

**CONF 101, Section 006  
CONFLICT AND OUR WORLD**

Semester:	Fall 2009
Class Time:	Thursday 7:30am – 10:15 am
Location:	Engineering 1108
Instructor:	Dr. Andrea Bartoli
Office Hour:	Room 508, Truland Building, Arlington <u>By appointment</u> 703-993-9716; <a href="mailto:abartoli@gmu.edu">abartoli@gmu.edu</a>
Assistant:	Haruka Nakayama; <a href="mailto:hnakayam@gmu.edu">hnakayam@gmu.edu</a>

Welcome to CONF 101 and to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This course provides you with a brief history of the field, a survey of key conflict resolution themes and theories, and intervention methods. Overview includes general factors of conflict and its resolution, and nature of conflict in interpersonal, group, organizational, and international situations. As the first and the introductory course, it is deliberately broad. You will discover many challenges and questions of the field. CONF 101 is only the beginning of your academic endeavor to find your own answers. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another of the themes covered in this introduction in greater depth.

In CONF 101, you will examine definitions of conflict and diverse views of and approaches to its resolution. You will explore thinking about human behavior and social systems as they relate to the origins of conflict and the role of conflict in violent and peaceful social change. You will be asked to think systematically and analytically about conflict. This course will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion and student participation. It is, therefore, crucial that students read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation in class discussions will be expected.

**Course Requirements:**

In addition to regular attendance and participation, 1) a short written comment at the end of each session with particular emphasis on one of the readings (you can choose any of the readings to comment on according to your interests and inclinations, 2) a short, mid-term take-home exam, 3) a group presentation of a case study, and 4) a final take-home exam are required

**1) Short Written Comment on Readings (10%):** At the end of each unit, you will write a short comment, with your thoughts, reflections, questions, etc, either on a 1-page Reflection Sheet given at the beginning of each class or online. These comments need not be a comprehensive coverage of the entire readings for the class, nor should they be summaries of the readings. Rather, this is an exercise to elicit your

critical reactions to the readings. The comments, therefore, should reflect your intellectual engagement with the questions, theories, or cases provided by the readings. You can focus on particular themes. The collection of these exercises will account for 10 percent of the final grade.

- 2) **The mid-term take-home exam (35%):** This exam will be handed out on October 1 and will be due at the beginning of class on October 8. A 7-10 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1' margin) will ask you to choose one of the essay questions and reflect critically on the themes covered by the prior sessions.
- 3) **The group presentation (25%)** is based on the same case study. Students will select one of three cases to analyze. A basic book that provides background to the case is designated below and should be sufficient to provide the details of the case. The object of this analytical presentation is to reflect on how one understands the tools of conflict analysis covered in the class. The assigned book and/or an article or two will be sufficient to provide the narrative of the case because the focus of the essay should be to demonstrate one's ability to apply concepts of conflict analysis, rather than an in-depth knowledge of a particular conflict.

Students will select and/or be assigned (in order to achieve rough balance in group size) to one case. The case list will include:

South Africa:

Patti Waldmeir, *Anatomy of a Miracle: The End of Apartheid and the Birth of the New South Africa* (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1997).

Copper Strike:

Jonathan D. Rosenblum, *Copper Crucible: How the Arizona Miners Strike of 1983 Recast Labor Management Relations in America*, 2nd ed. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998).

1968 Washington Riots:

Ben W. Gilbert, *Ten Blocks from the White House: Anatomy of the Washington Riots of 1968*. (New York: Praeger, 1968).

Students will have an opportunity at the beginning of the course to suggest and select –as a group- a new case. They will negotiate with the instructor the extra research work that will be needed for a successful competition of all tasks related to this assignment.

The students in each case study group will be asked to meet (time will be provided during class hours, but additional meetings or coordination by email, phone, or other means may be necessary as well). The group will develop a plan to present its understanding of the case. This may represent a consensus among the group or alternative perspectives may be presented. The group presentations (during Sessions 11 and 12) will be equally divided (time will be strictly enforced), followed by a general discussion in the class.

- 4) The final examination (40%)** will cover materials from throughout the class. A 12-15 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1' margin) will ask you to reflect critically on the themes, theories, or cases covered by the class, utilizing the theories of conflict analysis and resolution. This exam will be handed out on December 3 and will be due on December 10.

Delays, deferrals, or a grade of "incomplete" for the course will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis. Late papers will receive penalized points. Students should also read the statement of ICAR's Academic Standards and the University's Honor Code.

### **Readings:**

The following books will be available for purchase at the Bookstore. All other readings are on reserve in the Library, available through the library's electronic journals, or can be found online.

### **Required:**

Dean G. Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*, 3rd ed. (McGrawHill, 2004).

Ho-won Jeong, *Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, (Sage Publication, 2008).

### **Course Schedule:**

Session 1: (Thursday, September 3): Introduction & Defining Conflict and the Field of Conflict Resolution

This week will include self-introductions and a discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, and expectations for the course.

Pruitt and Kim, Ch. 1-2

Ho-won Jeong, ch. 1-2

## **I. Conflict: Sources, Processes, and Dynamics**

Session 2: (Thursday, September 10): Sources of Conflict

Ho-won Jeong, ch. 3-6

John W. Burton, "Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy," in Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, eds., *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application* (Manchester, 1993). E-reserve.

Session 3: (Thursday, September 17): Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 3-9

Ho-won Jeong, ch. 7-8

## **II. Conflict Management and Resolution**

Session 4: (Thursday, September 24): Negotiations and Third Party Intervention

Pruitt and Kim, ch. 10-11.

Ho-won Jeong, ch. 10

Session 5 (Thursday, October 1): Timing and Roles

Harold Saunders, "Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process," in Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, *Turbulent Peace*.

**The Mid Term Take-home exam will be distributed at the end of class**

Session 6 (Thursday, October 8): Ending conflict

Ho-won Jeong, ch. 11

**The Mid Term Take-home exam is due at the beginning of class**

Session 7 (Thursday, October 15): Peacemaking and Peacebuilding

Roy Licklider, "Obstacles to Peace Settlements," in *Turbulent Peace*.

Session 8 (Thursday, October 22): Reconciliation

Lederach, John Paul. 2002. "Civil Society and Reconciliation," Turbulent Peace: The challenges of managing international conflict. Eds. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela R. Aall. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2001. (E-reserves).

### **III. Conflict Case Studies**

Session 9 (Thursday, October 29): Case Analysis

Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class.

Session 10 (Thursday, November, 5): Case Analysis

Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class.

Session 11 (Thursday, November, 12): Case Study Group Presentations

Half of the groups presenting

Session 12 (Thursday, November, 19): Case Study Group Presentations

Half of the groups presenting

Session 13 (Thursday, December 3): Summation

The Final Take-home exam will be distributed

Session 14 (Thursday, December 10):

The Final Take-home Exam is due at the beginning of class.