

**Conflict 501, Section 001**  
**Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution**

Truland Building 333A  
Arlington Campus, George Mason University  
Spring Semester 2006  
Mondays: 7:20 to 10:00 pm

**Instructor:** Craig Zelizer

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

Welcome to the course and to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR). This class is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution, and as the first that many at ICAR will take, it is deliberately broad. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another themes in this introduction in greater depth.

The following are the core course objectives:

**Course Objectives**

1. *The course will provide an overview of the field of conflict analysis and resolution research, theory, and practice. The course will prepare participants to think analytically about social conflicts and use various models to understand conflict dynamics, processes, and levels of analysis.*
2. *Participants will learn to connect particular forms of analysis with the theoretical and worldview assumptions that underpin them. Course participants will critically examine the underlying assumptions of theories of conflict, and their application in resolution.*
3. *The class will facilitate the exchange of experience between the participants and instructors through discussions, written assignments, and in-class activities.*

**Course Expectations**

1. **Consistent attendance.** As with all classes at ICAR, in order to obtain a passing grade a student needs to attend classes regularly. Excessive absences may result in a reduced grade.
2. **Effective preparation.** Each class period will involve guided discussions and your participation is essential. Completing the readings prior to each class will help facilitate class discussions and prepare you for the exams.
3. **Class Participation.** The class will be highly interactive in nature and your contributions will help ensure the success of the class. The class format will

consist of large group discussions, small group discussion, exercises, class activities, etc.

4. **Course completion.** In keeping with departmental policy, incomplete grades will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family illness.

## Course Requirements

Each assignment will be graded according to the point scale outlined below. The maximum total points are 100. The final grade for this course will be based on the GMU system (outlined in the catalog), using a passing scale of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, etc. For more information on grading see the University Catalog <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/graduate.html>

1. **Mid-term take home exam & Final take home exam** (Mid-Term up to 20 points, Final Exam up to 25 points)

To maximize in-class time, both the mid-term and final will be take-home exams. The final exam will be cumulative, with more emphasis on the material from the last part of the semester.

2. **Group case study project** (Up to 25 points of your final grade)

The group case study project will include three or four class groups, each analyzing a separate conflict. These groups will be formed during the third class and will work throughout the semester to study a particular conflict from optional readings. The groups will work together to apply the concepts, theories, and ideas presented in the course to analyze a conflict and suggest a conflict resolution strategy. Groups will meet occasionally during class time, but outside meetings will also be necessary. At the end of the semester each group will make a formal presentation to the class and provide the instructor with a copy of the presentation materials. Participants are encouraged to be creative and use different approaches in their presentations.

### *Analysis Group Topics This Semester are:*

*Rwanda; The Northern Forests; The Move Conflict in Philadelphia; Colombia*

3. **Individual analytical case study** (Up to 25 points of your final grade)

To be an individual assignment on a specific conflict. Students will be responsible for providing an overview of a conflict of their choice, an analysis of the current situation and its dynamics, and propose potential avenues of resolution using class and outside materials. The assignment could consist of an academic paper (15-20 pages double space), multimedia, video, etc. The topic and the form of the assignment need to be

decided (in consultation with the instructor) by the fourth week of the course. The goal of this paper is to apply the concepts from class to analyzing and understanding the case study topic. Therefore general background information on the conflict can be summarized in several pages with the bulk of the paper demonstrating ability to conduct the analysis.

Students looking suggestions for formatting and style options may consult the ICAR Style Sheet for Academic Writing

[http://icar.gmu.edu/newstudent/Appendix\\_I.pdf](http://icar.gmu.edu/newstudent/Appendix_I.pdf)

Students should also read the statement of ICAR's academic standards

[http://icar.gmu.edu/newstudent/Appendix\\_L.pdf](http://icar.gmu.edu/newstudent/Appendix_L.pdf)

#### **4. Participation** (Up to 5 points).

All students are encouraged to attend class and actively participate in class discussions, assignments, etc. If a student has excessive absences then his or her participation grade may be reduced.

#### **REQUIRED BOOKS (Available from GMU Bookstore)**

Augsburger, D. (1992). *Conflict Mediation Across Cultures. Pathways and Patterns*. Louisville: Westminster/John Prince.

Kriesberg, L. (2002) *Constructive Conflicts. From Escalation to Resolution*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2nd edition.

Lederach, J. P. (1997). *Building Peace Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute for Peace Press

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. & Miall, H. (2005) *Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts*. Blackwell Publishing Professional; 2nd edition

#### **Case Study Books (Groups will be formed by third week of class)**

Gourcevitch, P. (1998) *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: stories from Rwanda*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux,

Hizkias, A & Wahrhaftig, P. (1990) *The Move Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh, Press

Kirk, R. (2003). *More Terrible Than Death. Massacres, Drugs, and America's War in Colombia*. New York: Public Affairs.

Klayza C.M. & Trombulak, S.C (1994) *The Future of the Northern Forest*. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England

### **E-reserves Readings**

For many weeks, E-reserve articles are assigned. These articles can be downloaded in PDF format from the Library's E-reserve section at <http://oscr.gmu.edu/> by selecting the course # and entering the class password.

### **Online Readings**

For several weeks, additional online readings are required (the links are listed in the syllabus).

## Course Syllabus

Apart from students' own case studies, the class will use a number of recent examples of conflict to illustrate various theoretical aspects of conflict and its resolution. These will involve interpersonal, inter-group, intra-community, organizational, and international cases.

### Week 1: January 23, 2006 Introduction

- Welcome to the course and ICAR
- Overview of course and syllabus
- Expectations
- What is conflict?
- What is the field?

### Week 2: January 30, 2006, Overview of the Field of Conflict Analysis & Resolution

*Guest Instructor: Dr. Nike Carstarphen, Senior Partner, Alliance for Conflict Transformation* ***This class will meet for the entire period in the Arlington Campus library.***

- Library Orientation – Meeting with *Marissa R. Stone, Reference Librarian*
- History of the field - an intellectual map
- Basic terminology and frameworks

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 1 & 2

#### **E-reserves:**

Kriesberg, L. (2001). The Growth of the Conflict Resolution Field. In C. Crocker, F.Hampson & P. All. *Turbulent Peace. The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 407-426.

#### **Online Readings:**

Zelizer, C. & Johnston, L. (2005). *Skills, Networks & Knowledge: Developing a Career in International Peace and Conflict Resolution*. Alexandria, VA: Alliance for Conflict Transformation. <http://www.conflicttransformation.org>, pages 4-17.

### **Week 3: February 6, 2006, Exploring and Situating the Field of Conflict Analysis & Resolution**

- Protracted social conflict
- Conflict analysis from theory to action
- Conflict sensitivity
- Substance and issues
- **Case study groups formed**

Lederach, chapter 1 & 2

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 3

Kriesberg, chapter 1

#### **E-Reserves:**

Azar, E. (1997). Protracted International Conflict: Ten Propositions. In H. Starr (ed.) *The Understanding and Management of Global Violence. New Approaches to Theory and Research on Protracted Conflict*. New York: St Martin's Press, 23-33

#### **Online Readings:**

Lange, M. & Quinn, M. (2003). *Conflict, Humanitarian Assistance and Peacebuilding: Meeting the Challenges*. London: International Alert. <http://www.international-alert.org/publications/getdata.php?doctype=Pdf&id=57>

### **Week 4: February 13, 2006, Models and Sources of Conflict**

- Models for analysis
- Structural theories
- Socio-psychological theories
- Micro-theories

*Note; subjects for students' individual analytic case study must be finally agreed by this date.*

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 4

Kriesberg, chapter 2

Lederach, Chapter 4

#### **E-reserves:**

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

Jeong, H.W. (2003). *Structure. Conflict from Analysis to Intervention* New York: Continuum, 154-167

Mitchell, C. (2002). How Much do I Need to Know. In J.P. Lederach & J.M. Jenner (Eds.) *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding. Into the Eye of the Storm*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 49-58.

### **Online Readings:**

Ballentine, K. & Nitzscheke, H. The Political Economy of Civil War and Conflict Transformation (2005). In *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*  
[http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/BHDS3\\_BallentineNitzschke230305.pdf](http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/BHDS3_BallentineNitzschke230305.pdf)

Smith, D. (2005) Trends and Causes of Armed Conflict in *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation* [http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/smith\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/smith_handbook.pdf)

### **Week 5: February 20, 2006, Conflict Strategies & Dynamics of Escalation**

- Emergence of conflicts
- Dynamics of conflict escalation & de-escalation
- Conflict styles
- Time for case study groups

### **Readings:**

Kriesberg, chapter 3, 6 & 7

Augsburger, chapter 2

Lederach, chapter 5

### **E-reserves:**

Keashley, L. & Fisher, R.J. (1996). A Contingency Perspective on Conflict Interventions: Theoretical and Practical Considerations. In J. Bercovitch (Ed.) *Resolving International Conflicts. The Theory and Practice of Mediation* Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 235-261.

### **Week 6: February 27, 2006, Negotiation Strategies and Processes**

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Andrew Stephens, Director for Bilateral Agricultural Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative

#### ***TAKE HOME MID-TERM DISTRIBUTED***

- Review of negotiation strategies and processes
- Practical examples
- Negotiation simulation

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 7

Kriesberg, chapter 8 & 9

**E-reserves:**

Shapiro, D. & Fisher, R. (2005). On Using These Ideas in the Real World (Chapter 10). In *Beyond Reason. Using Emotions as You Negotiate*. New York: Viking.

**Week 7: March 6, 2006, Half-Way Summary and Evaluation**

***MID-TERM EXAMS ARE DUE.***

No assigned readings for this week.

- Mid-Term course evaluation
- Conflict case study
- Video on peacebuilding in Indonesia
- Time for Case Study Groups

**Week 8, March 13, 2006, Spring Break, no class**

**Week 9, March 20, 2006, Conflict Resolution Strategies and Roles**

- Overview of processes
- Third Party roles
- Cases

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 6 & 9

Lederach, chapter 6

Augsburger, chapter 5

**E-Reserves:**

Barnes, C. (2005). Weaving the Web: Civil-Society Roles in Working with Conflict and Building Peace. In P. Van Tongeren, M. Brenk, M. Hellena & J. Verhooeven. *People Building Peace II. Successful Stories of Civil Society*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner Pres, 7-24.

Saunders, H. (2003). Sustained Dialogue in Managing Intractable Conflict. *Negotiation Journal* 19 (1), 85-95

**Online Readings:**

Fisher, R. (2005). Methods of Third Party Intervention in *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation* [http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/fisher\\_hb.pdf](http://www.berghof-handbook.net/articles/fisher_hb.pdf)



## **Week 10, March 27, 2006, *Culture and Conflict***

- Conflict Resolution and culture
- Critique

Ramsbotham, chapter 15  
Augsburger chapter 7 & 8

### **E-reserves:**

Avruch, K. & Black, P. (1993). *Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings*. In J.D. Sandole & H. van der Merwe (Eds). New York: Manchester University Press, 131-145.

Anderson, M. B. (1999) *The Harmony Project: Peacebuilding Amid Poverty in India .Do No Harm. How Aid Can Support Peace – Or War*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner Press, 119-129.

Walker, P. (2004). Decolonizing Conflict Resolution. *American Indian Quarterly*, 28 (3), 527-549.

## **Week 11, April 3, 2006, Gender, Power and Conflict Resolution**

- Conflict Resolution and social change
- Power
- Gender and conflict

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 12

### **E-reserves:**

McKay, S. & Mazurana, D. (2001). Gendering Peacebuilding. In D.J. Christie, R. Wagner & D. Du Nan Winter (Eds). *Peace, Conflict and Violence. Peace Psychology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. NJ: Prentice Hall, 341-349.

Woroniuk, B. (2001). Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective. In L. Reyhler & Paffenholz (Eds). *Peacebuilding. A Field Guide*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner Press, 61-71.

### **Online Readings:**

Conflict Prevention and Transformation: Women's Vital Contributions (2005)  
The Initiative for Inclusive Security and the United Nations Foundation  
<http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/resources.asp#pub>

## **Week 12, April 10, 2006, Ethics & Reconciliation**

- Ethical issues
- Reconciliation

Lederach, chapter 3

Ramsbotham et al, chapter 10 & 13

Augsburger, chapter 9

### **E-reserves:**

Assefa, H. (2001). Reconciliation. In L. Reyhler & Paffenholz (Eds). *Peacebuilding. A Field Guide*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner Press, 336-342.

Bendana, A. (2003). What Kind of Peace is Being Built. Critical Assessments from the South. International Development Research Centre, Canada

Laue, J. (1978). The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes. In G. Bermant, H. Kelman & D. Warwick. *Ethics of Social Intervention*. Washington, London: Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 205-232.

Mayer, B. (2002). Who Pays? Money Matters from a Practitioner's Perspective. In J.P. Lederach & J.M. Jenner (Eds.) *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding. Into the Eye of the Storm*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 173-189

## **Week 13, April 17, 2006, Group Presentations**

- 2 Group Presentations

## **Week 14, April 24, 2006, Group Presentations**

### ***INDIVIDUAL ANALYTICAL CASES ARE DUE***

- 2 Group Presentations

## **Week 15, May 1, 2006, Integration and the State of The Field**

### ***TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED***

- Careers in the Field
- The Impact of the Field
- Cross-Sectoral Conflict Resolution
- Video on Cross-Sectoral Practice in Bulgaria

**E-reserves:**

Anderson, M.B. (2001). Humanitarian NGOs in Conflict Intervention. In C. Crocker, F.Hampson & P. All. *Turbulent Peace. The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 637-648.

Mayer, B. (2004). Conflict Resolution: A Field in Crisis (chapter 1). [\*Beyond neutrality : confronting the crisis in conflict resolution\*](#), 3-40.

Van Tongeren, P., Verhooven, J. & Wake, J. (2005). People Building Peace: Key Messages and Essential Findings. In P. Van Tongeren, M. Brenk, M. Hellena & J. Verhooveven. *People Building Peace II. Successful Stories of Civil Society*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner Pres, 83-93

**Online Readings:**

Cheyenne, C. (2005), [Mind the Gap: Policy Development and Research on Conflict Issues](http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/policy/rip/RIP.pdf), INCORE. <http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/policy/rip/RIP.pdf>

Zelizer, C. & Johnston, L. (2005). *Skills, Networks & Knowledge: Developing a Career in International Peace and Conflict Resolution*. Alexandria, VA: Alliance for Conflict Transformation. <http://www.conflicttransformation.org>, p 21-53.

**FINAL EXAM DUE BY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2006**