American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

**School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS611**

Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Theory and Practice

**Credit Hours:
Length of Course: Weeks**

Prerequisite: NSEC500

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Instructor Information

Instructor Name:

Bio:

Please contact me through the "messages" tab in the classroom while our class is in session.

After the course ends, please contact me through the university email system:

Course Description (Catalog)

The course will consider the rationalist approach to conflict analysis, along with other theoretical approaches to international relations theory. It will examine the generic nature of conflict, whether between individuals or nations. It also directly addresses international conflict, its origins, discernible patterns, routine components, range of outcomes, and modes of conflict prevention or amelioration. Conflict resolution theory will be applied to various cases of contemporary conflict among nations. Students will develop a thorough awareness of the origins of conflict, various approaches to conflict analysis and resolution, as well as strategies for conflict prevention.

Course Scope

As an upper-level seminar, this course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. The course consists of a midterm analytical essay on the concepts of the course for the first four weeks of study. Additionally, students will conduct research in preparation for the Capstone project in the Graduate program and will present a final research paper.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Analyze the primary theories of conflict resolution.

CO-2: Analyze the impact of culture and historical divides on an understanding of conflict.

CO-3: Assess distinct approaches to conflict resolution and mediation.

CO-4: Evaluate the role of the United Nations, regional organizations, nation-states, and individuals in conflict resolution.

CO-5: Identify obstacles to conflict resolution and propose alternative strategies to overcome such barriers.

CO-6: Apply knowledge skill sets in a simulation exercise or case study.

These course objectives harmonize with the Degree Program Objectives, which require graduates to:
- Construct and criticize the theory and politics of conflict, war, diplomatic relations, and the evolving nature of the international system.
- Provide students with a research-active teaching environment to provide grounding in the study of international relations including its political, social, and economic aspects.
- Assess how state, non-state, and supra-national actors behave and interact through a dynamic appreciation of different levels of analysis.
- Critique the theories of international relations, the heritage and development of the discipline, its major debates, its inherent nature as an interdisciplinary study, and a critical appreciation of the essentially contested nature of politics in general, and international relations in particular.
- Evaluate the nature and distribution of power in the international systems, the problems of political order and the social economic, historical and cultural context within which international actors operate.

- Assess the current challenges to international order, cooperation, identity, social formations, and global issues, and possible strategies to address them.
- Evaluate the changing role of the state in the context of globalization and regional integration and the implications for international peace and security.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks
Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse, and Hugh Miall. 2011. Contemporary Conflict Resolution (3rd Edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Other readings are available electronically within the classroom.

Additional Resources and Web Sites

Videos and web sites are available within the classroom and through the university electronic library.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Research Proposal – 15 percent

For the proposal, you must select a topic related to the course subject matter. The research proposal explains why and how a project will be conducted. It is useful for planning a project (and for getting critical feedback before undertaking the project)

Simulation and Case Study Presentation (Final Assignment) – 20 percent

The course will conclude with a ***virtual simulation*** that allows the class to apply concepts and theories covered in the course. Students will be graded on their participation in the exercise and a 20-page thought paper based on the simulation.

Research Paper -35 percent

Please provide a 14 page critical analysis essay on the topic of your choice. Please make sure you have a clear thesis as the last sentence of the introduction, with discussions and analysis of your ideas in the body paragraphs. Please see "writing requirements" in the course materials for

further information. This is the final paper that expands the topic that was proposed in the Research Proposal.

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage
Weekly Forum Discussions Research Proposal Simulation Presentation Research Paper	30 percent 15 percent 20 percent 35 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic(s)	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	The Theory of Conflict Analysis	CO-1: Analyze	Babbit, Eileen and Fen	*Forum*: Virtual Introduction

		the primary theories of conflict resolution.	Osler Hampson. 2011. "Conflict Resolution as a Field of Inquiry: Practice Informing Theory."	and Seminar Discussion
			Gopin, Marc. 2013. "Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution: Divorce or Friendly Mediation?."	
			Popovska, Biljana. 2013. "Theoretical Concepts to Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Divided Societies."	
2	**The Causes of Conflict**	**CO-2:** Analyze the impact of culture and historical divides on an understanding of conflict.	Lange, Maria. 2010. "Refugee return and root causes of conflict." Bin Mohamad, N. 2015. Ethnic Conflict: Theories and Understanding the Root Causes. Mohammadzadeh, Hossien. 2016. "The Causes of Ethnic Conflict in Multi-Ethnic Societies 1." Markedonov, Sergey M. 2012.Causes of the	*Forum:* Seminar Discussion Research Proposal

			Growing Instability in Kabardino-Balkaria and Ways of Overcoming It. The Dispute over Prea Vihear: Seen Problems, Unseen Stakes Waging Peace: ASEAN and the Thai-Cambodian Border Conflict Mueller, John. 2000. The banality of `ethnic war'.	
3	**Conflict Resolution & Mediation**	**CO-3:** Assess distinct approaches to conflict resolution and mediation.	Najafbagy, Reza. 2008. "Problems of Effective Cross-Cultural Communication and Conflict Resolution." Bercovitch, Jacob, and Leah Simpson. 2010. "International Mediation and the Question of Failed Peace Agreements: Improving Conflict Management and	*Forum:* Seminar Discussion

			Implementation." Liebel, Steven R., and Andrew J. Enterline. 2014. "Negotiation, Mediation and Insurgent Victory in Counter-insurgency Wars Fought by Foreign Powers." Frank, Kevin K. 2015. "Ripeness and the 2008 Djibouti-Eritrea Border Dispute." Northeast African Studies 15, no. 1: 113-138. International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center, EBSCOhost (accessed September 17, 2016).	
4	**Conflict**	**CO-4:** Evaluate the role of the United Nations, regional	Fausett, Elizabeth, and Thomas J. Volgy. 2010. "Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and	*Forum:* Discussion Question

		organizations, nation-states, and individuals in conflict resolution. **CO-1:** Analyze the primary theories of conflict resolution.	Interstate Conflict: Parsing Out IGO Effects for Alternative Dimensions of Conflict in Postcommunist Space." 2010. "Darfur Conflict/Crisis Chronology." Zaremba, Bob. 2011. "Conflict in Darfur: Calculation and Inadequate International Response." Budabin, Alexandra Cosima. 2014. "Diasporas as development partners for peace?	
5	**Actors in Conflict Resolution**	CO-5: Identify obstacles to conflict resolution and propose alternative strategies to overcome such barriers.	US Ambivalence Jones, Peter. 2013. "Canada and International Conflict Mediation." Oetzel, J., Getz, K. A., & Ladek, S. 2007. The role of multinational enterprises in responding to violent	*Forum*

			conflict: A conceptual model and framework for research. The Conflict between Russia and Chechnya	
6	**Perceptual Issues**	Identify obstacles to conflict resolution and propose alternative strategies to overcome such barriers.	Najafbagy, Reza. 2008. Problems of Effective Cross-Cultural Communication and Conflict Resolution. The Conflict between Russia and Chechnya Zeitoun, Mark, Michael Tathami, and Karim Eid-Sabbagh. 2013. Curran, David. 2013. Training for peacekeeping: Towards increased understanding of conflict resolution?	*Forum 6*
7	**Intervention**	CO-5: Identify obstacles to conflict resolution and propose	Kardas, S. 2013. Humanitarian intervention as a 'responsibility to protect':	*Simulation Presentation.* *Week 7 forum*

		alternative strategies to overcome such barriers.	Kahler, Miles. 2011. "Legitimacy, Humanitarian Intervention, and International Institutions."	
8	**Conclusion**	**CO-5:** Identify obstacles to conflict resolution and propose alternative strategies to overcome such barriers. **CO-1:** Analyze the primary theories of conflict resolution.	Baker, Bruce. 2010. "Grasping the Nettle of Nonstate Policing." Dahl, Elizabeth S. 2012. "Oil and Water? The Philosophical Commitments of International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution1." Barnett, Michael. 2006. Building a republican peace: stabilizing states after war. Wesley, Michael. 2008. The state of the art on the art of state building.	*Forum* *Research Paper*

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

> Drop/Withdrawal Policy
> Plagiarism Policy
> Extension Process and Policy
> Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the

rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- ***Electronic Books:*** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- ***Electronic Journals:*** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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