CONF 601

THEORIES OF CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Semester: Spring 2005

Time: Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 pm

Location: Section 001 Section 002

Instructors: Kevin Avruch Terrence Lyons

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Office hours: By appointment

Welcome to CONF 601. In this course we will critically examine a wide range of theoretical frameworks for understanding social conflict. Our purpose is to:

- Present and critique theories for their usefulness in analyzing different types of social conflict
- Evaluate their usefulness by applying them to specific conflict situations
- Assist students to become better—critical—"consumers" of conflict theory and more acute conflict analysts, and;
- Help them to develop their own abilities to construct theories of conflict and conflict resolution.

Course Requirements

As always, we expect you to have read the assignments before coming to class and to attend regularly. Active participation in class discussions will be expected.

Grades will be based on three exercises: two short take-home exams (each worth 25% of the final grade) and a final exam (50%). Delays, deferrals or a grade of Incomplete will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis, and late assignments will be penalized. You should look again at ICAR's statement on Academic Standards (Appendix L in the Handbook) and the University's Honor Code.

Readings

Books (available at the GMU Bookstore):

Vamik Volkan, <u>Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism</u> Peter Kivisto, <u>Social Theory: Roots and Branches</u> (2nd Edition).

<u>Articles and Book Chapters</u> (available, with full citations, through E-Reserve):

Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy"

Kevin Avruch & Peter W. Black, "A Generic Theory of Conflict Resolution: A Critique"

Kevin Avruch & Peter W. Black, "The Culture Question and Conflict Resolution"

Peter W. Black, "Identities"

John W. Burton, Chapter 3 from <u>Deviance</u>, <u>Terrorism</u>, and <u>War</u>

J. Dougherty & R. Pfaltzgraff, Ch. 7 from Contending Theories of International Relations

Amitai Etzioni, "Basic Human Needs, Alienation, and Inauthenticity"

John Galtung, "Cultural Violence"

Ted Robert Gurr, Chapter 2 from Why Men Rebel

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilization"

Stuart Kaufman, Chapter 2 from Modern Hatreds: The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War

Michael T. Klare, "The New Geography of Conflict"

Roger N. Lancaster, "Skin Color, Race, and Racism in Nicaragua"

Ian F. Haney Lopez, "The Social Construction of Race"

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "An Unnecessary War"

Hans Morgenthau, Chapter 1 from Politics Among Nations

Richard E. Rubenstein, "Analyzing and Resolving Class Conflict"

Anthony Smith, "The Ethnic Sources of Nationalism"

Anita Taylor & J.B. Miller, "The Necessity of Seeing Gender in Conflict"

Course Program, Schedule, and Assignments

Week 1 (1/27): Course Orientation.

What is "doing theory?" Why bother doing it?

Week 2 (2/3): Rational Choice and Exchange Theory

Kivisto readings no. 46, 47, 48, 49.

Week 3 (2/10): Realism and Neo-Realism

Morgenthau, Chap.1; Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations"; Mearsheimer and Walt, "An Unnecessary War."

Week 4 (2/17): Social Functionalism

Kivisto readings no. 18, 30, 31, 34, 33

Week 5 (2/24): Aggression, Relative Deprivation, and Revolt

Gurr, chap. 2; Dougherty and Pfaltzgraf, ch. 7

Week 6 (3/3): Basic Human Needs and Deep Rooted Conflict

Burton, chap. 3; Kivisto reading no. 23, Etzioni, "Basic Human Needs, Alienation, and Inauthenticity"; Avruch & Black, "A Generic Theory of Conflict Resolution: A Critique"

Week 7 (3/10): Psychology and Intergroup Conflict

First Exam Distributed in Class

Volkan, Bloodlines.

Week 8 (3/17): Spring Break

Week 9 (3/24): Film – Battle of Algiers

First Exam Due at the Beginning of Class

Week 10 (3/31): Marx and Class Struggle

Kivisto readings no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Rubenstein "Analyzing and Resolving Class Conflict."

Week 11 (4/7): Culture, Ethnicity, and Identity Conflicts

Avruch & Black, "The Culture Question..."; Galtung, "Cultural Violence"; Black, "Identities"; Smith, "The Ethnic Sources of Nationalism"; Kaufman, chap. 2.

Week 12 (4/14): Race, Gender, and Conflict

Second Exam Distributed in Class

Kivisto readings no. 54, 51, 52; Lopez, "The Social Construction of Race"; Lancaster, "Skin Color, Race, and Racism in Nicaragua"; Taylor & Miller, "The Necessity of Seeing Gender in Conflict"

Week 13 (4/21): Modernization and Globalization

Kivisto readings no. 65, 67, 69; Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy"; Klare, "The New Geography of Conflict."

Week 14 (4/28): Critical Theory

Kivisto readings no. 11, 35, 55, 56, 57

Second Exam Due at Beginning of Class

Week 15 (5/5): Postmodernism

Final Exam Distributed in Class

Kivisto readings no. 60, 61, 62

Final exam distributed; final exam due by 4:30 pm 5/12/04