

CONF340: Global Conflict

Faculty: Karyna Korostelina
George Mason University
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
ckoroste@gmu.edu
703-993-1304

Spring 2011
Tuesdays: 1:30 pm - 4:15 pm
Science Technology I 120
Office hours: 12:30- 1:30 PM,
Robinson B 365. Also by appointment

Overview

This course covers conflict at macro level, introducing theories of international and global violence and conflict, drawing from disciplines of social psychology, international relations, political science, intercultural communication, and conflict resolution. Covers impact of globalization and structural causes of conflict and explore complex interrelations of social identity and postmodern conflicts in society. Uses class discussions, simulations, case studies, and final paper to develop analytical skills to help in analysis of conflict. Prepares for further course work for international conflict concentration.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES "Ask a Librarian"

<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

Assessment of Students:

Students participating in the full course will be graded based on the following:

1. Active participation in the class activities is worth 30 % of the final grade.

2. Students are required to write a midterm paper answering the following question “Why it is important to have a comprehensive systemic approach to the understanding of conflict?” The paper should be 3-4 pages in length and is worth 25% of the final grade.

3. Students are required to conduct a case study of conflict of their choice and design an intervention. The case study can be drawn from the communal, national, or international level. The research paper should be 15 pages in length and is worth 45% of the final grade.

Required reading:

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. 2005. Contemporary Conflict Resolution. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. 2007. Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.

Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Weekly Schedule

- January 25: Introduction to Course. Introduction to Global Conflict
Reading: Ramsbotham: ch.3; Crocker: ch: 13
- February 1: Theories of Global Conflict
Reading: Ramsbotham: ch.4; Crocker: ch.3
- February 8: Communal and identity-based conflicts
Reading: Korostelina: ch. 6&7 (blackboard); Crocker: Ch.9
- February 15: Ethnic Conflicts and Civil Wars
Reading: Ashmore: ch.3(blackboard); Crocker: Ch.8
- February 22: Nations in the Midst of Conflict
Reading: Crocker: Ch.7; case studies on the blackboard
- March 1: Political and Economic Foundations of Conflict
Reading: Crocker: Ch. 6 &12
- March 8: War and Violence
Reading: Crocker: Ch 2&10; Rothbart and Korostelina “Why they die?” (blackboard)
- March 15: no classes
- March 22: Challenges of Terrorism
Readings: Ramsbotham: ch. 11; Crocker: Ch. 5
- March 29: Models of Conflict Resolution and Prevention
Reading: Ramsbotham: ch.1 (p.8-30), Ch.5; Korostelina: Ch.9 (early warning model) (blackboard)
- April 5: Peace keeping and Peacemaking
Reading: Ramsbotham: ch. 6&7; Crocker: Ch: 28
- April 12: Post-War Reconstruction and Peacebuilding
Reading: Ramsbotham: ch. 8&9; Crocker: Ch:21 &33
- April 19: Identity Management and Reconciliation
Readings: Ramsbotham: ch. 10; Korostelina: ch. 9 (blackboard)

April 26: Paper presentation and discussion

May 3: Paper presentations and discussion

Assignments

1. Multiple identity paper.

Students are required to write a midterm paper answering the following question “Why it is important to have a comprehensive systemic approach to the understanding of conflict?” Write a paper based on conflict of your choice to show the impact of different factors described in theoretical approaches discussed in the class. You should show how a particular conflict can be analyzed based on understanding of communal, identity-based, political and economic factors. This paper can serve as a road map for your final paper. The papers should be 3-4 pages in length, double space, 12. Paper due date: **March 29th**

2. Final paper on case study and intervention.

The case study can be drawn from the communal, national, or international level. Be sure to analyze conflict based on theoretical ideas and notions you studied during the course. Show how theoretical analysis can help to understand the conflict and can serve as a basis for the intervention. Suggest your methods for conflict resolution. Plan to present your paper for seven minutes during last two classes. The research paper should be 15 pages in length double space, 12. Due date for draft is **April 26th** . **Due date for final paper is May 10th** .