

CONF 340-02
(301, 302, 303)
Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Fall 2013

Instructor: Marc Gopin, PhD

Email: mgopin@gmu.edu

Lecture:

Thursdays from 10:30am to 11:45am in Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Recitation Sections:

Section 301 – Tuesdays from 10:30am to 11:45am in Robinson B, Room 442
Fakhira Halloun, fhalloun@masonlive.gmu.edu

Section 302 – Tuesdays from 10:30am to 11:45am in Krug Hall, Room 205
Adeeb Yousif, aabdela2.gmu.edu

Section 303 – Tuesdays from 10:30am to 11:45am in Robinson A, Room 250
Paul Snodgrass, psnodgra@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Recitation Leaders are available to meet with students following recitation sections by appointment or upon request at the end of a section.

Important: Lecture and Discussion Section days are reversed 3 times during the semester (with different meeting locations) and there are 2 days where we will not meet due to holidays. There are also 2 days where we will meet as a large group for film viewings. Pay close attention to the weekly schedule for details.

Course Description: CONF 340 covers conflicts at macro level, introducing theories of international and global violence and conflict, drawing from disciplines of international relations, political science, intercultural communication, and conflict resolution. Covers impact of globalization and structural causes of conflict. Uses class discussions, case studies, and final paper to develop analytical skills to help in the analysis of conflict. Prepares students for further course work for international conflict concentration.

Objectives: This course will take us deeply into the world of peacemakers and expose us to their journey, but even more so to the responsibility and challenges of the role of changing a reality of war and conflict. Students will be exposed to conflict theories and concepts relevant to global conflicts, allowing us to identify the underlying causes and consequences of deep-rooted protracted conflicts. The class will expose the students to different analytical tools to better understand the conflict. During the semester, we will apply these analytical tools to several current conflicts. The class will touch upon a variety of intervention models, and will discuss in-depth their role in changing the dynamic between the conflicting parties. Further discussion examines the challenges facing the actors involved in these models. Finally, this course will help the student to think critically, systematically and analytically about conflicts in different regions and in a variety of contexts.

The Course Format:

The course will be run as a combined lecture and seminar with an emphasis on discussion of the readings and students' reflections. It is therefore imperative that students read the assigned material prior to class. Active participation based on *thoughtful consideration* of the literature will be expected. Missing more than one or two classes will inevitably reduce your overall participation and hence result in a lower participation grade.

The primary text for this course, by Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall, will anchor the exploration of global conflict resolution. Marc Gopin's, *To Make the Earth Whole*, will provide an ethical framework and underpinnings of religion and conflict. Supplemental readings have been chosen to broaden and deepen our understanding of the theories and methods covered in this course.

Course Materials:

Ramsbotham et al. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, [3rd edition, 2011], Polity Press [CCR. *hereafter*]

Gopin, Marc. *To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.

Additional Readings are provided via web links or PDFs shared via email.

Electronic Device Policy:

Regarding electronic devices (such as laptops, cell phones, etc.), please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and may affect your participation grade.

Honor Code Policy:

We expect you to understand and abide by the University's policy regarding the Honor Code, which may be found at <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>

In short, the University's policy regarding the Honor Code prohibits any form of cheating on exams or written assignments. It also prohibits plagiarism, so be certain to properly cite all information that you use in your papers. More on Honor Code and Plagiarism in the Research Paper Section.

University Student Support Resources:

<http://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus/>

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>
All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Exercises, Grades, and Course Requirements:

Grading Logic: All submissions start with 100% grade, one point is deducted for anything that appears incorrect (eg spelling, format, missing assignment requirements, incorrect citations etc).

A. Outstanding work that shows creative original thinking, well organized, and flawlessly written.

B: Good work with a strong argument, sound organization, and solid writing. There are some relatively minor flaws in one or more of these areas, although the work clearly shows potential for an A level grade.

C: About average or slightly below average. An overall solid job, but with more obvious organizational, interpretive, creative, and/or stylistic problems that permeate the paper.

D: Serious flaws in every aspect of the work: a lack of understanding of basic principles, poor organization, and writing that makes it difficult for me to understand the author.

F: Unacceptable and/or incomplete, of a nature that if re-writing was permitted, the student would be required to re-write to earn a passing grade.

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	

Grading Allocation:

- 20% Participation
- 15% Reading Quizzes
- 30% 2 Short Reflection Papers
- 35% 1 Research Paper (35% Paper, 5% Paper proposal)

Participation: You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings. In evaluating class participation, the discussion leaders will look for evidence that you have done the readings with sufficient attention that you can contribute to the discussion. You should be prepared to 1) critically reflect on the readings and present their main strengths and weaknesses; 2) draw links between the readings and real-world experience, using, if applicable, examples of current global conflicts. This will be worth **20% of your final grade.**

Reading Quizzes: We will have 3 reading quizzes that will assess your completion and comprehension of the readings. The quizzes will be pass/fail and will cumulatively be worth **15% of your final grade.**

Reflection Papers: We will have 2 reflection papers. You will be asked to personally reflect on the discussions and readings and connect them to your own experiences as well as global conflicts of interest to you. Each paper will be 4-6 pages (12pt double spaced) in length. This will be worth **30% of your final grade.**

Research Paper: You will write a 10-page research paper on a case study. In this paper, drawing from theories we will learn in our class, you will present and discuss the basic parameters of a contemporary conflict and offer suggestions for resolving the conflict. It is an individually written paper, demonstrating your own reflections on the application of theory to a conflict of your choice. Your paper must aim to do the following:

Analyze a conflict drawing on one or two theories discussed in class. In our class we will explore a number of analytic frameworks that may help you in this task.

Recommend a number of potential conflict interventions that may help parties in conflict deal effectively with the issues they face.

Further details on the structure of the final paper, as well as on other specifics will be given later in the semester. Your final research paper will be evaluated on the following basis:

a) Demonstration of Knowledge of the given conflict system: Throughout the paper you need to show that you have done a sound research and that you understand the different parameters of the conflict you explore (background, parties, causes, issues, relationships, dynamics etc).

b) Right Use of Theories and Concepts we have learned in class: Your writing needs to reflect a clear understanding of the theories you have chosen to use in your case. In your paper you also need to explain why the theories you use are relevant to the case you explore.

c) Recommendations: Again here the intention is to demonstrate that you have understood the different types of intervention and when each of those types is used (matching the reality on the ground to the right type of intervention). Here, being realistic and exploring ethical concerns is important.

d) Overall Organization and Clarity: The reader needs to be able to follow easily what is being presented in the paper. Thus, your paper needs to be a cohesive narrative rather than an unstructured body of information. You may have done an excellent job in your research, but throwing information out there without a structure and in a disorganized way does not help the reader understand what you write.

e) Correct and Consistent Citation Style: this is an academic paper and this needs to be reflected in the overall format. If you are not sure about which style to use or if you have questions, you can contact the GMU Writing Center [e-mail wcenter@gmu.edu, or call 703-993-4491].

A one-page proposal of what you plan to research with a tentative bibliography is due by email by Thursday, November 5th by 6pm. **The final research paper is due by email on December 12th, by 6pm**, and you are expected to send it to your Recitation Leader electronically. Please, pay attention to grammar, spellings, typographical mistakes and consistency in citations, as it shall have an impact on your grade. The final research paper shall be worth **35% of your final grade**.

Summary:

Academic Honesty and Collaboration:

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at <http://oai.gmu.edu>. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor. S-CAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. S-CAR's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

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.* “I wasn’t sure how to cite a source, so I left out the reference,” is not an acceptable defense for plagiarism. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk or online at <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>

Late Work: Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one point for each day they are late (i.e. B instead of B+). Late papers will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency. If this is the case, you must email a copy at my GMU email address per the extension given to you.

Paper Format: Papers for the course should be typed, double-spaced, have 1” margins, and use a common 12-point font. Headers should include only the course number, CONF 340-002. **Papers should have a title; include your name and the section leader’s name.** Sources should be cited using a single standard academic citation format.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1		
August 27th	Sections	Course Overview / Syllabus Review Introductions
August 29th	Lecture	Becoming a Peacemaker
Readings	Gopin, Marc. “A Reflective Practitioner’s 40-Year Wilderness Journey Between Judaism and Conflict Resolution.” <i>Peacemaking: From Practice to Theory</i> . Praeger Security International, 2011.	http://psi.praeger.com/doc.aspx?d=/books/gpg/D5075C/D5075C-763.xml
	Louise Diamond Peacemaker, Facilitator, Teacher, Therapist. Audio Recording. <i>Learning from Practice Podcast</i> .	http://scar.gmu.edu/cpp/podcast
	Recommended: Other Episodes from “Learning from Practice Podcast”	http://scar.gmu.edu/cpp/podcast

Week 2		
September 3rd	Lecture	Introduction to Conflict Resolution / History of the Field
September 5th	Sections	Discussion Quiz on Readings
Readings	CCR	Ch 1 Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions

Week 3		
September 10th	Sections	Discussion
September 12th	Lecture	Theories and Frameworks
Readings	CCR	Ch 4 Understanding Contemporary Conflict Theories and Frameworks
	Daniel Bar-Tal, "Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts," <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 50:11 (2007): 1430-1453. Available through e-journals.	

Week 4		
September 17th	Lecture	Four Approaches to Mapping Conflicts
September 19th	Sections	Discussion
Readings	Sandole, Dennis J.D. (1998) "A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A Three Pillar Approach." <i>Peace and Conflict Studies</i> , vol. 5, no. 2, December, pp. 1-30.	http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/pcs/sandole
	Mitchell, Chris (1990) SPITCEROW: Framework for the Analysis of Conflict Systems	http://pcmsauhaifa.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/mitchell-basic-framework-for-conflict-analysis-spitcerow.pdf
	Wehr, Paul. Conflict Mapping	http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/treatment/cmap.htm
	Bright, L. Shay. (2000) The Conflict Mapping Chart	http://www.cmsupport.org/conflictmapping/conflictmappingchart_shayBright.pdf

Week 5		
September 24th	Lecture	Nonviolence, Empathy, and Social Change
September 26th	Sections	Discussion Quiz on Readings
Readings	Pinker, Steven. "Better Angels." <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined</i> . New York: Viking, 2011.	Chapter 9: Better Angels
	Ted Talk: Steven Pinker: The surprising decline in violence	http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_on_the_myth_of_violence.html
	Wikipedia Article on "Better Angels of our Nature" by Steven Pinker	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Better_Angels_of_Our_Nature

Week 6		
October 1st	Sections	Film by Just Vision: Budrus
October 3rd	Lecture	Non-Violent Resistance
Readings	Martin Luther King Jr. - My Pilgrimage to Nonviolence	http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/primarydocuments/Vol4/1-Sept-1958_MyPilgrimageToNonviolence.pdf
	Stephan and Chenoweth - Why Civil Resistance Works The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict	http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international_security/v033/33.1.stephan.html
	Bartkowski and Bellal (2011) - A human right to resist	http://www.opendemocracy.net/maciej-bartkowski-annysa-bellal/human-right-to-resist
	Sharp, Gene - From Dictatorship to Democracy	Chapters 1 and 5 http://www.aeinstein.org/organizations/org/FDTD.pdf

Week 7		
October 1st	Sections	Discussion Reflection Paper #1 Due
October 3rd	Lecture	Violence Prevention and Containment (Michael Lund's Thesis and Critiques)
Readings	CCR	Ch 5 Preventing Violent Conflict
	CCR	Ch 6 Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping

Week 8		
October 15th	No Class	Columbus Day Makeup
October 17th	Lecture	Peacemaking and Peacebuilding
Readings	CCR	Ch 7 Ending Violent Conflict: Peacemaking
	CCR	Ch 9 Peacebuilding
	Mohammed Abu-Nimer, "Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue in the Second Intifada: Between Despair and Hope." Global Dialogue. vol. 4, no. 3, summer 2002, 130-1143	http://worlddialogue.org/content.php?id=241

Week 9		
October 22nd	Sections	Discussion – Peacemaking and Peacebuilding Quiz on Readings
October 24th	Lecture	Reconciliation
Readings	CCR	Ch 10 Reconciliation

Week 10		
October 29th	Sections	Film: Fambol Tok
October 31st	Lecture	Environmental CR and Gender
Readings	CCR	Ch 12 Environmental Conflict Resolution
	CCR	Ch 13 Gender in Conflict Resolution
	Website: Friends of the Earth (Middle East)	http://foeme.org/

Week 11		
November 5th	Sections	Discussion on Environment and Gender Research Paper Proposal Due
November 7th	Lecture	Religion and Conflict Resolution
Readings	CCR	Ch 15 Culture, Religion and Conflict Resolution (339-346)
	To Make the Earth Whole	Ch 1 The State of Religion, Conflict, and Peace: Strategic Foundations for Building Community in a Militant Time
	To Make the Earth Whole	Ch 2 Religious Power and the Future of Global Society

Week 12		
November 12th	Sections	Discussion: Religion Reflection Paper #2 Due
November 14th	Lecture	Culture and Conflict Resolution
Readings	CCR	Ch 15 Culture, Religion and Conflict Resolution (332-339)
	Peter W. Black and Kevin Avruch “Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings,” in <i>Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice</i> , edited by Denis J. D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe. Manchester University Press, 1993.	

Week 13		
November 19th	Sections	Discussion: Culture
November 21st	Lecture	Ethics of Intervention
Readings	CCR	Ch 14 Conflict Resolution and the Ethics of Intervention
	To Make the Earth Whole	Ch 6 Confronting the Ethical Dilemmas of Citizen Diplomacy
	To Make the Earth Whole	Ch 7 A Global Ethic of Citizen Diplomacy
	Leaning, Jennifer. "The Dilemma of Neutrality"	http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?rep=rep1&type=pdf&doi=10.1.1.176.954

Week 14		
November 26th	Sections	Discussion on Ethics
November 28th	No Class	Thanksgiving

Week 15		
December 3rd	Sections	Discussion: Reflections on the course, Discussion of Research Paper
December 5th	Lecture	Media, Culture and Conflict
Readings	CCR	Ch 17 Conflict Resolution, the Media and the Communications Revolution

Final Paper due by email December 12th at 6 pm

Week 1

August 27th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

August 29th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 2 (Lecture/Sections switched and rooms changed)

September 3rd – Large Group: The Hub (SUBII) Ballroom - Front

September 5th – Recitation Sections

301 – Student Union I 3A – Meeting Room

302 – Research Hall 162

303 – Mason Hall D205F – Meeting Room

Week 3

September 10th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

September 12th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 4 (Lecture/Sections switched and rooms changed)

September 17th – Large Group: The Hub (SUBII) Ballroom - Front

September 19th – Recitation Sections

301 – Student Union I 3A – Meeting Room

302 – Research Hall 162

303 – Mason Hall D205F – Meeting Room

Week 5 (Lecture/Sections switched and rooms changed)

September 24th – Large Group: Johnson Center 325 – Meeting Room A

September 26th – Recitation Sections

301 – Student Union I 3A – Meeting Room

302 – Research Hall 162

303 – Mason Hall D205F – Meeting Room

Week 6

October 1st – **Large Group for Film: HUB ROOM 3 & 4**

October 3rd – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 7

October 8th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

October 10th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 8

October 15th – No Class (Tuesday classes cancelled for Columbus Day makeup)

October 17th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 9

October 22nd – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

October 24th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 10

October 29th – **Large Group for Film: HUB ROOM 3 & 4**

October 31st – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 11

November 5th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

November 7th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 12

November 12th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

November 14th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 13

November 19th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

November 21st – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129

Week 14

November 26th – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

November 28th – No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week 15

December 3rd – Recitation Sections

301 - Robinson B, Room 442

302 - Krug Hall, Room 205

303 - Robinson A, Room 250

December 5th – Large Group: Blue Ridge Hall, Room 129