

CONF 801: INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Semester: Fall 2011
Class Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm
Classroom: Founders Hall 481
Instructor: Terrence Lyons
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the course and to many of you welcome to S/CAR. 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 can just gesture at some of the important themes and issues that are developed at much greater depth in other courses.

Each of you has a Master's degree 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 build on this prior knowledge and will seek to dig deeper into these issues in a more focused manner. 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 and experience in class discussions is expected. 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 in S/CAR and, equally importantly, for the undertaking of your own original work in a doctoral project.

Final grades will be derived from participation (20 percent), three short papers (10 percent each for a total of 30 percent), and a final paper (50 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. 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 word) papers analyzing a particular week's set of readings. The 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.

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.

Final Paper. Each student will select a case of a protracted social conflict and write a 20 double-spaced page conflict analysis. The focus of this paper will be on applying the key concepts discussed in class to the particular case and to use the case to critique the concepts. This paper is worth 50 percent of the total grade. On November 30 and December 6 I will divide the class into panels and each student will present her or his work for 12-15 minutes, followed by a period of questions and answers. The final paper must be submitted as an email attachment in Word format by 4:30 pm on December 13. Please note the writing guidelines and citation requirements outlined below.

Writing Guidelines

Your written assignments for this class will be graded according to the following criteria. The relative weight given to each of these categories will vary depending on the nature of the assignment.

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. Sufficient and consistent citations and documentation according to the Chicago Manual of Style (see below); references adequate number and appropriate type of sources; uses quotations and reference marks appropriately.
5. Correct mechanics including grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

All papers should be thoroughly proofread before being handed in, and will be marked down for excessive typographical errors. Quality of writing is critical because if the writing is poor, then you are likely to be unable to communicate clearly an argument that is clear and carefully supported.

Reference and Citation System

As noted above, it is essential that your written work make proper use of references and citations. Your ability to learn from, integrate, and synthesize other sources in the context of your own arguments is a large part of how your writing will be assessed. In particular, any time you use the words or ideas of another author, you must provide a reference.

Whenever another author's exact words are used, they must be set apart from your text "in quotes," with a proper citation included.

Learning to make proper use of referencing and citation systems is a part of your overall graduate education. For this class, you will be **required** to use the **Chicago Manual of Style** citation system, with in-text citations and an accompanying list of references at the end of your paper. A quick guide to this system is available at: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

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 also read Peter Coleman, *The Five Percent: Finding Solutions to Seemingly Impossible Conflicts* and John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, both available for purchase at the university bookstore. The password to access CONF 801 e-reserves is "power."

Week One: August 31: 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. Available through e-reserves.

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>)

Week Two: September 7: 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 such as Dean Pruitt. Please review the following.

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. Available through e-reserves.

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

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

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. Available through e-journals.

Walter G. Stephan, "Psychological and Communication Processes Associated with Intergroup Conflict Resolution," *Small Group Research* 39 (February 2008): 28-41. Available through e-journals.

Douglas McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly, "To Map Contentious Politics," *Mobilization* 1:1 (March 1996): 17-34. Available through e-reserves.

Week Three: September 14: Psychology, Social Psychology

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

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. Available through e-reserves.

Roy J. Lewicki, "Trust, Trust Development and Trust Repair," in Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Second Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006), pp. 92-121. Available through e-reserves.

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: September 21: Rational Choice

Michael Nicholson, "Negotiation, Agreement and Conflict Resolution: The Role of Rational Approaches and Their Criticism," in *New Directions in Conflict Theory: Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation*, Raimo Vayrynen, ed. (Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1991). Available through e-reserves.

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 169-186. Available through e-reserve.

C. Cramer, "*Homo Economicus* Goes to War: Methodological Individualism, Rational Choice and the Political Economy of War," *World Development* 30:11 (November 2002): 1845-1864. Available through e-journals.

Stuart Kaufman, "Symbolic Politics or Rational Choice: Testing Theories of Extreme Ethnic Violence," *International Security* 30:4 (2006): 45-86. Available through e-journals.

Week Five: September 28: Political Economy

Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, "Civil War," *Journal of Economic Literature* 48:1 (2010): 3-57. Available through e-journals.

Patricia Justino, "Poverty and Violent Conflict: A Micro-Level Perspective on the Causes and Duration of Warfare," *Journal of Peace Research* 46:3 (May 2009): 315-333. Available through e-journals.

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington DC: The World Bank, 2011). Available at <http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext>.

Week Six: October 5: Mobilization and Institutions

Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics* 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 1998), Ch. 1, 5. Available through e-reserve.

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

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

Jeremy M. Weinstein, "Resource and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:4 (August 2005): 598-624. Available through e-journals.

Week Seven: October 12: Culture

Peter W. Black and Kevin Avruch "Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings," in *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice*, edited by Denis J. D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe. (Manchester University Press, 1993).

Paul R. Kimmel, "Culture and Conflict," in Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman, and Eric C. Marcus, eds. *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Second Edition (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2006), pp. 625-648.

Guy Olivier Faure, "Culture and Conflict Resolution," in Jacob Bercovitch, Victor Kremenyuk, and I. William Zartman, eds., *SAGE Handbook of Conflict Resolution* (Sage, 2010): 506-524.

Week Eight: October 19: Dynamics: Intractability and Escalation

Peter Coleman, *The Five Percent: Finding Solutions to Seemingly Impossible Conflicts* (New York: Public Affairs, 2011).

Week Nine: October 26: Negotiations and Third Party Roles

Ronald J. Fisher and Loreleigh Keashly, "The Potential Complementarity of Mediation and Consultation within a Contingency Model of Third Party Consultation," *Journal of Peace Research* 28:1 (1991): 29-42. Available through e-journals.

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). Available through e-reserves.

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

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. Available through e-reserves.

Week Ten: November 2: Analyzing Third Party Interventions

Marc Howard Ross, "Creating the Conditions for Peacemaking: Theories of Practice in Ethnic Conflict Resolution," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23:6 (2000): 1002 -1034. Available through e-journals.

Gavriel Salomon, "Does Peace Education *Really* Make a Difference?" *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* 12:1 (2006): 37-48. Available through e-journals.

Adrienne Dessel and Mary E. Rogge, "Evaluation of Intergroup Dialogue: A Review of the Empirical Literature," *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* 26:2 (Winter 2008): 199-238. Available through e-journals.

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. Available through e-journals.

Reina C. Neufeldt, "Interfaith Dialogue: Assessing Theories of Change," *Peace and Change* 36:3 (July 2011): 344-372. Available through e-journals.

Week Eleven: November 9: Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

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. Available through e-reserves.

David A. Lake, "Building Legitimate States after Civil Wars," in *Strengthening Peace in Post-Civil War States: Transforming Spoilers into Stakeholders*, edited by Caroline Hartzell and Matthew Hoddie, (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2010): 29-51. Available through e-reserves.

Michael W. Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis, "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 94:4 (December 2000): 779-801. Available through e-journals.

Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk, "Introduction: Understanding the Contradictions of Postwar Statebuilding," in Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk, eds., *The Dilemmas of*

Statebuilding: Confronting the Contradictions of Postwar Peace Operations (London: Routledge, 2009): 1-20.

Stedman, Stephen John. "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes." *International Security* 22:2 (Fall 1977): 5-53. Available through e-journals.

Michael Pugh, "Peacekeeping and Critical Theory," *International Peacekeeping* 11:1 (Spring 2004): 39-58. Available through e-journals.

Week Twelve: November 16: Reconciliation

John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Week Thirteen: November 23: Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Week Fourteen: November 30: Presentations of Research Papers

Week Fifteen: December 7: Presentations of Research Papers

Week Sixteen: December 14: Final Paper Due