

Syllabus for Conflict Management Course
July 26-August 3, 2011
Dr. Faten Ghosn

The main objectives of this class are 1) to introduce you to the theories and approaches of conflict management, and 2) to provide you with the analytical tools to understand, evaluate, and respond to conflicts. Therefore, in addition to enhancing your knowledge of conflict management and resolution, this class aims at fostering analytical thinking, which will enable you to evaluate critically the arguments and evidence surrounding a controversial issue as well as to communicate your arguments effectively.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions. In order to participate effectively, students will need to complete the readings before their assigned class sessions. Please note that the emphasis of this class is not on memorizing the material, but on developing critical analysis and applied skills. The readings are selected to provide a framework for discussion and understanding the field of conflict management. Professor Ghosn will be available to meet with students outside of class and help address any questions or concerns regarding the class content or the field in general.

July 26: Origins of Conflict

We will analyze the origins of conflicts, be they interstate or intrastate, by focusing on factors such as geography and territory, grievances (both political and economic), identity and security dilemma. We will also discuss the difference between conflict management, resolution, and transformation

- Thomas Ohlson. 2008. Understanding Causes of War and Peace. *European Journal of International Relations*, 14(1): 133-160.
- John Burton. *Conflict: Resolution and Prevention*. New York: St. Martin's Press. 36-48.
- Hugh Miall. 2004. Conflict Transformation: A Multi-Dimensional Task. Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation.

July 27: Dynamics of Conflict

We will focus on the usage of force as a conflict management tool through war or acts short of war as well as the rules and norms that regulate the usage of force. Also, we will discuss the role of third parties in the evolution of such conflicts, particularly those that use force, be they joiners or interveners.

- Anthony Clark Arend and Robert Beck. 2003. International Law and the Recourse of Force: A Shift in Paradigms, in *International Law* pp. 285-310.
- Jennifer Jackson Preece. 1998. Ethnic Cleansing as an Instrument of Nation-State Creation: Changing State Practices and Evolving Legal Norms. *Human Rights Quarterly* 20, pp. 817-842.
- Patrick Regan. 1996. Conditions of Successful Third-Party Intervention in Intrastate Conflicts. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 336-359 (**Skim; Focus on main argument and findings**).

July 28: Strategies for Conflict De-Escalation (9:30-10:45)

We will discuss two popular strategies available to actors to de-escalate their conflict: negotiation and mediation. We will analyze each of these strategies by looking at why actors choose such strategies and under what conditions are they more likely to be successful.

- Roger Fisher and William Ury. 1981. *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreements Without Giving In*. New York: Penguin. Ch1.
- William Ury. 2002. *Getting Past No*. Random House. Ch1
- William Zartman and Saadia Touval. 2007. “International Mediation,” in *Leashing the Dogs of War* pp 437-454.

July 28: Obstacle to Conflict Management: The Role of the Media (11-12:45)

We will look at the role of the Media as an obstacle to conflict de-escalation, particularly focusing on the role of enemy images.

- Janice Gross Stein, Janice Gross. 1996. Image, Identity and Conflict Resolution. In *Managing Global Chaos: Sources of and Responses to International Conflict*. Edited by Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall, eds. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace
- Allan Thompson. 2007. Preface and Introduction from: *The Media and the Genocide in Rwanda*. 1-11.

July 29: Conflict Termination

We will discuss the different ways a conflict can end (e.g., military victory or a peace agreement), and which endings are more stable and why.

- Berg, E. and G. Ben-Porat. 2008. Introduction: partition vs. power-sharing? *Nations and Nationalism* 14, pp. 29-37.
- Ian Spears. 2000. Understanding Inclusive Peace Agreements in Africa: The Problems of Sharing Power. *Third World Quarterly*, 21(1): 105- 118.
- Kelly Greenhill and Solomon Major. 2006/07. The Perils of Profiling: Civil War Spoilers and the Collapse of Intrastate Peace Accords. *International Security* 31(3): 7-40.

July 30: Peace Consolidation

We will look at how peace is consolidated after violence has ended (e.g., transitional justice mechanisms, peace building, etc.).

- Theissen, Gunnar. 2004. Supporting Justice, Co-existence and Reconciliation after Armed Conflict: Strategies for Dealing with the Past.
- Lyn Graybill. 2004. Pardon, Punishment, and Amnesia: Three African Post-Conflict Methods. *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 6: 1117-1130.
- Herbert Wulf. 2004. Security Sector Reform in Developing and Transnational Countries. Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation.

August 1-2: Simulation

August 3: Wrap-Up