

DRAFT SYLLABUS

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TROY STATE UNIVERSITY
POL 6655 International Conflict Management
(Distance Learning Format)
Term 4, 2004
Dr. Charles O. Lerche

Class Time and Location

POL 6631 is an online interactive distance learning course available at the location of the student via the Internet. Students do not attend class or workshops on a Troy State University campus.

Contact

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Catalogue Description

"This course analyzes responses to international conflict and approaches to establishing peace and peacekeeping at the local, national, and global levels to include theoretical constructs about conflict management techniques (mediation, escalation, de-escalation, termination, outcomes)".

Course Objectives

The course will consider what drives local, regional and global conflict in today's world, and what can be done to resolve and prevent it. To both specialists and lay persons conflict is central to world affairs. One well-known scholar (K.J. Holsti) has even argued that the discipline of international relations arose specifically in response to the problem of war. The twentieth century witnessed violent international conflict of unprecedented scope, intensity and variety and we are all well aware today of such issues as ethnic conflicts, trade wars, arms races, etc... More subtly, preparation for and protection from violent conflict has had a broad impact on the institutions and quality of life in many societies, influencing the development of economies, cultures and political institutions.

There are a great many ideas about war and conflict, and many widely held ideas are wrong or, at best partially true. For instance, conflict is not always bad, and war is avoided by most states most of the time. Hence, there is a real need for conceptual clarification in this subject area. Furthermore, despite centuries of informed speculation and decades of rigorous empirical research, a comprehensive understanding of the

“causes of war” eludes us. Given the destructiveness of modern weapons and the capacity acquired in recent times to annihilate much of life on earth, this matter has become increasingly urgent. Research on conflict and war has nonetheless produced much relevant information, has clarified how diverse the phenomena under investigation are and has generated many questions for further study.

Thus, the analysis of international conflict is an ongoing enterprise with direct relevance to human survival. Though beginning students will encounter some abstractions, they should never forget they are dealing with something that matters in the “here and now”. They will also discover that even if the “big” questions are yet to be resolved, things are known about conflict, which could, if systematically applied, make a difference in the quality of international life.

We will look at traditional explanations of conflict, but we will also look further. As Chester Crocker has written, the world is becoming more complex and there are new forces at work:

“Ethnic conflict in Chechnya, Georgia, or Azerbaijan ... can become a matter of global concern... Worsening economic and social conditions in a small Caribbean country like Haiti have consequences that go well beyond that small country's shores...what was hitherto a "domestic" problem suddenly escalates into a major international one. Traditional concepts, like balance of power or ideology, are also not as useful as they once were in explaining the sources of international conflict, particularly when conflicts are rooted in a complex and rich brew of ethnonationalism, religion, socioeconomic grievances, environmental degradation, collapsed states, globalized markets, and geopolitical shifts.”

(from the Introduction to: Managing Global Chaos)

Therefore we will cover a variety of causes and explanations of conflict, and consider several approaches to moderating, resolving and avoiding conflict at all levels in world affairs.

By the end of the course the student will:

- (1) understand conflict as a multi-dimensional phenomenon and process, and its role in international relations;
- (2) have a sense of the variety and salience of the major causes of conflict;
- (3) have been introduced to the scholarly approaches to conflict analysis;
- (4) be aware of the various techniques of management, resolution and prevention of intra and inter-state conflict;
- (5) have become familiar with a variety of sources of information about international conflict and conflict resolution, including on-line sources.
- (6) have increased her/his capabilities in academic research and writing about international conflict and conflict resolution

Requirements

(1) Participation. This is a very topical subject and it should be possible to have stimulating discussions in blackboard.com forums. To encourage this, participation in the Blackboard.com discussion forums will be included in the final grade (see below). Students are also required to complete and submit by email to the instructor, one study question for lessons 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 .

(2) Preparation of Reading. Good discussion requires, obviously, that students be informed about topics under consideration. This really entails MORE than just doing the reading, however. It requires ACTIVE reading, which means reflecting on what is being read and perhaps even making lists of points found interesting, hard to understand, or with which one disagrees. The Blackbaord.com forums are the perfect context to share these.

(3) Writing Assignments. During the Term each student will select some aspect(s) of a relatively recent or ongoing inter or intra-state conflict for her/his seminar paper topic for the course.

Here is a representative, but by no means comprehensive list of places with conflicts:

EUROPE: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Croatia & Serbia, Georgia, Russia, Chechnya, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), Kosovo, etc...

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Sudan, Turkey, Yemen

AFRICA: Angola, Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda, Congo, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Africa (among others)

ASIA: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, India, Indonesia, East Timor, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Iraq

THE AMERICAS: Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico (Chiapas), Nicaragua, Peru (inter alia)

Case studies should:

(a) For ongoing conflicts, trace the main events in the history of the conflict, summarize the causes of the conflict and the main areas of disagreement among the parties, and present a plausible scenario through which the conflict could be resolved involving various tools of conflict management and resolution: i.e. track one/track two diplomacy, mediation, arbitration, democratization, land exchange, cease fire, international conferences, peace-building etc...

OR

(b) For "resolved" or "nearly-resolved" conflicts, summarize the main events in the history of the conflict, explain what moved it towards resolution, analyze what worked and didn't work during resolution, explain what remains to be done and make a case for the most effective approaches to use to build upon what has already been achieved.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT I (estimated length, 2-3 pages) -- Compile an initial annotated bibliography for your research. An annotated bibliography entails writing an abstract for each source--i.e. a brief (8-10 lines) summary of the contents of the book or article. This does not necessarily mean that you have already read all the material; but you are at least familiar enough with it to summarize its contents.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT II (minimum length, 12 pages) -- This is a TERM PAPER dealing with your research topic. It should follow the American Psychological Association guidelines (TSU policy), and students are advised to take particular care to observe proper citation procedures.

Recommended submission dates:

Writing Assignment 1 -- 2nd to 3rd week of term
Writing Assignment 2 -- 9th to 10th week of term

NOTE: Students are strongly advised to get the instructor's approval for their research topic before the end of the 3rd week of term!!!

(4) Examinations. There will be two examinations, a MID-TERM and a FINAL. The midterm will require a proctor (forms available from TSU) and the final will be take home.

The MID-TERM (1 1/2 hours) will consist of 5 identification questions and ONE essay question. Identifications entail defining a term AND explaining its significance in the context of the course readings, lectures and discussions. It is anticipated that each I.D. will take from 1/3 to 2/3 of a page to do properly. The essay will test the student's ability to draw on information acquired to make a coherent argument.

The FINAL EXAMINATION (2 hours) will be entirely essay in format, and will cover the ENTIRE course (i.e. NOT just what is covered after the mid-term!).

Review questions for both examinations will be provided on blackboard.com .

(5) Study Questions. Though they are not awarded grades, to fulfill the requirements for the course, students must complete one study question per lesson and submit to the instructor by email. The questions are found in each lesson overview in "Course Material" on Blackboard.com.

Assessment

Final grades will be calculated according to the following scheme:

Writing Assignments

I 10 %

II 30 %

Examinations

Mid-term 20 %

Final 30 %

Class Participation (BB discussion forums and study questions) 10 %

100 %

Required Reading

1. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson with Pamela Aall (ed.s) Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict (Washington D.C.: USIP, 2001)

This is a United States Institute of Peace reader that

“...underlines the volatility and vulnerability of states and peoples in a world that is both increasingly interconnected and ever more differentiated and decentralized in its political and social structures.” The volume presents contrasting views about key questions, and considers both traditional and newer, more innovative, approaches to conflict resolution.

2. Other articles/chapters as indicated, which are available on the Blackboard.com course site.

CD Rom

A CD Rom with Lectures (MP3 format) and Powerpoint presentations for each lesson can be ordered from: <http://www.javvo.com/colerche/POL6655/order.html> . This is optional, since the files will be available for download from the Blackboard site. However, some will be rather large (the audio files), so the CD may be more practical for some students.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform their instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements of the course.

Standards of Conduct

The commission of or that attempt to commit any cheating and/or plagiarism are in violation of the Standard of Conduct stated in the Troy State University Student Handbook, and students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Information Technology Usage Policy

The University's Information Technology System includes computing, information, technology, and network resources. All users of this technology system are obligated to utilize the various resources responsibly, legally, and ethically for their intended purpose. All students should read the policy before participating in online course activities (http://www.troyst.edu/divisions/html/undergraduate/policy_statements.html).

Learning Resources

TSU Library Remote Services are accessed at <http://www.troyst.edu/> . Assistance with Library instruction is through the Public Service Librarians by discipline which in this case would be International Relations. No non-library laboratories or facilities are required in this course.

Student Support

Distance Learning staff are identified at <http://www.troyst.edu/> . Assistance is available to

students who experience difficulty using technology at <http://www.troyst.edu/> .

Topics

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION TO THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Conflict and International Relations

Approaches to the Explanation of War

Reading

Crocker, et.al.: Chapter 1, Jack S. Levy "Contending Theories of International Conflict: A Levels-of-Analysis Approach"; Chapter 2, Michael Howard "The Causes of War"

Robert A. Hinde and Lea Pulkinnen, "Human Aggressiveness and War", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Mary E. Clark, "Aggressivity and Violence: An Alternative Theory of Human Nature", Peace and Conflict Studies, Volume 5 Number 1, June 1998.

Alexander Nikitin, "Political and Economic Causes of War", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Abdu'l-Aziz Said, Charles O. Lerche Jr., Charles O. Lerche III, Concepts of International Politics in Global Perspective 4th ed., Chapter 7 "Conflict and Conflict Resolution", pp. 119 – 126 "The Nature of Conflict"

Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, Preventing Deadly Conflict, "Chapter 2: When Prevention Fails"

Lesson 2

SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL/INTRANATIONAL CONFLICT (I)

Colonialism
Political Development
Communalism/Ethnicity
Military Technology

Reading

Crocker, et.al.: Chapter 3, Mohammed Ayoob "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure"; Chapter 5, Geoffrey Kemp, "Military Technology and Conflict"; Chapter 8,

Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder "Democratization and War: From Napoleon to the Millennium's End"; Chapter 11, Janice Stein "Image, Identity, and the Resolution of Violent Conflict"; Ted Robert Gurr, "Minorities and Nationalists: Managing Ethnopolitical Conflict in the New Century; Chapter 13, Michael Brown "Ethnic and Internal Conflicts: Causes and Implications"

Lloyd Pettiford, "Changing Conceptions of Security in the Third World", Third World Quarterly, Jun96, Vol. 17 Issue 2.

Michael Mann, "The Colonial Darkside of Democracy"

Timothy Shaw "The South in the "New World (Dis)Order": Towards a Political Economy of Third World Foreign Policy in the 1990s", Third World Quarterly, Mar94, Vol. 15, Issue 1

Helen Watson and Jack Boag, "Ethnicity and Religion", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Ralph R. Premdas, "Public Policy and Ethnic Conflict"

Stathis N. Kalyvas, "'New' and 'Old' Civil Wars: Is the Distinction Valid?"

Michael Atiyah, Ralph Benjamin, Ana María Cetto, Matthew Meselson, and Joseph Rotblat, "The Misuse of Science", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Lesson 3

SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL/INTRA-NATIONAL CONFLICT(II)

Economic Causes
Resources/Environment
Changing Global Agenda(s)

Reading

Crocker, et.al.: Chapter 4, Nils Petter Gleditsch, "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict"; Chapter 6, Jean-Marie Guehenno, "Globalization and Conflict"; Chapter 10, Paul Collier, "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy"

Charles Lerche, "The Conflicts of Globalization", International Journal of Peace Studies, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan1998.

Morris Miller, "Poverty as a cause of Wars", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Anne H. Ehrlich, Peter Gleick, and Ken Concam, "Resources and Environmental

Degradation as Sources of Conflict", 50th Pugwash Conference On Science and World Affairs: "Eliminating the Causes of War" Queens' College, Cambridge, UK, 3-8 August 2000

Michele Zebich-Knos, "Global Environmental Conflict in the Post-Cold War Era: Linkage to an Extended Security Paradigm"

Richard Falk, "World Order After the Cold War", Peace and Policy, Vol. 2 No.2, Summer 1997

Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Some definitions

Overview of approaches

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 34, Louis Kriesberg, "The Development of the Conflict Resolution Field"

University of Bradford, "What is Conflict Resolution"

R.J. Rummel, "Principles of Conflict Resolution", from Understanding Conflict and War, Vol. 5, The Just Peace

Dennis J.D. Sandole, "A Comprehensive Mapping of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: A Three Pillar Approach"

Kevin P. Clements, "Peace Building and Conflict Transformation"

Abdu'l-Aziz Said, Charles O. Lerche Jr., Charles O. Lerche III, Concepts of International Politics in Global Perspective 4th ed., Chapter 7 "Conflict and Conflict Resolution", "The Resolution of Conflict"

Juergen Dedring, "On Peace in Times of War: Resolving Violent Conflicts by Peaceful Means", International Journal of Peace Studies, Vol. 4 No. 2.

John Burton, "Conflict Resolution: Towards Problem Solving"

Lesson 5

TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT I

Multilateral Diplomacy

Negotiation

Mediation

Arbitration

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 33, Fen Hampson, "Third Party Roles in Conflict Management"; Chapter 35, Saadia Touval and I. William Zartman, "International Mediation in the Post-Cold War Era"; Chapter 36, P. Terrence Hopmann, "Bargaining and Problem Solving: Two Perspectives on International Negotiation"; Chapter 37, Raymond Cohen, "Negotiating Across Cultures"

Dean G. Pruitt, "The Tactics of Third-Party Intervention", *Orbis*, Spring 2000, Vol. 44 Issue 2

Christopher A. Leeds, "Managing Conflicts Across Cultures: Challenges to Practitioners", *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol.2 No 2.

Hanne-Margaret Birckenbach, "The Role of Fact-Finding in Preventive Diplomacy", *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 2 No. 2.

Lesson 6

TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT II

Disarmament
Arms Control
Collective Security
International Law and Organization

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 19, Richard Haas, "The Use of Force, Coercive Diplomacy, and Collective Security"; Chapter 24, Michael Doyle, "War-Making and Peace-Making: The UN in the 1990s"; Chapter 25, Connie Peck, "The Role of Regional Organizations in Preventing and Resolving Conflicts"; Chapter 26, David S. Yost, "NATO's Contribution to Conflict Management"; Chapter 27, William Schabas, "International Law and Response to Conflict" Chapter 28, Michael Krepon and Larry Scheinman, "Arms Control Treaties and Confidence-Building Measures as Management Tools".

Harald Muller and Makarim Wibisono, "Approaches to Nuclear Disarmament: Two Views", *Issue Review*, No. 12 April 1998.

The Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Report: "The Nuclear Weapon Debate", Part 1 & Part 2.

Kerry M. Kartchner and George R. Pitman, "Alternative Approaches to Arms Control in a Changing World", *Disarmament Diplomacy*, Issue No. 62, Jan-Feb 2002.

Lynn H. Miller, "The Idea and the Reality of Collective Security", *Global Governance*, Jul-Sep99, Issue 3

Lesson 7

PEACEKEEPING

Traditional Peacekeeping
"Second Generation" Peacekeeping
Humanitarian Intervention

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 14, Chester A. Crocker, "The Varieties of Intervention: Conditions for Success"; Chapter 15, Edward Luttwak, "The Curse of Inconclusive Intervention"; Chapter 16, Stanley Hoffmann, "The Controversy over Military Intervention"; Chapter 17, Richard Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention"; Chapter 20, Lawrence Freedman, "Interventionist Strategies and the Changing Use of Force"

Paul F. Diehl, "International Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution: A Taxonomic Analysis with Implications", Journal of Conflict Resolution, Feb98, Vol. 42 Issue 1

United Nations, "Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations" (The Brahimi Report)

C.A.J. Coady, "The Ethics of Armed Humanitarian Intervention", Peaceworks, No. 45, July 2002, United States Institute of Peace

The Danish Institute for International Affairs, Humanitarian Intervention. Legal and Political Aspects, Copenhagen, DUP1999, Chapter 2, "The Political and Moral Aspects of Humanitarian Intervention"

Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, Preventing Deadly Conflict, Chapter 3 "Operational Prevention: Strategies in the Face of Crisis"; Chapter 4 "Structural Prevention: Strategies to Address the Root Causes of Deadly Conflict" , Chapter 5 "Preventing Deadly Conflict: The Responsibility of States, Leaders, and Civil Society"

Lesson 8

"TRACK TWO": NGO'S AND TRANSNATIONAL ADVOCACY NETWORKS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 29, Mary B. Anderson "Humanitarian NGOs in Conflict Intervention"; Chapter 30, Alain Destexhe, "NGOs as Agents of Change: the Case of International Crisis Group". David Baharvar, "Beyond Mediation: The Integral Role of Non-governmental Approaches to Resolving Protracted Ethnic Conflicts in Lesser-Developed Countries", OJPCR: The Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution, Issue 4.1, Summer 2001

Janice Gross Stein, "In the Eye of the Storm: Humanitarian NGOs, Complex

Emergencies, and Conflict Resolution" Peace and Conflict Studies, Vol. 8 No. 1.

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational advocacy networks in international and regional politics" from Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Michelle Sieff and Leslie Vinjamuri Wright, "Reconciling Order and Justice? New Institutional Solutions in Post-Conflict States", *Journal of International Affairs*, Spring 1999, 52, no. 2.

Lesson 9

PEACE SETTLEMENTS: AN OVERVIEW

Reading

Crocker et.al.: Chapter 39, Harold Saunders "Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process"; Chapter 41, Roy Licklider "Obstacles to Peace Settlements; Chapter 43, Stephen Stedman "International Implementation of Peace Agreements in Civil Wars: Findings from a Study of Sixteen Cases"

Kimberly A. Maynard, *Healing Communities in Conflict: International Assistance in Complex Emergencies*, Chapter 6 "Rebuilding Community Cohesion"

J. 'Bayo Adekanye. "From Violence to Politics: Key Issues Internationally" , Keynote Presentation, Ethnic Studies Network Conference on "From Violence to Politics"

Barbara F. Walter, "Designing Transitions from Violent Civil War", *Columbia International Affairs Online, Working Papers*, 1998.

Stephen John Stedman, "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes", *International Security*, Vol. 22, No. 2, Fall 1997.

Bruce D. Jones, "The Challenges of Strategic Coordination: Containing Opposition and Sustaining Implementation of Peace Agreements in Civil Wars", *International Peace Academy*, 2001

Lesson 10

THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Towards a Culture of Prevention and Peace

Reading

Crocker et.al.: "Conclusion"

Martin Shaw, "Has war a future", *New Political Economy*, 5, 1, March 2000

Martin Shaw, "War and Globality: the role and character of war in the global transition", in Ho-won Jeong, ed., *The New Agenda for Peace Research* (Ashgate: 1999)

Chadwick F. Alger, "The Quest for Peace: What are we Learning?", *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 14 No.1

United Nations Secretary General, "An Agenda for peace: Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peacekeeping", 1992.

Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, *Preventing Deadly Conflict*, Chapter 7 "Toward a Culture of Prevention"

UNESCO, "Mainstreaming the Culture of Peace"