

CONF 340
GLOBAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Semester: Spring 2007
Class Time: Wednesday, 4:30-7:10 pm
Location: Fairfax Campus, Robinson A106
Instructor: Dr. Dennis J.D. Sandole
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the causes and conditions of *violent postmodern conflict* within, between and across states worldwide, in order to explore to what extent this knowledge can be used as a basis for more effectively understanding and either *preventing, managing, settling, resolving* and/or *transforming* violent, *identity-driven* conflicts such as those that brutalized former Yugoslavia and parts of the former Soviet Union or have escalated to 9/11-type terrorism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Prerequisites:** Acceptance into ICAR's BA/BS program and successful completion of CONF 101, or permission of the instructor.
2. **Class Format:** Classes will follow an *interactive seminar format*. Hence, class attendance, participation, and the *completion of relevant readings prior to class* are highly recommended.
3. **Assessment:**

[a] Two (2) reviews of films to be shown in class, in each case due one week later (each review should be 3-5 double-spaced pages in length [i.e., 250-300 words per page], worth 10% for a total of 20% of the final grade).

[b] A midterm paper, worth 40% of the final grade, in which each student identifies, discusses and assesses the major causes of violent global conflict - *intra-, inter-, and cross-state war, and terrorism* - ranking the identified causes in order of significance (i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., most significant causes) (15-20 double-spaced pages [i.e., 250-300 words per page]). Due 4 April 2007.

[c] A final paper, also worth 40% of the final grade, in which each student (1) analyzes a complex, *identity-driven* conflict and (2) provides recommendations for how it should be dealt with by the international community (15-20 double-spaced pages [i.e., 250-300 words per page]). Due 9 May 2007.

NOTE: Since these four (4) papers are meant, among other things, to demonstrate that students have been in the course, *they should contain appropriate references to course concepts and the corresponding readings*. For further clarification -- including about the GMU Honor Code (e.g., avoiding any hint of plagiarism at all costs) -- please feel free to consult with the instructor.

Overall in-class *participation* will determine whether a "borderline" final grade of, for example, B+/A- remains in the B or A category.

Office Hours: 7:20 - 8:30 pm following each class in the cafeteria section opposite the Bookstore in the Johnson center, and by appointment.

Withdrawal: The last day to drop the course without any penalty is 23 February 2007.

REQUIRED READINGS

Mack, Andrew, et al. (2005). *Human Security Report*. Human Security Centre, Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. New York and London: Oxford University Press <www.humansecurityreport.info>.

Marshall, Monty G., and Ted Robert Gurr (2005). *Peace and Conflict 2005: A Global Survey of Armed Conflicts, Self-Determination Movements, and Democracy*. College Park, Maryland: University of Maryland, Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM) <www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/peace.htm>.

Clemens, Jr., Walter C. (2004). *Dynamics of International Relations: Conflict and Mutual Gain in an Era of Global Interdependence*. 2nd Edition. Lanham (MD), New York, and Oxford (UK): Rowman & littlefield.

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall (2005). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts*. 2nd Edition. Malden (MA) and Cambridge (UK): Polity Press.

Sandole, Dennis J.D. (2002a). "Virulent Ethnocentrism: A Major Challenge for Transformational Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in the Post-Cold War Era." *The Global Review of Ethnopolitics*, vol. 1, no. 4, June, pp. 4-27. (Go to www.ethnopolitics.org/ethnopolitics/archive/volume_I/issue_4/sandole.pdf

or simply insert "virulent ethnocentrism dennis sandole" into Google and the 3rd item down will be the site for this article.)

Sandole, Dennis J.D. (2002b). "The Causes of Terrorism," in R. Scott Moore (ed.), *Terrorism: Concepts, Causes, and Conflict Resolution*. A publication of ICAR's Working Group on War, Violence, and Terrorism, published by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (Go to www.gmu.edu/departments/icar, then, under "ICAR Sites of Interest" [bottom of page on right side] go to "September 11th Analysis," and then "publications". "Sandole 2002b" article is first one listed.)

Sandole, Dennis J.D. (2007). *Peace and Security in the Postmodern World: The OSCE and Conflict Resolution*. London and New York: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group). Chapters 2 and 3. (To be provided by instructor.)

COURSE SYLLABUS

- 24 Jan I. Introduction: Course Overview.
- 31 Jan II. The Problem: Conflict, Violence, and War.
- A. The Subject Matter.
1. Latent Conflict.
 2. Conflict Processes.
 - a. *Manifest Conflict Process (MCP)*.
 - b. *Aggressive Manifest Conflict Process (AMCP)*:
 - (1) *Postmodern Warfare*.
 - [a] Post-Cold War Ethnic Conflicts.
 - [b] 9/11-Type Terrorism.
- B. Why is a Course on Violent Conflict Necessary?
1. Violent Conflict Trends in the United States.
 2. Violent Conflict Trends Worldwide.
 - a. Domestic: The *spillover potential* of intranational conflicts.
 - (1) *Functional Spillover*.
 - (2) *External Intervention*.
 - [a] Ethnic Kin Intervention.
 - [b] Humanitarian Intervention.
 - (3) *Multiplier-Effect Systemic Contagion*.
 - b. International (including 9/11-type terrorism and the "Clash of Civilizations").
- C. Three Theoretical and Practical Questions:
1. How Can *MCPs* be Prevented from Becoming *AMCPs*?
 2. What are the Causes of *AMCPs*?
 3. How Do We Conduct Research on *AMCPs*? (CONF 610)
- READ: Clemens, Chapter 4;
Mack, all;
Marshall and Gurr, all; and
Ramsbotham, et al, Chapters 1-3.
- 7 Feb/ Film #1. Review due on 14 February.
14 Feb Film #2. Review due on 21 February.

FILM REVIEWS #1 DUE

- 21 Feb III. An Enhanced Basis for Understanding and Dealing with the Problem.
- A. Three levels of Conflict Reality.
1. *Conflict-as-Symptoms* (Perceptible/Measurable Indicators of Underlying Problems and Causes).
 2. *Conflict-as-Process* (Underlying Conflicted

Relationships).

3. *Conflict-as-Start-up Conditions* (Underlying Deep-Rooted Causes and Conditions of the Conflicted Relationships).

FILM REVIEWS #2 DUE

28 Feb/7 Mar B. A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A 3-Pillar Approach.

READ: Sandole, 2007, Chapter 2.

1. *Pillar 1: Conflict (Dependent Variable)*.
 - a. Parties.
 - b. Issues.
 - c. Long-term Objectives.
 - d. Means.
 - e. Conflict-handling Orientations.
 - f. Conflict Environments.

14 Mar **MID SEMESTER BREAK (No Class)**

21 Mar 2. *Pillar 2: Conflict Causes and Conditions (Independent Variables)*.

READ: Clemens, Chapters 1, 3-8; and Ramsbotham, et al., Chapter 4.

- a. *Individual Level (Image I)*

- [1] Biological.
- [2] Physiological.
- [3] Learning.
- [4] Dissonance.

28 Mar b. *Societal/National level (Image II)*.

- [1] Domestic-Foreign Conflict Nexus.
- [2] Crisis Decisionmaking.
- [3] Action-Reaction Dynamics.
- [4] Power Distance.
- [5] Imperialism (and "Lateral Pressures").

- c. *Trans-societal/International level (Image III)*.

- [1] [Endogenous vs. Exogenous Systems.
- [2] Bi- vs. Multipolar Systems.
- [3] Tendencies toward the "Unit Veto" System.
- [4] International Distribution of Wealth ("Marxist Delight").

- d. *Global/Ecological Level (Image IV)*.

- [1] Environmental Degradation.
- [2] The "Malthusian Nightmare" Revisited.

- 4 Apr **MID-TERM PAPERS DUE**
- 4 Apr/
11 Apr 3. *Pillar 3: Conflict Intervention.*
- READ: Clemens, Chapters 2, 9-15; and
 Ramsbotham, et al., Chapters 5-10.
- a. 3rd Party Objectives.
- [1] Violent Conflict *Prevention*
 [= **Preventive Diplomacy**].
- [2] Conflict *Management*
 [= **Peacekeeping**].
- [3] Conflict *Settlement*
 [= **Coercive Peacemaking**].
- [4] Conflict *Resolution*
 [= **Noncoercive Peacemaking**].
- [5] Conflict *Transformation* [*Provention*]
 [= **Peacebuilding**].
- b. 3rd Party Approaches for Achieving Goals.
- [1] Competitive and/or Cooperative
 Processes.
- [2] Negative and/or Positive Peace
 Orientations.
- [3] Track-1 and/or Multi-Track Actors and
 Techniques.
- 18 Apr IV. Application of Theory: Dealing with Violence, Violent
 Conflict and Postmodern Warfare Globally.
- READ: Clemens, Chapter 16;
 Ramsbotham, et al., Chapters 11-16;
 Sandole, 2002ab; and
 Sandole, 2007, Chapter 3.
- 25 Apr V. Presentations on Final Papers.
- 2 May Presentations, continued and ending of class.
- 9 May **FINAL PAPERS DUE**