

## Syllabus: Theory of Conflict Analysis and Resolution CONF 210.002 – Spring 2013

### Contact Information

Avideh Mayville, Graduate Lecturer

Email: [amayvill@gmu.edu](mailto:amayvill@gmu.edu)

Office hours: By appointment

### Course Description

Welcome to Theory of Conflict Analysis and Resolution! In this introductory course, you will become familiar with foundational theories and perspectives that have shaped conflict analysis and resolution as a field. This course will give you a greater theoretical understanding of the underlying causes of conflict and methods for resolution so that you will have a greater capacity to understand the context of conflict. By the end of this course, each student should have a firm understanding of the assigned materials and should be able to comfortably explain, apply, and critique theories of conflict analysis and resolution. Students of this course will have a greater comprehension of the complexity of human conflict and the ways in which to resolve conflicts to create a framework for an enduring peace. The readings in this course are by no means exhaustive, but will provide an adequate introduction to the theoretical underpinnings of the conflict resolution field.

### Required Text and Supplemental Readings

Betts, Richard. *Conflict After the Cold War*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York City: Pearson Education, 2008. Link: [https://is.muni.cz/do/fss/57816/40125114/Betts - Conflict After the Cold War 1-167.pdf](https://is.muni.cz/do/fss/57816/40125114/Betts_-_Conflict_After_the_Cold_War_1-167.pdf)

Burton, John. "Conflict Prevention as a Political System." *The International Journal of Peace Studies*, 6, No. 1. (Spring 2001). Link: [http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol6\\_1/Burton2.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol6_1/Burton2.htm)

Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72, Vol. 3. (Summer 1993). Link: <http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/faculty/hauser/PS103/Readings/HuntingtonClashOfCivilizationsForAffSummer93.pdf>

Kant, Immanuel. *Perpetual Peace*. 1795. Link: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm>

Maiese, Michelle. "Destructive Escalation" *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. (September 2003). Link: <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/escalation>

Mearsheimer, John. "Why We Will Soon Miss The Cold War." *The Atlantic Monthly*, 266, No. 2. (August 1990). Link: <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0014.pdf>

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011.

## **Grading**

### Summary/Reflection Assignment (20%)

Every class students are required to submit a single-spaced one-page summary and reflection on the reading assignment. You may prepare this assignment in whichever format you prefer – you may choose to keep the summary and reflection portions separate, or you may embed your reflection within your summary. As this assignment is only one page, I am looking primarily to see that you have grasped the main concepts in the readings. In the reflections, I am looking for you to express your thoughts on what you have read, including anything that you are unclear about. Use the reflection as a space in which you pose questions, challenge, or apply what you have read. Please do not write more than one page.

### Midterm Paper (30%)

You will be required to submit a five to six page midterm paper in response to a prompt that will be handed out in class. Further instruction will be provided prior to the midterm.

### 10 page final paper (35%)

You will write a ten-page paper, which will serve as the final exam for this course. You may (1) choose to critique a concept of conflict analysis or resolution we covered in class, (2) compare concepts, (3) or do a conflict case study in which you identify the causes and potential policy prescriptions based upon what we have covered in class to a conflict of your choice. You may work with a partner on your final paper if you choose to do the conflict case study, but if you choose to do so your paper should be thirteen to fifteen pages. Your topic must be approved by the instructor two weeks prior to due date. Further instruction will be provided near the end of the term.

### Participation and in-class group work (15%)

Every class, two students will be asked to provide discussion questions for the discussion section of class. Those students will be responsible for facilitating group discussion on the questions during class. Your instructor must approve the discussion questions in class the week before you are expected to lead discussion. As for class participation, I expect everyone to make a reasonable effort to be engaged and participate in class discussions and group work.

## **Class Policies**

### Attendance Policy

If you will be absent, please let me know BEFORE the class you miss. According to school policy, you get two free absences. Beyond that, you will be penalized proportionately to the number of classes you miss. With that stated if you are sick, please do NOT come to class. I do not want your germs and presumably, neither do your classmates. If you cannot come to class due to religious or athletic reasons OR if you are sick for more than two classes, talk to me and we will figure something out.

### Honor Code

All students are expected to adhere to the honor code. You may view George Mason University's honor code here: <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/masons-honor-code/>. The code states, "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work." Students are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, examinations of whatever kind, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Students are responsible for learning the conventions of documentation and acknowledgment of sources. I expect students to complete all examinations, tests, papers, creative projects, and assignments of any kind according to the highest ethical standards, as set forth either explicitly or implicitly in George Mason University's honor code.

### Emergency Preparedness

George Mason University maintains an all-hazard Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with state requirements. Mason's Emergency Operations Plan defines the structure and general procedures that should be followed in an emergency. This plan is supported by Emergency Support Functions that help direct function-specific (i.e., communications, transportation, mass care, etc.) response activities. Hazard-specific plans have been developed to respond to unique emergency events and are integrated into the Emergency Operations Plan. For more information, see the following link: [http://ehs.gmu.edu/guides\\_EP.html](http://ehs.gmu.edu/guides_EP.html)

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 1	January 21	No reading - Introduction
Week 2	January 28	Betts (p. 60-86): Machiavelli – “Doing Evil in Order to Do Good”; Hobbes – “The State of Nature and the State of War”; Carr – “Realism and Idealism” - <a href="https://is.muni.cz/do/fss/57816/40125114/Betts_-_Conflict_After_the_Cold_War_1-167.pdf">https://is.muni.cz/do/fss/57816/40125114/Betts_-_Conflict_After_the_Cold_War_1-167.pdf</a>
Week 3	February 4	Kant - <a href="https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm">https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm</a>
Week 4	February 11	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall – Chapter 1: Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions

Week 5	February 18	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall – Chapter 2: Conflict Resolution: Origins, Foundations and Development of the Field
Week 6	February 25	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall – Chapter 3: The Statistics of Deadly Quarrels and the Measurement of Peace
Week 7	March 4	Maiese - <a href="http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/escalation">http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/escalation</a> ; Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, Miall - Chapter 4: Understanding Contemporary Conflict
Week 8	March 11	SPRING BREAK
Week 9	March 18	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 5: Preventing Violent Conflict
Week 10	March 25	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 6: Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping
Week 11	April 1	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 7: Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking, Chapter 8 (209-225), Chapter 9 (227-231), Chapter 10 (247, 250-58)
Week 12	April 8	Mearsheimer - <a href="http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0014.pdf">http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0014.pdf</a>
Week 13	April 15	Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 11: Towards a Cosmopolitan Conflict Resolution
Week 14	April 22	Huntington - <a href="http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/faculty/hauser/PS103/Readings/HuntingtonClashOfCivilizationsForAffSummer93.pdf">http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/faculty/hauser/PS103/Readings/HuntingtonClashOfCivilizationsForAffSummer93.pdf</a> ; Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 15: Culture, Religion, and Conflict Resolution (332-346)
Week 15	April 29	Burton - <a href="http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol6_1/Burton2.htm">http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol6_1/Burton2.htm</a> ; Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall - Chapter 19: Conflict Resolution: Theories and Critiques, Chapter 20: Conflict Resolution and the Future (414-427)