

CONF 652
Conflict Resolution From Prevention, Stabilization, and Reconstruction Contexts

Syllabus

George Mason University
ICAR

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Course Overview and Requirements

This course is about the theory and practice of analyzing and resolving violent interstate and intrastate conflicts in their structural, social-psychological, and behavioral dimensions. It discusses and applies concepts associated with the field of conflict resolution. The focus of the course is on developing the intellectual and practical skills necessary for planning and carrying out third-party interventions designed to diagnose and resolve intrastate violent and armed conflicts.

Attendance and Grading

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to have done the assigned readings before coming to class (including the first session), and to be able to discuss the readings in class.

A Group Project that analyzes an ongoing intrastate armed conflict. The project will consist of a fifteen minute presentation and a set of briefing slides (in PowerPoint). The project constitutes 20% of the final grade.

A Group Project that provides a resolution strategy to the conflict analyzed in the first presentation. The project will consist of a fifteen minute presentation and a set of briefing slides (in PowerPoint). The project constitutes 20% of the final grade.

Two short papers (5-7 pages) that analyzes and then proposes a resolution strategy to resolve a current intrastate violent conflict. The first paper will be in the format provided and should discuss the root causes of the conflict and the second propose a plan for resolving the conflict. These constitute 35% of the final grade.

Participation and attendance in class will count towards 25% of the final grade. You are expected to be in class, or notify the instructor if you may miss a class. While the class is a lecture format, it will be interactive, in that you will be expected to discuss issues and points.

There are no scheduled office hours for this class (there being no scheduled office), so questions and requests for class-related consultation will be handled before or after class and by email if possible. However, if required, special arrangements can be made to meet to discuss any issues the student may have.

Readings

Required Course Texts

Miall, Hugh; Ramsbotham, Oliver; and Woodhouse, Tom. (2005). Contemporary Conflict Resolution, Cambridge, UK: Polity Press (2d Ed.) ISBN 0745620353 (pb)

Talentino, Anrea Kathryn. (2005). Military Intervention After the Cold War. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press

Covey, Jock; Dziedzic, Michael J.; and Hawley, Leonard R. (2005). The Quest for Viable Peace. Washington, DC: US Institute for Peace

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Additional Readings. Additional listed readings will be provided by the instructor or posted on WebCT. In addition, students are expected to remain knowledgeable in current conflicts, to include US operations in Iraq, the War on Terrorism and any others that may occur during the semester.

Schedule of Classes

September 9

Introduction

Theories and Causes of Conflict

Miall, Chapters 1-4

Talentino, Chapter 1-2

Smith, *Trends and Causes of Armed Conflict*

Conflict Analysis

USAID, *Conducting a Conflict Assessment*

CERTI, *Human Security*

Wehr, *Conflict Mapping*

September 10

Iraq Case Study

Conflict Interventions

Miall, Chapter 13

Talentino, Chapters 3-6

United Nations, *An Agenda for Peace, 1992*

Project Group Organization

September 30

Project Presentations

Conflict Prevention

Miall, Chapter 5

Conflict Management

Miall Chapter 6

Covey, Chapters 3-4

Use of Force: Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement

Covey, Chapter 6

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October 1

Peacemaking: Reaching Settlements

Miall, Chapters 7, 14

Covey, Chapter 5

Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Stabilization

Miall, Chapters 8-9

Covey, Chapters 7-8

Iraq Case Study

October 28

Conflict Resolution

Miall, Chapters 10, 12

Covey, Chapters 9-10

Clements, *Towards Conflict Transformation and a Just Peace*

International Terrorism and Conflict Resolution

Miall, Chapter 11

Reading TBD

October 29 Final Papers Due

Evaluating Intervention Outcomes

Reading TBD

Project Presentations

Course Summary and Critiques