

CONF 501.003: Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Fall 2009 -- Mondays at 4:30-7:10

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to central themes, concepts, and modes of practice in conflict analysis and resolution. These tools are the foundation for developing an understanding of a conflict's social/political/historical context, the conditions that gave rise to negative relations among parties, and the conflict's root causes. Protracted social conflicts are of special concern and require concerted use of standard and innovative tools of analysis and resolution. Recognizing the futility of many "quick fix" resolutions, conflict practitioners attempt to devise and deploy methods of intervention that address a conflict's root causes and that contribute to the kind of peacebuilding that addresses parties' damaged relationships and ameliorates structural and cultural violence. Unit I focuses on introducing the CAR field and the means of systematic analysis of conflicts of various forms. Unit II addresses major topics of conflict management and resolution. Unit III focuses on four case studies, each of which provides a context for applying the themes from Units I and II. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to reflect critically on conflicts and interventions and to keep in mind the roles played by culture, power, and values not only in generating conflict but in its analysis and resolution.

Required Texts (available at GMU Bookstore):

Assefa, Hizkias, and Paul Wahrhaftig. 1990. *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Crocker, Chester, 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. [LDW]

Lederach, John Paul. 1997. *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace.

Pruitt, Dean, and Sung Hee Kim. 2004. *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 3rd Edition. [SC]

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. 2005. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts*. Oxford: Polity Press, 2nd Edition. [CCR]

Roy, Beth. 1994. *Some Trouble with Cows: Making Sense of Social Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

These additional articles and chapters are available through Mason Library's e-journals, e-reserve, or Blackboard.

- Avruch, Kevin and Black, Peter (1993). Conflict resolution in intercultural settings: problems and prospects. In: *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice*. Sandole and van der Merwe, (eds). Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Burton, J. (1993). Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy. In Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, (Eds). *Conflict resolution theory and Practice*. Manchester.
- Fisher, Ronald. (2008). Interactive Conflict Resolution: Dialogue, Conflict Analysis and Problem-Solving. *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*. Sandole, Byrne, Senehi, and Sandole-Staroste (eds.). London and New York: Routledge. 326-336.
- Galtung, Johan. 1969. Violence, Peace and Peace Research. *Journal of Peace Research* 6 (3): 167-191. BlackB
- Laue, James, and Gerald Cormick. (1978). The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes. In: *Ethics of Social Intervention*. Bernant, et. al., eds. Washington: Hemisphere Publishing. 205-232.
- Mayer, Bernard. (2004). *Beyond Neutrality: Confronting the Crisis in Conflict Resolution*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Mitchell, Chris. (1993). "The Process and Stages of Mediation: Two Sudanese Cases." In: *Making War and Waging Peace*. David R. Smock (ed.), Washington: USIP.
- Potter, Antonia. (2005). *We, The Women: Why Conflict Resolution is Not Just a Job for Men*. Geneva: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogues.
- Rothbart, Daniel, and Karyna Korostelina, (2008) The Enemy and the Innocent of Violent Conflict, In: *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*. Sandole, Byrne, Senehi, and Sandole-Staroste (eds.). London and New York: Routledge.
- Schoeny, Mara and Wallace Warfield. (2000). Reconnecting Systems Maintenance with Social Justice: A critical role for conflict resolution, *Negotiation Journal* 16.3: 253-268.
- Senehi, Jessica (2008). Building Peace: Storytelling to Transform Conflicts Constructively. In: *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*. Sandole, Byrne, Senehi, and Sandole-Staroste (eds.). London and New York: Routledge.
- Walker, Polly. (2004). Decolonizing Conflict Resolution: Addressing the Ontological Violence of Westernization. *American Indian Quarterly* 28.3-4:527-549.

Course Assignments and Grading:

1. Class Participation. Attending class is expected and is crucial if you would like to succeed in this course. Each class session will include a discussion component that calls for active participation. You should plan to complete the assigned readings prior to each class. You will need to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard learning system. Use Blackboard to discuss class topics, materials, and assignments will be considered as participation. 10% of grade.

2. Take-home Exam. A take home exam will be distributed on October 9 and returned on October 19. 15% of grade.

3. Team presentation of case study. The class will be divided into teams of 4-5 students per team. Each team will select a case from one of the four cases provided. The primary objective of the team is to produce a critical reflection on the case, focusing on an analysis of the conflict setting, activities of conflict parties, approach of the interveners, and an assessment of what went wrong and/or right. The background information is given in the readings provided, and the group might want to retrieve additional readings. The group should focus on using the concepts, models, and themes presented during the course and reflect critically on their own assumptions and perspectives as conflict analysts. The presentations will be scheduled for Nov. 16 and Nov. 23. Grades will be assigned separately to each team member. 20% of grade.

4. Case Study Paper. Each student will write a term paper that is at least 15 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font on a topic emerging from the case study. The primary objective is to provide a critical reflection on some aspect of the case that served as the focus of the group project. The analysis must include an application of the topics, concepts, and themes of the course as well as proper bibliography and citations. 25% of grade.

5. Take-Home Final Exam. The final examination is comprehensive of the course themes. This will be distributed on the last day of class and due on December 14th at 5:00. 30 % of grade.

HONOR POLICY

All students are expected to abide by the Honor Code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. Failure to comply with this code may result in academic penalty in accordance with the procedures of the Honor Committee. [Also, refer to Appendix C of the ICAR Handbook.]

Case Study Options:

Case #1: South Africa

Waldmeir, Patti. (1997). *Anatomy of a Miracle: The end of apartheid and the birth of the New South Africa*. W. W. New York: Norton and Company.

Case #2: Washington, DC Riots

Gilbert, Ben. (1968). *Ten Blocks from the White House: Anatomy of the Washington Riots of 1968*. New York: Praeger Press.

Case #3: Kosovo

Malcolm, Noel. (1998). *Kosovo: A Short History*. New York: New York University Press.

Case #4 Copper Strike

Rosenblum, Jonathan (1998). *Copper Crucible: How the Arizona Miners Strike of 1983 Recast Labor-Management Relations in America*. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press.

Kingslover, Barbara (1989). *Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983*. Ithaca: ILR Press.

Course Topics and Schedule of Readings

Aug. 31 Introduction

Mitchell, Chris. Some Basic Initial Frameworks for Conflict Analysis. Handout

Sept. 7 Class does not meet.

UNIT I: Sources of Protracted Conflict

Sept. 14 Defining Conflict and the Field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Pruitt and Kim, Chaps. 1-2, SC

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 1-2, CCR

Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, Leashing the Dogs of War (Introduction), LDW

Galtung, Johan. 1969. Violence, Peace and Peace Research.

Sept. 21 The Nature and Sources of Violent Conflict

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 3-4. CCR.

Ayoub, M. State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure, LDW.*

Gurr, T. Minorities, Nationalists, and Islamists: Managing Communal Conflict in the Twenty-First Century, LDW.*

Collier, P. Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy, LDW.*

Stewart, F., and G. Brown, Motivations for Conflict: Groups and Individuals, LDW.*

Burton, J. Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy.

***[Be prepared to lead discussion on your assigned chapter.]**

Sept. 28 Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation

Pruitt and Kim, Chaps. 3–9, SC.

Avruch, Kevin and Black, Peter. Conflict Resolution in Inter-Cultural Settings.

UNIT II: Conflict Management and Resolution

Oct. 5 Third Party Intervention

Pruitt and Kim, Chaps. 10-11, SC.

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 5-7, CCR.

I.W. Zartman, and Saadia Touval. International Mediation. LDW.

Mitchell, Chris, The Process and Stages of Mediation.

Laue and Cormick, The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes.

Fisher, Interactive Conflict Resolution

[Take home exam distributed electronically on Oct. 9]

Oct. 13 Dynamics of Escalation and Intervention (Guest Speaker)

Note: Class will be held on Tuesday evening.

Rothbart and Korostelina, *The Enemy and the Innocent in Violent Conflict*.

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall. Chap. 5-6, CCR.

Jentleson, Bruce, *Yet Again: Humanitarian Intervention and the Challenges of “Never Again,”* LDW.

Oct. 19 Outcomes and Remedies

[Take-home exam due in class.]

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 7-9 and 11. CCR.

Kritz, Neil, *The Rule of Law in Conflict Management*. LDW.

Serwer, Daniel, and Patricia Thomson, *A Framework for Success: International Intervention in Societies Emerging from Conflict*. LDW.

Oct. 26 Intervention Revisited

Chigas, Diana. *Capacities and Limits of NGOs as Conflict Managers*. LDW.

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 12-15, CCR.

Potter, Antonia, *We, the Women (Gender)**

Mayer, Bernard, *Beyond Neutrality (Ethics)**

Senehi, *Building Peace, LDW. (Discourse)**

Walker, P. *Decolonizing Conflict Resolution. (Culture)**

***[Be prepared to lead class discussion on your assigned reading.]**

UNIT III: Case Studies of Conflict and its Resolution

Nov. 2 Case Study: MOVE

Assefa and Wharharftig, *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia*

Nov. 9 Case Study: A Community in India

Roy, *Some Trouble with Cows*

Nov. 16 Case Study: Group Presentations

Nov. 23 Case Study Group Presentations

UNIT IV: Building Toward the Future**Nov. 30 Reconciliation**

Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*.
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chap. 10, CCR

Dec. 7 Looking toward the Future
[Take home final to be handed out in class.]

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, Chaps. 15-16, CCR.
Schoeny, Mara and Wallace Warfield, Reconnecting systems maintenance with social
Justice.
Other readings TBA.

[Take home final due Dec. 14th at 5:00pm]

