

**RHODES COLLEGE**  
**Department of International Studies**  
**INTS 432: International Conflict Management**  
**Spring 2008**  
Tue & Thu, 12:30-1:45 – Buckman 103

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Office Hours:  
Tue 11:00-12:00  
Thu 11:00-12:00  
Fri 10:00-11:00

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“Politics is the womb in which war develops.”  
~Carl P. G. von Clausewitz

“We used to wonder where war lived, what it was that made it so vile.  
And now we realize that we know where it lives...inside ourselves.”  
~Albert Camus

“The world cannot continue to wage war like physical giants and to  
seek peace like intellectual pygmies.”  
~Basil O'Connor

### **COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is intended to introduce students to the theoretical explanations of international and regional conflicts and to the practicalities of conflict management and resolution through negotiation, mediation, adjudication, and various forms of intervention. The course focuses on different types of conflicts with emphasis on their historical origins and evolution; their ethnic, religious, geographic, and political dimensions; as well as the implications and consequences of these conflicts for both regional and international actors. The course is divided into three sections. Part one focuses on theoretical approaches to explaining conflict; part two on the techniques, tools, and approaches to conflict management and resolution; and part three on selected case studies.

At the end of the course, it is expected that students would have gained a firm understanding of the causes of conflicts around the world; grasped the essential tools and techniques for conflict management and resolution; as well as enhanced their analytical skills through application of class materials to analyzing conflicts of their choice as part of the course assignments.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Chester Crocker et al. *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*
2. D. Goodwin. *Negotiation in International Conflict: Understanding Persuasion*
3. R.A. Bush and J.P. Folger. *The Promise of Mediation: The Transformative Approach to Conflict*

### **COURSE POLICIES**

1. Class attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence will be penalized. Students are expected to come to class early and sign the attendance sheet. It is the responsibility of

those with valid reasons for being absent to provide documented proof so that changes can be made on their attendance record.

2. Students are required to switch off beepers, pagers, and cell phones while class is in session.
3. Students are expected to read the assigned material for each class meeting before coming to class so as to be active participants in class discussions. In addition to the textbooks, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with conflict situations around the world as reported both by the print and electronic media, paying particular attention to their causes and attempts at their resolution.
4. In addition to two midterm exams, students are required to write two short "think pieces" that synthesize readings and relate them to issues of conflict management and resolution; they will also write one major term paper applying the materials covered in class to a conflict of their own choice. Details about the writing assignments will be provided in class.
5. Term papers are to be presented and discussed in class with all students allocated an equal amount of time. Written assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date in hard copy, typed double space using a 12-point font, preferably Times New Roman. Under no circumstances will electronic submission of assignments be allowed.
6. Make-up exams will only be given for documented medical or official reasons such as participation in scheduled away sports games, call-up for military duty, etc. No make-up exams will be given for early vacation plans, over-sleeping, etc. Other than in the case of emergencies such as hospitalization, accident, and severe illness, for documented, official reasons, permission must be received in advance of the exam.
7. To do well in this course, you need to read the assigned materials carefully and critically; attend class regularly; participate in class discussions; complete assignments on time; and take advantage of my office hours to consult with me on class issues you do not understand.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

- Participation                      10% – attendance and active participation
- Midterm 1 & 2                      20% – February 14/March 18
- Think pieces 1 & 2                20% – February 28/April 15
- Term Paper                         20% – April 3
- Final                                 30% – April 29, 8:30 am

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

95-100: A; 90-94: A-; 87-89: B+; 84-86: B; 80-83: B-; 77-79: C+; 74-76: C; 70-73: C-; 60-69: D; 0-59: F

## **THE HONOR CODE**

An essential feature of scholarship is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. Accordingly, it is expected that students will abide by the college's honor code in all their scholarly activities and conduct.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

### PART ONE: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Jan 10	Introduction to the course	None
Jan 15	Sources of Conflict: The Idealist View	Crocker chaps 1 & 22
Jan 17	Sources of Conflict: The Realist View	Crocker chaps 3 & 15
Jan 22	Underlying, intermediate and precipitating causes of war	Crocker chaps 2 & 10
Jan 24	The age of local conflicts: Explaining identity conflicts	Crocker chaps 9 & 13
Jan 29	Managing ethnic conflicts	Crocker chaps 11 & 12
Jan 31	Explaining international terrorism; origins and types	Crocker chaps 4 & 5
Feb 5	Globalization and conflict	Crocker chaps 6 & 7
Feb 7	The UN intervention: peacemaking, peace enforcement and peace building	Crocker chaps 17 & 32
Feb 12	The Democratic Peace thesis	Crocker chaps 44 & 46
Feb 14	Midterm Exam 1	Revise notes and readings

### PART TWO: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Feb 19	Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy	Crocker chaps 21 & 33
Feb 21	Mediation in International Conflict: Power, bias, impartiality, and cultural aspects	Crocker chap 26; Bush chap 1; Godwin chap 10
	Conflict Negotiation: Perspectives	
Feb 26	Negotiation as puzzle-solving and bargaining game	Crocker chap 27; Godwin chap 2; Bush chap 2
Feb 28	Negotiation as organizational management and diplomatic politics ( <i>Think piece 1 due</i> )	Crocker chap 29; Godwin chap 3; Bush chap 3
March 3-7	SPRING RECESS	No Reading
	Conflict Negotiation: Rhythms and Patterns	
Mar 11	Strategizing, framing and orientations	Bush chaps 4 & 5; Godwin chap 4
March 13	Bargaining and boundary role conflicts	Bush chap 6; Godwin chaps 4 & 5
March 18	Midterm Exam II	Revise notes and readings
Mar 20-21	EASTER RECESS	No Reading
	Conflict Adjudication	
March 25	Arbitration vs. judicial settlement	Crocker chaps 24 & 35

Mar 27	Legal vs. Political disputes; Strengths and limitations of adjudication	Crocker chaps 25 & 36
April 1	Term Paper presentation	None – prepare presentation
April 3	Term Paper presentation ( <i>Term paper due</i> )	None – prepare presentation

### **PART THREE: CASE STUDIES**

Apr 8	Video Show: “Shattered Dreams” – Impasse in Israeli-Palestinian conflict management	Godwin chaps 8 & 9
Apr 10	“Shattered Dreams” Continued/discussion	Reflect on video contents
Apr 15	Video Show: “Ambush in Mogadishu” – UN/US intervention in Somalia ( <i>Think piece 2 due</i> )	Crocker chaps 40 & 41
Apr 17	Ambush in Mogadishu Cont'd/discussion	Reflect on video contents
Apr 22	Managing the Northern Ireland Conflict: The Good Friday Agreement	Bush chap 7; Crocker chap 43
Apr 24	Conclusion: Toward a World Peace?	Crocker chaps 8 & 48