expected. If any of those

is missing, you can have 0.5 pts deduction. Final papers will be submitted to the blackboard safeassign. If you experience any technical problem while submitting your paper, please send your paper via email (gmesciog@gmu.edu).

Additional information on final paper will be provided in the class.

Your research librarian at Fenwick Library is Mary K Oberlies (703- 993-3709). Do not hesitate to contact her with specific questions about Library holdings and more general research methods. I also highly recommend using Zotero for your research, citations, and bibliographies. (See zotero.org).

Earning an Extra Point

Students can earn an extra 2 points by attending on/off campus event (it can be virtual event too). You should get the opinion of the instructor if the event you planned to go has relevance to the course and to write a reflection paper on it. The event should have information online so the instructor can analyze the information. After getting approval from the instructor, the student can write a 1-2 page double-spaced reflection on the event by answering these questions:

1. Who was the speaker (s)?
2. What was the topic of the event?
3. What were the main arguments of the speaker (s)?
4. Did you agree/disagree the speech (es) and why?
5. What was the most interesting information that you've received from the event?

You can attend maximum 2 events.

Special notes about grades and assignments:

- Late Assignments>Returns: In case of late return/assignment, 1 pt will be deducted every day until the assignment is received.
- All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review.
- Assignments NOT listed on the schedule may be assigned upon the discretion of the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as circumstances may dictate. All changes will be announced.
- Once you submit an assignment and receive a grade, you cannot resubmit corrections for more points!

GENERAL PAPER INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PAPER

1. Clear and sound content, including a well-stated thesis, related points to support that thesis, and applicable, logically presented, and specific evidence; clarity of argument.
2. Depth of engagement with ideas; originality; seriousness of thought; conceptual complexity.
3. Well-organized structure; text “flows” with coherent and effective transition between and among ideas; appropriate voice, tone, and style for audience and purpose (e.g. no slang or contractions); accurate word choice.
4. Sufficiently and consistently cited and documented; one style of citation used throughout the paper; references adequate number and appropriate type of sources; uses quotations and reference marks appropriately.
5. Correct mechanics including grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

Possible Cases for Research/Final Papers:

1. The Middle East: Syria, Arab Spring, Iraq, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Lebanon, Kurdish Problem in the Middle East (One from the list)
2. Africa: Darfur Crisis, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Congo (DRC), Rwanda (One from the list)
3. Caucasus and Central Asia: Georgia-Russia Conflict (Georgia-Abkhazia, South Ossetia and US dimensions), NATO Enlargement (One from the list)
4. Global Environmental Problems and Resource Conflicts: (Nation States, International Organizations, Ecologist Movements, Indigenous People)
5. Afghanistan
6. Kosovo, Greece-Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Religious Fundamentalism. (One from the list or your suggestion)

Plagiarism and Honor Codes:

You are expected to abide by George Mason University’s Honor Code while preparing all work for this class. If you have any questions about Honor Code issues (e.g., whether you are permitted to discuss an assignment with a fellow student), are uncertain about how to cite a source, or if you have observed Honor Code violations, please contact the Professor immediately.

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. There is a

plagiarism checker available to you via Blackboard.

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. SCAR's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

Grading:

The course will be graded according to the following:

Points Accumulated

95-100 A+	70- 74 B-
90-94 A	65-69 C
85-89 A-	60-64 C-
80-84 B+	50- 59 D
75-79 B	0-49 F

Opportunities to obtain additional bonus points will be made available throughout the semester. See below.

Student Services:

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 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 Materials (Required):

Ramsbotham, Miall, & Woodhouse (2011). *Contemporary conflict resolution.* Polity

Additional course materials will be posted on GMU blackboard. Course materials including syllabus, Power Point class notes, supplementary readings and other relevant materials will be available on GMU Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING
26-Jan	Introduction to the Course: Syllabus, Expectations, Course Design and what is conflict and peace?	Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 1
2-Feb	Global Conflicts Today	Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 3 Human Security Report (2013), Chapter 1 http://www.hsrgroup.org/docs/Publications/HSR2013/HSRP_Report_2013_140226_Web.pdf
9-Feb	Conflict Mapping	Chris Mitchell: SPITCEROW: Framework for the Analysis of Conflict Systems (on blackboard) Paul Wehr’s Conflict Mapping: http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/treatment/cmap.htm

CASE ANALYSIS

ISIS/ISIL

- Islamic State in Iraq and Syria

<http://www.cfr.org/iraq/islamic-state-iraq-syria/p14811>

- Areas Under ISIS Control

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/06/12/world/middleeast/the-iraq-isis-conflict-in-maps-photos-and-video.html?ref=middleeast&r=0>

- Syrian Uprising with an Uprising

http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_syrias_uprising_with_an_uprising238

- Iraq: Falluja's Faustian Bargain

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/iraq-iran-gulf/iraq/150-iraq-falluja-s-faustian-bargain.aspx>

16-Feb

Theories of Global Conflict

Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 4

Levy, J.S.2002. War and Peace. Handbook of International Relations, 352-55 (on blackboard)

Giddens, Chapter 1, in Runaway World: How Globalization is Reshaping our Lives (on blackboard)

23-Feb

MIDTERM EXAM

2-Mar

3rd Party Interventions

Fisher, Methods of Third-Party intervention, in Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation (on blackboard)

Bercovitch, Mediation in International Conflicts (on blackboard)

9-Mar

SPRING BREAK

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16-Mar	Conflict Prevention and Management	Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 5
	CASE ANALYSIS	Multilevel Peace Process in Tajikistan (Crocker et al. p.159-179 on blackboard)
23-Mar	Ending Violent Conflict Postwar Reconstruction	Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 7-8
	CASE ANALYSIS	Mediating Peace in Mozambique (Crocker et al., pp.245-273 on blackboard)
30-Mar	Reconciliation	Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 10
	CASE ANALYSIS	Reconciliation in Bosnia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia-Herzegovina Profile http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17212376 • Reconciliation in Bosnia http://www.beyondintractability.org/casestudy/malek-reconciliation • International War Crimes Tribunal http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/int-war-crime-tribunals • Trauma healing http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/trauma-healing
6-Apr	International Negotiations Simulation	Preparation: Introduction to the Simulation, Assignments, Distribution of the Roles, Introduction to the Cyprus Conflict Readings:

- Cyprus Conflict Timeline

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17219505>

- UN Resolution 550 (1984). This resolution can be accessed and printed from the following link:

[http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2006.nsf/All/C707D86260D21140C22571B5002F21BC/\\$file/Resolution%20550%201984.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2006.nsf/All/C707D86260D21140C22571B5002F21BC/$file/Resolution%20550%201984.pdf?OpenElement)

- Ahmet C. Gazioğlu, “Was Cyprus Ever Really United?”

<http://sam.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/AhmetGazioglu1.pdf>

- Ronald J. Fisher, “Cyprus: The Failure of Mediation and the Escalation of an Identity Based Conflict to an Adversarial Impasse” (on Blackboard)

13-Apr

International Negotiations Simulation

Preparation: Introduction to the Energy Dispute, Details of the Simulation

Readings:

The Cyprus Hydrocarbons Issue:

Context, Positions and Future Scenarios by Ayla Gürel
Fiona Mullen and Harry Tzimitras (on Blackboard)

Aphrodite’s Gift: Can Cypriot Gas Power A New Dialogue? (on Blackboard)

(Opening Statements Due April 15th)

20-Apr

International Negotiations Simulation

Summit Day 1

(Position Statements and Strategy Due April 22nd)

27-Apr International Negotiations Summit Day 2
Simulation

4-May Course Wrap Up, ELA
Debrief, Evaluations

8-May FINAL PAPER DUE