Syllabus
CONF 101, Section 001
Conflict and Our World:
Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Spring 2013

Instructor: Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr.   Email: sjohnsl@gmu.edu
Thursdays; 5:55 pm – 7:10pm   Office: Robinson B 365
Classroom: Robinson Hall B103   Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:45pm- 5:45pm or
                                          by appointment

Conflict is an inherent part of human existence. A conflict may be destructive or constructive.
Apart from these, a conflict may be inter-personal, national, transnational or international. The
rise in global interconnectedness has increased the need for more attention to ways in which
societies – both non-conflict and post-conflict – can prevent and transform conflict productively.

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of conflict analysis and resolution. It
will examine structural, and cultural factors that give rise to conflicts, and actions that can be
taken to mitigate the destructive aspects of conflicts while reinforcing their constructive
potential. Apart from a general overview, the course will examine various approaches to
analyzing and intervening in conflict, and the post-conflict situations.

Attendance is mandatory and crucial to your likelihood of succeed in this course. You are
expected to complete the assigned readings before each class.

We will have two Experiential Learning Activities (ELAs) during the course of the semester in
the weeks of March 21, and April 4, 2013. These ELAs are essential for the course and you will
have graded assignments based on each.

Classroom etiquette: Be prepared and on time in. Switch off your cell phones, pagers, beepers,
etc. Do not leave the room during class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by
talking, passing notes, playing video games, etc. Do not check email or surf the web. Be mindful
of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue
are our goal.

Conflict 101 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral
Sciences.

Assignments, Percentages of Grade, Due Dates

Participation   10%
    Assessed throughout the semester and includes participation
    in class discussions

2 Reflection Papers on Experiential Learning Activities, 10% each   20%

Due on March 28 and April 11

2 Short Papers (3 pages), 10% each	20%

Due on February 14 and March 21

One In-Class Midterm Exam	20%

February 28, 2013

Final Exam	30%

May 9, 2013

Except for documented personal illness or family emergency, there will be no make-up exams or extensions of deadlines for assignments. Students with documented disabilities who would be in need of such exceptions or special arrangements should contact me early in the term.

Guidelines for preparing the short essays will be provided in class.

You are expected to abide by George Mason University's Honor Code for every work you do in this class. Please contact me if you have any questions about Honor Code issues (e.g., whether you are permitted to discuss an assignment with a fellow student).

Student Resources

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).

Library Services

The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution library liaison is Mary Oberlies. Do not hesitate to contact her with specific questions about holdings and research in these areas or whom to contact for materials in Fenwick Library.

Required Readings:

These books have been ordered through the University Bookstore:

Kriesberg, Louis and Bruce W. Dayton. Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution. 4th Edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.

Cochrane, Feargal. Ending Wars. Malden: Polity Press, 2008

All other readings are available through the library e-reserve or e-journal services.

It is highly recommended that you follow current events in your community and the world in general. Apart from following current events, you are strongly encouraged to use your readings as the central part of our classroom discussions in ways that advance and deepen the discussion. Liberia will be the focus of our two ELAs. You should therefore follow events about Liberia and conflicts in West Africa. In addition to the main media sites (CNN, Washington Post) the BBC (www.bbc.co.uk/news/) and AllAfrica.com are good starting points for news about Africa.

COURSE AGENDA

Week 1 (January 24):   Introduction to the Field of Conflict Resolution
        Introductions, Syllabus Review, Course expectations
        Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 31): Nature of Conflict
        Readings: Cochrane, 12-38; Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 2

Week 3 (February 7): Sources of Conflict I
     Readings: Burton, 32-40; Galtung 39-53 (available through e-reserves); Kriesberg and
     Dayton, Chapter 2. Stathis Kalyvas, 16-31 (available through e-reserves).

Week 4 (February 14): Sources of Conflict II
     Readings: Collier, 197-216 (available through e-reserves); Murshed, 1-15
     (available through e-reserves)
     First Short Paper Due

Week 5 (February 21): Sources of Conflict III
     Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 3.Volkan, 79-91 (available through e-reserves);
     Cook-Huffman (available through e-reserves).

Week 6 (February 28): MID TERM EXAMS (In Class)

Week 7 (March 7): Approaches to Analyzing Conflict and Conflict Strategies
     Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 4; Kriesberg, 455 – 476; Ramsbotham et al, 3 –
     34 (available through e-reserves); Dugan, 365 - 369.

Week 8 (March 14):   NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK March 11 – 17

Week 9 (March 21) Experiential Learning Activity I
 Liberia General Country Overview; Group analysis and presentations
     Second Short Paper Due

Week 10 (March 28): Conflict De-escalation and Intervention
     Readings: Kriesberg and Dayton, Chapter 7; Zartman and Touval, 437- 454 (available
     through e-reserves); Cochrane, 101 – 125; 150 – 183.
     Experiential Learning Activity I Response Paper Due

Week 11 (April 4): Experiential Learning Activity II

Week 12 (April 11): Peacebuilding I: Statebuilding
     Readings: Barnett, M., Kim, H., O'Donnell, M., and Sitea, L., 2007, 'Peacebuilding: What
     is in a Name?' Hampson and Mendeloff; Doe, 1-16 (all available through e-reserves)
     Experiential Learning Activity II Response Paper Due

Week 13 (April 18): Civil Society and Reconciliation
     Readings: Belloni, 182-210; Lederach, 23-35; Assefas, 337 – 342; (all available through
     e-reserves)

Week 14 (April 25): Conflict Prevention: Conflict-Sensitive Development
     Readings: Azar, 93 – 120; Leonhardt, 39-56
     Wam, 83-207; Woodrow and Chigas, 1- 12 (all available through e-reserves)

Week 15 (May 2): Integration

E-Reserve/E-Journal/Reading List

The following readings are available on e-reserves or e-journals:

Asefas, Hizkias. 2001. " Reconciliation." In *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide.* Luc Reychler and Thania Paffenholz, eds. Boulder, Colarado: Lynne Rienner Pubishers, 337 – 342.

Azar, Edward E. 1991. "The Analysis and Management of Protracted Conflicts." In *The Psychodynamics of International Relationships* . Vamik D. Volkan, Joseph Montville, and Demetrios A. Julius, eds. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1991, 93 – 120.

Barnett, M., Kim, H., O'Donnell, M., and Sitea, L. 2007, 'Peacebuilding: What is in a Name?', Global Governance, 13 (2007): 35-38.

Belloni, Roberto. "Civil Society in War-to-Democracy Transitions." In *From War to Democracy: Dilemmas of Peacebuilding.* Anna K. Jarstad, and Timothy D. Sisk, eds. New York: Cambridge University Press, 182-210.

Burton, John. 1997. "Needs Theory." In *Violence Explained*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 32-40.

Cook-Huffman, Celia. "The Role of Identity in Conflict." In *Handbook of Conflict Resolution*.Dennis J. D. Sandole, et al. eds. New York: Routledge, 2011, 19-31.

Collier, Paul. 2007. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 197-216.

Doe, Samuel Gbaydee. 2009. "Indigenizing Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: A Conceptual Framework." *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* 2:1 (2009): 1-16.

Dugan, Marie A. 2001. "Imaging the Future: A Tool for Conflict Resolution." In *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide.* Luc Reychler and Thania Paffenholz, eds. Boulder, Colarado: Lynne Rienner Pubishers, 365- 369.

Galtung, Johan. 1969. "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research," *Journal of Peace Research* 6:3 (1969): 167-191.

Hampson, Fen Osler, and David Mendeloff. 2001. "Intervention and the Nation-Building Debate." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 679-697.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2007. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 16-31.

Leonhardt, Manuela. 2002. **"**Providing Aid Agencies with Tools for Conflict-Sensitive Practice: Lessons Learned from Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA)". *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, 1:1 (2002): 39-56. Available at **http://www.ingentaconnect.com.mutex.gmu.edu/content/jpd/jpd/2002/00000001/00000001/art00004**

Kriesberg, Louis. 2001. "Contemporary Conflict Resolution," In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, pp. 455-476.

Lederach, John Paul. 1997. "Reconciliation: the Building of Relationship." In *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 23-35.

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. 2011. "Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions." In Contemporary Conflict Resolution. 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 3-34.

Shaw, Rosalind. 2007. "Memory Frictions: Localizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone." *International Journal of Transitional Justice.* 1 (2007): 183-207. Available at http://ijtj.oxfordjournals.org.mutex.gmu.edu/content/by/year/2009.

Murshed, Mansoob Syed. 2007. The conflict-growth nexus and the poverty of nations. *DESA Working Paper* 43 (2007). Available at http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2007/wp43_2007.pdf.

Volkan, Vamik D. 2001. "Transgenerational Transmissions and Chosen Traumas: An Aspect of Large-Group Identity." *Group Analysis* 34:1 (2001): 79-97.

Wam, Per Egil, 2010 "Can Poverty Reduction Strategies Stem Violence and Build Peace? Some Lessons for Conflict Affected Countries", Journal of Peacebuilding and Development 5:2 (2010): 86-91.

Woodrow, Peter and Chigas, Diana. 2009. "A Distinction with a Difference: Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding." Reflecting on Peace Practice Project, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects (2009). Available at http://www.cdainc.com/cdawww/pdf/article/RPP_Differentiating_Conflict_Sensitivity_and_Peacebuilding.pdf .

Zartman, I. William, and Touval, Saadia. 2007. "International Mediation." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*. Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, pp. 437-454.