

GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
CONF 340 Section 002, Fall 2009

Class time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 – 10:15 am

Location: Enterprise Hall 173

Instructor: Ekaterina Romanova

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. or by appointment
Robinson Hall B, Room 365

Course Description:

Welcome to the course! In recent decades, the number of global conflicts has increased and their impact became more extensive. It is imperative that you not only understand the ways in which conflicts develop and manifest themselves, but also the ways in which these conflicts have been (or should have been) managed.

This course is designed to help you understand and analyze a number of global events that result or may potentially result in conflict situations. These events include resource-based challenges, people's mobility, forced labor migration, nationalism and terrorism. The interdisciplinary nature of the Conflict Resolution field enables us to touch on many other academic disciplines, such as International Relations, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology to better understand and analyze global conflicts. The course also addresses conflict theories, their development and practical application.

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 the various approaches to analyzing and resolving global conflicts in different contexts;
- Analyze the 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 the developments and dynamics and examining past and present resolution efforts;

Course Requirements:

1) Class participation (10%): I expect you to do the readings and come to each class prepared to have a detailed discussion of the course readings. Simply attending the class does not equal participation in the class discussion.

2) Reading Reflection Essays (20%): You are expected to write five 2-page essays on the reading for the class. The point of these essays is to critically analyze one or two arguments that were of most interest to you in the assigned readings and present your own position. Each essay is worth 5% of your grade. The lowest grade

will be dropped, so only 4 essays will be counted toward your grade. You can choose any week to write the essays.

3) Take-Home Midterm (20%): I will hand out several essay questions and you are asked to pick one, and write a 6-7 page essay based on the introductory section (including readings, theories and class discussions) of the class. In the paper, besides using class materials, I expect you to analytically and argumentatively discuss your views. I will hand out the essay questions on **Tuesday, September 29th** and the essay will be due in class on **Thursday, October 8th**.

4) Group Presentation (20%): You will be a member of one of six research teams. Each team will prepare a class presentation (not a paper) of a case study of an international conflict and approaches to its resolution. Each team will have 30 minutes to present their case study to the class at the end of the semester. In your presentation, you should provide an overview of the conflict, explain how it was analyzed by the international community and how the international community responded to that conflict. Please, form your research teams and let me know who are members of your group by **Tuesday, September 29th**. By **Thursday, October 22nd**, submit a one-page proposal of your presentation. The proposal is not graded, it is for you to start thinking about your case study and working in the group, and for me to see what conflicts you have selected.

5) Final paper (30%): The final paper will cover materials from the entire course. You are required to critically reflect on the themes, conflict resolution theories and cases covered during the course. The essay should be between 12-15 pages and will be due during the Final Exam time slot for our course. The paper can be submitted electronically. Early in the semester I will provide you with more detailed guidelines for researching and writing this paper. It is always a good idea to start thinking about your topic early in the semester. If you have difficulties deciding what to research or would simply like to talk about your paper, I encourage you to come and discuss your ideas with me during my office hours or to schedule an appointment with me at another time. One or two paragraphs proposal with a tentative bibliography is due in class on **Thursday, October 29th**. The proposal is not graded. It is for you to start thinking about the final paper. I will return your proposal to you within a week with comments and suggestion.

*****Late Work**

Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one point for each day they are late. If you have a documented emergency, special arrangements can be made with the instructor. If you cannot meet the deadline or need help with the class material see me during the office hours or make an appointment. Do not make a habit out of turning in your assignments late. That won't be tolerated.

Course Policy and Procedures

Classroom Etiquette: Please come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. The use of laptops in class is for note-taking

only. Do not engage in side conversations. We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. You are encouraged to express your opinion and diverse perspectives, however, be mindful and respectful of the sensitivities and views of others in your comments in class.

Academic Honesty and Collaboration: George Mason University has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity and which is designed, “to promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community” (<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>). The Honor Code lays out strict penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). You can choose any citation format, however, be consistent throughout your work. If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from the course or outside readings, then ask for help. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library or online at <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>.

For individual class assignments, you may discuss your ideas with others or ask for feedback; however, you are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. You may not submit papers or presentations from other courses to fulfill assignments for this class.

For group class assignments, the names of all participants should appear on the work. While it’s fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the final presentation should represent a single and conceptually-linked piece of work. With rare exception, each student working in a group is given the same grade for an assignment. If a group is having trouble with a member not fulfilling his/her work obligation, then the group needs to bring the problem to the instructor’s attention.

Paper format: Papers should be typed, double-spaced, have 1” margins, and Times New Roman 12-point font. Make sure that your name, course number, and paper title is on the first page, and pages are numbered. Edit your papers carefully. If you need help with writing, ask the instructor or refer to the GMU Writing Center (<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 (<http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/ods/>) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact her or his instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Course Materials:

Required text (available in the GMU bookstore):

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2007. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Additional course materials:

This course will use e-reserve (Password to access e-reserve will be given in class) and GMU blackboard. Course materials including syllabus, Power Point slides, relevant articles, supplementary readings and other relevant materials will be available on GMU Blackboard (<http://courses.gmu.edu>). Readings noted as *Supplementary* are not required, but reading them will enhance your understanding of the course material.

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus or have any concerns during the course, please feel free to ask in class or contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

*** Subject to Change*

September 1: **Introduction to the Course**

Review of the Syllabus

September 3: **Introduction to Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution**

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 1, pp. 3-31.

John W. Burton. 1983. "Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy," in Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe (eds.) *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice*. Chapter 4, pp. -55-65. E-reserve

Supplementary:

John Burton, "Conflict Resolution: Towards Problem-Solving"

<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/burton.html>

September 8: **CR Field: Origins and Development**

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 2, pp. 32-54.

Angell, Robert C. 1964. "A Dynamic Theory of Peace: John W Burton, Peace Theory". *Journal of Conflict Resolution* vol. 8, pp. 83-85.

Blackboard

September 10: **The United Nations System**

Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice. New York: United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "And Agenda for Peace" – UN Secretary General Report <http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/agpeace.html>

Supplementary:

Carolyn Stephenson, What are Non-Governmental Organizations?

http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/role_ngo/?nid=1123

Eric Brahm, Inter-Governmental Organizations

http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/role_igo/?nid=1124

September 15: **Diagnosing Conflict: Frameworks for Analysis**

Ramsbotham et al. Chapters 3 (conflict mapping section) pp. 74-75, Chapter 4, pp. 78-105.

Levy, Jack. 2001. "Theories of Interstate and Intrastate War," in Chester Crocker et al (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 1, pp. 3- 27.

E-reserve

Dugan, Maire. 1996. "A Nested Theory of Conflict," *Leadership Journal: Women in Leadership*, vol. 1. pp. 9-19. E-reserve

Supplementary:

Sandole, Dennis J.D. "A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A Three Pillar Approach,"

<http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole.htm>

September 17: **Understanding the Sources of Global Conflict**

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 3, pp. 55-77.

Howard, Michael. 2001. "The Causes of War," in *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 9, pp. 29-38. E-reserve

Ayoob, Mohammed. 2001. "State Making, State Breaking and State Failure," in *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 9. pp. 127-142. E-reserve

September 22 **Understanding the Dynamics of War and Violence**

Pruitt, Dean and Sung Hee Kim. 2004. "Escalation and Its Development," chapter 5, pp. 87-100; "Perceived Stalemate and De-Escalation," chapter 9, pp. 171-188, in *Social Conflict*. E-reserve
Conflict Stages and Escalation/De-escalation

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/action/essays.jsp?nid=2075>

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/action/essays.jsp?nid=2275>

September 24: **Identity-based Conflict**

Cook-Huffman, Celia. 2009. "The Role of Identity in Conflict," in Dennis Sandole et al. (eds) *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*, chapter 1, pp. 17 – 30. E-reserve

Habyarimana, James, et al. 2008. "Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways over Nationalism and Separatism," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 87(4), pp. 138-151. E-reserve

Supplementary:

Kelman, Herbert C. 1997. "Negotiating National Identity and Self-Determination in Ethnic Conflicts: The Choice between Pluralism and Ethnic Cleansing," *Negotiation Journal*, vol. 13(4), pp. 327-340. Blackboard.

September 29: **Culture, Religion, Gender and Conflict Resolution**

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 12, pp. 265-274; Chapter 15, pp. 302-315

Coleman, Peter. 2006. "Culture and Conflict," in Morton Deutsch et al (eds) *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, chapter 28, pp. 625-648. E-reserve

**The Essay questions are handed out;
Research teams for group projects should be formed**

October 1: **Nationalism and Conflict**

Halliday, Fred. 1997. "Nationalism," in Baylis and Smith (eds) *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 20, pp. 440-455. E-reserve
Anastasiou, Harry. 2009. "Encountering Nationalism," in Dennis Sandole et al. (eds) *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution* chapter 2, pp. 30-42. E-reserve.

Supplementary:

"Minorities at Risk" (MAR) Website, <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/mar/>
Gurr, Ted. 2001. "Minorities and Nationalists," in Chester Crocker et al. (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, pp. 138-188. E-reserve

October 6: **Global Migration: Local and Global Consequences of Human Mobility**

International Organization for Migration. Read section –«About Migration», subsections «Facts and Figures» and «Managing Migration» <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/1>

The Economist. 2009. «Global Migration and the Downturn» http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12932296

Supplementary:

Lyons, Terrence and Peter Mandaville. "Global Migration and Transnational Politics: a Conceptual Framework." Blackboard

October 8: **Globalization, Terrorism and Conflict**

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 11, pp. 249-264.

Nye, Joseph, "Globalization and Interdependence," in *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 7, pp. 185-211. E-reserve

The Essays are due

Supplementary:

Fukuyama, Francis, "History and 9/11," in Booth and Dunne *Worlds in Collision*, Chapter 2, pp. 27-36. E-reserve

October 13 **NO CLASS: Columbus Day Recess**

October 15: **Resource-based Conflict**

Gleditsch, Nils Petter. 2001. "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict," in Chester Crocker et al (eds) *Turbulent Peace*, chapter 4, pp. 177-196. E-reserve

Upreti, Bishnu Raj. 2004. "Resource Conflicts and Conflict Resolution in Nepal," *Mountain Research and Development*, vol. 24(1), pp. 60-66. Blackboard.

- October 20: **Economics and Conflict**
 Collier, Paul. 2001. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy," in Chester Crocker *Turbulent Peace*, pp. 143-162. [E-reserve](#)
 Malone, David and Sherman, Jake, "Economic Factors in Civil Wars," in *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 637-652. [E-reserve](#)
Supplementary:
 Collier, Paul, et al. 2008. "Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers* 61, pp. 1-27. [Blackboard](#)
 Murshed Syed et al. 2009. "Revisiting Greed and Grievance Explanations for Violent Internal Conflict," *Journal of International Development*, vol. 21, pp. 87-111. [Blackboard](#)
- October 22: **Approaches to Global Conflict Resolution**
 Kriesberg, Louis, "Contemporary Conflict Resolution Applications," in *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 455-476. [E-reserve](#)
One page group project proposal is due.
- October 27: **Prevention**
 Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 5, pp. 106-131.
 Stares, Paul. 2007. "Rethinking the 'war on terror': New Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Managements in the Post – 9/11 world," in *Leashing the Dogs of War*, chapter 24, pp. 425-436. [E-reserve](#)
- October 29: **Peacekeeping**
 Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 6, pp. 132-158.
 Hansen, Wibke et al. "Hawks and Doves: Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution." [Blackboard](#)
 Film: "No Man's Land," 2001 (France)
A brief final paper proposal with a tentative bibliography is due.
- November 3: **Peacemaking**
 Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 7, pp. 159-184.
Film: "No Man's Land" Discussion
- November 5 **How Peace is Built: Third Party Intervention and Post-War Reconstruction**
 Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 8 - 9, pp. 185-230; Chapter 13, pp. 275-287.
Supplementary:
 Paffenholz, Thania. "Designing Transformation and Intervention Process." [Blackboard](#)
 Serwer, Daniel and Thomson, Patricia, "A Framework for Success," in *Leashing the Dogs of War*, pp. 369-388. [E-reserve](#)
 Schwarz, Roger. 1994. "How to Intervene," in *The Skilled Facilitator*. pp. 122-145. [Blackboard](#).

November 10: **Cooperation in Conflict**

Axelrod. 1984. "The live-and-let-live system in Trench Warfare," pp. 73-87 and "How to Promote Cooperation," pp. 124-144 in *Evolution of Cooperation*. E-reserve
Film: "Joyeux Noel," 2005 (France)

November 12: **Finish watching the film. Film Discussion**

November 17: **Dialogue**

Ramsbotham et al. Chapter 14, pp. 288-301.

Supplementary:

Slim, Randa and Harold Saunders, "The Inter - Tajik Dialogue: from Civil War towards Civil Society," Conciliation Resources,
<http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/tajikistan/inter-tajik-dialogue.php>

November 19: **Non-Violent Collective Action: Grassroots Change**

Tarrow, Sidney. "Contentious Politics and Social Movements," in *Power in Movement*. Chapter 1, pp. 10-28. E-reserve.

November 24 **Reconciliation, Justice and Trauma-Healing**

Ramsbotham et al, Chapter 10, pp. 231-245

Lederach, John Paul "Reconciliation: The Building of Relationships," in *Building Peace*, Chapter 3. pp. 23-35. E-reserve

Supplementary:

Jeong, Ho-Won. 2005. "Chapter 6: Reconciliation and Social Rehabilitation," in *Peacebuilding in Post-conflict Societies*. pp. 155-185. E-reserve

Lambourne, Wendy. 2001. "Justice and Reconciliation," in Mohammed Abu-Nimer *Reconciliation, Justice and Coexistence*. pp. 311-337. E-reserve.

November 26: **NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Recess**

December 1: **Group Presentations I & II**

December 3: **Group Presentations III & IV**

December 8: **Group Presentations V & VI**

December 10: **Discuss group presentations, review course material, discuss final papers**

December 15: **EXAM PERIOD – 7:30 am – 10: 15 am**

Your final papers are due before or during the indicated exam time. Electronic submission is preferred. Hard copies can be submitted in Robinson Hall B, Room 365. See policy on late submission (p. 2 of the syllabus).