

**GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION**  
**CONF 340 Section 005, Fall 2009**

**Class meeting time: Friday 1:30 – 4:10 pm**

**Enterprise Hall, Room 278**

Instructor: Randy Salm

Email: rsalm@gmu.edu Phone: (703) 993-1428

Office Hours: Friday 12:00 – 1:15 pm or by appointment.

Robinson Hall B, Room 365

## **Course Description**

Welcome to Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution! In this course we will review an interdisciplinary set of theories that help understand global conflict as well as a number of models and processes used to resolve international or global conflict. This course will build on your previous coursework and knowledge on conflict and conflict resolution, leading to a solid framework for analyzing global conflict.

About the first ten weeks of this course will be focused on understanding global conflict. By global conflict, we include large scale intra-national armed conflicts like violent ethnic conflict or civil war, as well as international conflict, as well as the complex set of conflict dynamics that exist with globalization, such as trade issues, resource usage and global migration. We will study a number of conflicts as case studies, including Colombia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and any others that you may be especially familiar with. As part of the interdisciplinary conflict analysis framework we will address such issues as: power, vital resources; ethnic identity; religion and ideology; national foreign policies; international financial institutions; human rights norms and institutions; collective action for social, political, and economic justice; and civil society, political society, corporations, and global institutions.

The last five weeks of the class will address conflict resolution for international conflicts and globalization tensions. This will include a review of a number of problem solving mechanisms have been used in the past two or three decades in diverse global conflicts, providing us with useful case studies. Class discussions and assignments shall reflect upon the extent to which these theories help us understand conflict. Student participation in discussions and prior preparation (as specified below), shall be critical in making the class a successful learning experience.

## **Course Materials**

Required text (available in the GMU bookstore):

- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T., and Miall, H. 2007. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Chua, Amy. 2003. *World on Fire. How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*. New York: Doubleday.

*Additional articles will be made available on e-reserves. The password for e-reserves*

will be given in class.

- Dahrendorf, Ralf. 1959. *Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Required readings include Ch. 2. “Social Structures, Group Interests and Conflict Groups” and Ch. 6. Conflict Groups, Group Conflicts and Social Change.” (available through e-reserves).
- Held, David and Ayse Kaya, 2007. *Global Inequality*. Polity press: Malden, MA. Required readings include the “Introduction” and Ch. 2. “Globalization and Inequality.” (available through e-reserves).
- Wrong, Dennis. 1988. *Power: Its Forms, Bases and Uses*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Required readings include Ch. 2 and 3. “The Forms of Power.” (available through e-reserves).

## **Classroom Etiquette**

Please come to class on time and prepared. Bring your readings with you. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Remain in class unless you have an emergency. The use of laptops in class is discouraged except for taking notes. Do not engage in side conversations and passing notes. While I encourage you to consider the sensitivities of others in your comments in class, we also encourage open discussion and dialogue. We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. Students are encouraged to express diverse perspectives. You are likely to encounter strong opinions. You will be expected to keep a balance between arguing your own position on these issues, as well as encouraging, hearing, and respecting other opinions.

If an emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should let me know ahead of time when possible. Please contact a classmate to find out what was missed. Students are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and date changes made in class, and for all material covered in class, even if they are not there.

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I shall respond to your query within 48 hours. Please use your GMU email account when communicating with me. Alternatively, you can contact me at my GMU office at 703-993-1428, but my hours there change frequently, so I may not respond as quickly as via email.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

There will be no mid-term or final exam in this class. Instead, a series of short quizzes will be given to test your knowledge of the course material, several individual conflict analysis exercises will test your individual analysis skills, and a group project will be used to test your ability to work collaboratively to jointly analyze a conflict and develop recommendations for conflict resolution on a specific case study. These multiple evaluation formats are frontloaded in the class to give you and I some idea early of how you are doing in class early in the semester.

***Participation (10% of your final grade):*** Classes shall follow an interactive seminar format. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings. Regular attendance and active participation based on thoughtful reflection of the literature and class discussions are highly recommended.

***Quizzes (30% of your final grade)***

We will have three quizzes (due weeks 3, 5 and 11) - that cover our readings this semester. Each quiz will be a take-home assignment consisting of a few short essay questions. Each quiz will be worth 10% of your final grade. Why quizzes? (1) To assess your understanding of the course material; and (2) to ensure that class discussion involves you and your classmates.

***Individual Conflict Analysis Exercises (30% of your final grade)***

You will conduct two individual conflict analysis exercises of specific conflicts – (due weeks 6 and 10). Each analysis will draw cumulatively upon the theoretical approaches that we discuss during the semester. Each exercise will be worth 15% of your final grade.

***Team Conflict Analysis Exercise and Presentation (30% of your final grade)***

Teams will be formed of 3 to 4 persons per team. Your team will prepare a class presentation of a case study selected by all members. The team must confirm with me which conflict they will attempt to study and summarize two weeks before their presentation. Each team will have 20 minutes to present their case study to the class on a mutually agreed upon date near the end of the semester (weeks 13, 14 or 15). Each presentation shall be followed by a 10 minute Q & A. Your team presentation shall include:

- Provide an overview of a conflict – where, when, how and overall impact
- Summarize key issues – parties, attitudes, behavior, power, underlying causes,
- Develop recommendations for the best way to resolve or transform the conflict.

For group assignments, the names of all participants should appear on the work. While it is fine for groups to divide project work among team members, the final product should represent a single, 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 their work obligation, then the group needs to bring the concern to my attention immediately.

**Grading Scale**

98 - 100	A+
93 - 97	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B +
83 - 86	B
79 - 82	B -
75 - 78	C+
72- 74	C
69- 71	C-
61 - 68	D
0 – 60	F

## **Academic Policies and Information**

**Academic Honesty and Collaboration:** GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity. It is designed, “to promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community” ([www.gmu.edu/catalog/policies](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/policies)). Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, etc.). If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from course or outside readings, then ask for help. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk 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.

**Late Work:** Class assignments that are submitted late will be penalized by one point for each day they are late. Late papers and proposals will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency. If this is the case, you must leave the paper in my mailbox in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) office (Robinson B365) and email a copy at my GMU email address. Papers should be submitted in an envelope marked with my name and the course number. If the office is closed, the envelope can be dropped through the mail slot in the door.

**Paper Format:** Papers for the course should be typed, double-spaced, have 1” margins, and use a common 12-point font. The pages should be numbered and stapled together. Papers should have a title, include your name and the instructor’s name. Sources should be cited using a single standard academic citation format.

## **Student Resources**

### **GMU Writing Center**

The Writing Center is available if you need assistance with writing your papers. (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>).

### **Disability Support Services**

Any student with learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) contact the Office of Disability Support Services (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) have the Office of Disability Support contact me – the instructor - to discuss reasonable accommodations. The Disability Resource Center Office coordinates services for students with disabilities. They are your first point of contact if you need assistance. See: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/dss.html>.

### **Library Services**

The CAR library liaison is Melissa Johnson (703-993-2212). Don’t hesitate to contact her with specific questions about holdings and research regarding the CAR field.

## **Schedule: All classes meet on Fridays, from 1:30 – 4:10 pm.**

### **Week 1: Sept. 4**

Introductions, course protocol, overview, and expectations. Assessment of student knowledge of global conflict.

Readings: None.

### **Week 2: Sept. 11**

General conflict analysis models. Interdisciplinary analysis of conflict. The nature, causes and symptoms of conflict.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 1: Introduction to Conflict Resolution. Ch. 3: Statistics of Deadly Quarrels. Chua, Introduction: Globalization and Ethnic Hatred

### **Week 3: Sept. 18**

Scale and scope of global conflict. Intra- and international conflict. State and civil conflict versus conflict due to globalization.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 4: Understanding Contemporary Conflict. Chua, Ch. 7: Backlash Against Market Dominant Minorities

*Quiz #1 due.*

### **Week 4: Sept. 25**

Political models for analysis of global conflict. Power, decision making, equality, ideology, change, human rights.

Readings: Chua, Ch. 5: Backlash Against Markets; Ch. 6. Backlash against Democracy. Wrong, Ch. 2 and 3. "The Forms of Power." (*available through e-journal*).

### **Week 5: Oct. 2**

Economic models for analysis of global conflict. Resources, resource distribution, occupations, labor, equity, production, consumption, capital.

Readings: Held and Kaya, Introduction and Ch. 1. Globalization and Inequality (*available through e-journal*)

*Quiz #2 due.*

### **Week 6: Oct. 9**

Political and economic models continued.

Readings: Chua, Ch. 1: Rubies and Rice Paddies; Ch. 2. Llama Fetuses, Latifundia... *Individual conflict analysis exercise #1 due.*

### **Week 7: Oct. 16**

Social models for analysis of global conflict. Class, race, mobility, equality, group dynamics, gender, social cycles, world systems.

Readings: Chua, Ch. 4: The Ibo of Cameroon. Dahrendorf, Ch. 5. Social Structures, Group Interests and Conflict Groups; and Ch. 6. Conflict Groups, Group Conflicts and Social Change."

### **Week 8: Oct. 23**

Cultural models for analysis of global conflict. Traditions, norms, meaning of things.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 15: Culture, Religion, and Conflict Resolution.  
Chua, Ch. 9 The Underside of Western...;

**Week 9: Oct. 30**

Case study application and discussion of political, economic, social and cultural models of global conflict.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch.5: Preventing Violent Conflict.  
Chua, Ch. 11. Why they Hate Us.

**Week 10: Nov. 6**

Terrorism and the Global War on Terror.

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch.11: Terror and Global Justice.  
*Individual conflict analysis exercise #2 due.*

**Week 11: Nov. 13**

Moving from Conflict Analysis to Resolution – Ethics of Intervention and Discourse

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 13 and 14, Ethics of Intervention and Dialogue and Discourse

*Quiz #3 due.*

**Week 12: Nov. 20 (No class on Nov. 27 due to Thanksgiving holiday)**

Managing Conflict - Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 6 and 7, Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

**Week 13: Dec. 4**

Deeper Conflict Resolution – Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 9 and 10, Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

**Week 14: Dec. 11**

Deeper Conflict Resolution – internationalizing conflict resolution

Readings: Ramsbotham et al. Ch. 16, Towards Cosmopolitan Conflict Resolution

**Week 15: Dec. 18 – last class**

Case study application and discussion of conflict resolution. Wrap up of class.

Readings: none