

CONF 665: Conflict Resolution in Complex Humanitarian Crises

Dr. Mazur

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Office Hours by Appointment

An Experiential Learning Class (Field Training Exercise or FTX)

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

George Mason University

Arlington, VA

Spring Semester 2016 3 credits

Founders Hall Room 312

Friday	February	19	7-9:30 pm
Friday	February	26	7-9:30
Friday	March	4	7-9:30
Thurs–Sun	March	10-13	Field Training Exercise, Fellsmere, Florida
Friday	March	18	7-9:30
Friday	April	1	7-9:30

Course Description: This unique, hands-on class is designed to simulate a humanitarian crisis and create the learning environment where participants actively practice and demonstrate the skills needed to lead through a crisis. Students will deploy to a fictional, war-torn country. By assuming a series of roles and responsibilities, students together seek to formulate and implement strategies and interventions for managing a disaster in a “lived” scenario. The students experience common obstacles, disputes, and challenges that must be proactively addressed and resolved as the exercise unfolds.

Learning Objectives: Students will

- Learn the skills and expertise needed to be a Conflict Resolution Professional who is working with and serving others under emergency conditions.
- Come to understand the varied issues of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.
- Practice how to prevent or alleviate human suffering through the simulation of many facets of disaster operations.
- Learn to analyze a multitude of interests, political concerns, and international and domestic issues. Students will understand and practice the skills of negotiating, mediating, organizing, and providing disaster relief services.
- Conduct a self-reflective analysis of the role of the Conflict Resolution Professional in a humanitarian crisis and analyze how practitioners can work better with others to design strategic plans for controlling violence and resolving conflict.

Class Meeting Times and Readings

- I. **Friday February 19 7-9:30 pm**
Introduction & Anatomy of a Crisis: Narratives, Framing & Meaning Making
Read before class: Boin, Arjen et al. The Politics of Crisis Management: Public Leadership Under Pressure, pp. 1-17; 69-88
Button, Gregory. Disaster Culture: Knowledge and Uncertainty in the Wake of Human and Environmental Catastrophe, pp. 11-18; 149-166
Klein, Naomi. The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, pp. 1-25
Perrow, Charles. Normal Accidents, pp. 3-31 & 62-100

- II. **Friday February 26 7-9:30 pm**
Who Should Intervene and How?
Materials handed out on Day One

- III. **Friday March 4 7-9:30 pm**
How Does One Prepare?
Materials handed out on Day One

- IV. **Thursday March 10-Sunday March 13**
Field Training Exercise Fellsmere, Florida
Read before class: Matyók, Thomas, Jessica Senehi, and Sean Byrne. Critical Issues in Peace and Conflict Studies: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy, pp. 3-18.
Mayer, Bernard S. The Dynamics of Conflict a Guide to Engagement and Intervention, pp. 211-68.

- V. **Friday March 18 7-9:30 pm**
How Do We Measure Resiliency & How Do We Capture Learning from the Last Disaster?
Read before class: Ramsbotham, Oliver, Hugh Miall, and Tom Woodhouse. Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts, pp. 185-215.

- VI. **Friday April 1 7-9:30 pm**
Final Presentations & Wrap Up
Read before class: Ripley, Amanda. The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes and Why, pp. 163-178.
Jeong, Peacebuilding Design, Chpt. 7, in Approaches to Peacebuilding, pp. 147-170.

Grading: Your grade in this class will be determined as follows:

Class Participation:	25%
Journal:	25%
Field Experience Participation:	25%
Final Paper:	25%

Journal

You will have an ongoing writing assignment, i.e., keeping a journal of your reactions to class, the readings, and the field experience. This should reflect your analysis of and reflections on what you are learning and experiencing. The journal should be between 7-12 pages. **Journal**

Deadline: Your Journal is due by noon on April 22.

Class Participation/Attendance Policy

Fifty percent (50%) of your grade will be based on class and field participation. Because of the nature of this course, it is vital that you attend, are prompt, and are well-prepared for each class. Your participation will include leading class discussions and reporting on key readings. Participation will reflect thoughtful reactions to the readings and class discussions. Your field experience requires that you be fully committed to the simulation and attend all activities. You will be expected to cooperate and strategize with you partners, team mates, and overall group.

Final Paper

By March 18, please submit a short statement of your thesis or topic. Please select a domestic or international disaster and analyze it from any perspective you prefer, e.g., environmental, media coverage, economic issues, leadership issues, etc. You may also select an issue and compare two different disasters. The role of conflict analysis and resolution must figure prominently in your research and analysis. Your paper should reflect your own thoughts and analysis. Most papers will be around 10-15 pages long (double spaced). Please schedule a time to discuss your topic with Dr. Mazur: 202.646.4094 or cmazur1@gmu.edu. **Paper Deadline: Your final paper is due by noon on April 22.**

George Mason Plagiarism Policy

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. George Mason takes plagiarism very seriously. Although great ideas are advanced through collaboration, please be very careful in your work for this class to ensure proper attribution of sources.

Bibliography and Additional Reading (Many available free online)

- Anderson, Mary B. *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace--or War*. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999. Print.
- Anderson, Mary. "Can My Good Intentions Make Things Worse? Lessons for Peacebuilding from the Field of International Humanitarian Aid." *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding: Into the Eye of the Storm*. Eds., Lederach et al. San Francisco: Wiley & Sons, 2002.
- Berkeland and Vermeulen, *Camp Management Toolkit* (Norwegian Red Cross, 2004)
<http://www.nrc.no/?did=9380550>
- Boin, Arjen et al. *The Politics of Crisis Management: Public Leadership Under Pressure*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Buchanan, Cate and Robert Muggah. *No Relief: Surveying the Effects of Gun Violence on Humanitarian and Development Personnel*, Geneva: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2005. (15 pages).
- Burgess, Heidi, and Guy Burgess. *Conducting Track II Peacemaking* Washington, D.C.; USIP, 2010. <http://www.usip.org/publications/conducting-track-ii-peace-making>
- Button, Gregory. *Disaster Culture: Knowledge and Uncertainty in the Wake of Human and Environmental Catastrophe*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast P, 2010. Print.
- Carle, Alexandre and Hakim Chkam. *Humanitarian Action in the New Security Environment: Policy and Operational Implications in Iraq*, Humanitarian Policy Group, 2006. (37 pages).
- Curle, Adam. *Tools for Transformation: A Personal Study*. Wallbridge, Stroud: Hawthorn P, 1990. Print.
- Diamond, Louise. *Multi-track Diplomacy: A Systems Approach to Peace*. 3rd ed. West Hartford, Conn: Kumarian P, 1996. Print.
- Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis. *Making War and Building Peace*, Princeton UP, 2006: Princeton.
- Dworkin, Anthony, Roy Gutman, and David Rieff. *Crimes of War*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007. <www.crimesofwar.org>.
- Forage, Paul, and Kristen Johnson, eds. *Humanitarian Operations A Field Guide*. Fort Pierce, FL: Consortium for Humanitarian Service and Education and the Humanitarian Training Initiative, Spring 2016.
- Gorman, David and Andre le Sage. *Engaging Armed Groups – the Practical Challenges: Negotiation Support*, Humanitarian Dialogue 4(c) 2004. (6 pages).
- Jeong, Ho-won, Ed. *Approaches to Peacebuilding*, Palgrave MacMillan: New York, 2002.
- Klein, Naomi. *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. 1st ed. New York: Picador, 2008. Print.
- Lee, Spike. *When the Levees Broke - A Requiem In Four Acts*. HBO Documentary Films, 2006. Film.
- Magone, Claire, Michael Neuman, and Fabrice Weissman, eds. *Humanitarian Negotiations Revealed: The MSH Experience*. New York: Columbia UP, 2011. (Doctors without Borders). <http://www.msf-crash.org/livres/en/book/export/html/97>.
- Mahoney, Liam. *Proactive Presence: Field Strategies for Civilian Protection*, Geneva: Centre

- for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2006. (160 pages).
- Mancini-Griffoli, Deborah and Hugo Slim. *“Interpreting Violence: Anti-civilian Thinking and Practice and How to Argue Against it More Effectively”*. Geneva: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2007. (33 pages).
- Mancini-Roth, Deborah and André Picot. *Humanitarian Negotiation: A handbook for Securing Access, Assistance and Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict*. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2004. <<http://www.hdcentre.org/publications/humanitarian-negotiation-handbook-securing-access-assistance-and-protection-civilians>>
- Matyók, Thomas, Jessica Senehi, and Sean Byrne. *Critical Issues in Peace and Conflict Studies: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy*. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2012. Print.
- Mayer, Bernard S. *The Dynamics of Conflict a Guide to Engagement and Intervention*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012. Print.
- Notter, James and Louise Diamond. “Building Peace and Transforming Conflict: Multi-Track Diplomacy in Practice.” The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy: Occasional Paper Number 7. October 1996.
- Pantuliano, Sara and Sorcha O’Callaghan. *The ‘Protection Crisis’: A Review of Field-based Strategies for Humanitarian Protection in Darfur*, HPG Discussion Paper December 2006. (32 pages).
- Perrow, Charles. *Normal Accidents: Living with High-Risk Technologies*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1999. Print.
- Ramsbotham, Oliver, Hugh Miall, and Tom Woodhouse. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts*. Cambridge, UK; Malden, MA: Polity, 2011. Print.
- Reticker, Gini. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. Passion River Films, 2009. Film.
- Ripley, Amanda. *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes - and Why*. New York: Crown, 2008. Print.
- Slim, Hugu. “*Idealism and Realism in Humanitarian Action*”, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (2005). (23 pages).
- Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, <http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/>. (One of the most widely known and Internationally recognized sets of common principles and universal minimum standards for the delivery of quality humanitarian response.)
- United Nations, *Aide Memoire for the Consideration of Issues Pertaining to the Protection of Civilians*, New York: United Nations, 2004. (22 pages).
- Waldman, Matt. *Caught in the Conflict: Civilians and the International Security Strategy in Afghanistan*, 2009. (27 pages).
- Wheeler, Victoria and Adele Harmer, eds. *Resetting the Rules of Engagement: Trends and Issues in Military–Humanitarian Relations*, Humanitarian Policy Group Report 21 (March 2006. (89 pages).
- Young, Helen, Susanne Jaspars, Rebecca Brown, Jackie Frize and Hisham Khogali. *Food-Security Assessments in Emergencies: a Livelihoods Approach*, Humanitarian Practice Network (June 2001). (35 pages).