

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Section 003
Fall 2014

Lecture: Wednesdays- 1:30 pm - 4:10 pm
Classroom: West 1004

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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
Online Discussions (2)	5 each	First two weeks during regular class time
Crisis Updates	5	Every week different students
Pop Quizzes (3)	5 each	Not announced
International Negotiations Simulation (participation)	15	November 5, 12, 19
International Negotiations Simulation (assignments)	10	November 5, 12
Midterm Exam	15	October 1
Final Paper	30	December 10

Online discussions (only for August 27th and September 3rd)

Online discussions will be the reflections of the course materials including lectures, reading materials and videos. Students will watch a movie related to the course materials and answer discussion questions in an initial post. There is not a specific format for the answers. After that post, each student needs to reply the posts of other students at least two times. You will earn 5 pts total from the discussion assignment (initial post 3 pts, replies 1 pt each).

Crisis Updates (other than first two weeks)

In every class, a team of students (the instructor will arrange that) will make a 5-10 minutes update on current conflicts in the world. 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. This team of students should contact each other before the class and divide the workload among themselves. They can choose some of the major ongoing conflicts and make

an update on them. We are not expecting to hear about every conflict in the world! There is only 10 minutes max. to make this presentation. The students can use power point presentation or prezzi if they'd like to use. Crisis Watch or BBC International can be good sources to use.

Pop Quizzes

You will have 4 pop quizzes throughout this course. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced in advance. The topics of the quizzes will be about the readings of the same week.

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 three sessions (preparation, 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 the three 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 and the papers will be given in class.

Final Individual Paper

This research paper will be based on an international conflict of your interest. You will make a research on your topic and use course content (lectures, readings, discussions) in order to create your paper. The paper should be between eight to ten pages (8-10) in length, 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)

Papers should include at least five bibliographic references that should be drawn from research resources (not including i.e. Wikipedia or sparknotes). 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)

The event should have information online so the instructor can analyze the information and approve its relevancy to the class. Then, the student can attend it and 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?

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
27-Aug	Introduction to the Course: Syllabus, Expectations, Course Design and what is conflict and peace?	Ramsbotham et al. , Chapter 1
3-Sep	Global Conflicts Today	Ramsbotham et al. , Chapter 3 and 4
10-Sep	Conflict Mapping	Sandole, D.J.D. , Chapter 3: "Typology" (in Cheldelin, Druckman, & Fast, 2003) pp:42-58 (on blackboard) 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
17-Sep	Macro Theories of Global Conflict	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) Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations." Foreign Affairs 3: 22-49 (on blackboard)
24-Sep	Micro Theories of Global Conflict	Rubenstein, R.E. Chapter 4: "Sources" (in Cheldelin et al., 2003) pp.58-71 (on blackboard) Jeong, H. , Chapter 3: "Sources of Conflict" pp:43-63 (on blackboard)
1-Oct	MIDTERM EXAM	
8-Oct	3rd Party Interventions	Fisher , Methods of Third-Party intervention, in Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation (on blackboard) Bercovitch , Mediation in International Conflicts (on blackboard)
15-Oct	Ending War and Designing Peace Agreements	Ramsbotham et al. , Chapter 7 Barbara Walter , "Designing Transitions from Civil War," in

Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder, eds., *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 38-72. (on blackboard)

22-Oct Post-War Reconstruction
Peacebuilding

Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 8
Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 9

29-Oct Reconciliation

Ramsbotham et al., Chapter 10

5-Nov International Negotiations
Simulation

Preparation

12-Nov International Negotiations
Simulation

Summit Day 1 (Opening Statements Due)

19-Nov International Negotiations
Simulation

Summit Day 2 (Position Statements Due)

26-Nov THANKSGIVING RECESS (NO CLASS)

3-Dec LAST DAY OF THE CLASS-Wrap Up

10-Dec **FINAL PAPER DUE**