

POL 295: Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Fall, 2007

MWF 11:00-11:50—ARH 130

Professor: Jeremy Youde (youdejer@grinnell.edu)

Office Hours: M 1-2, WF 9-10

Office: Carnegie 311 (x4898)

or by appt.

How do we deal with conflict in the international realm? How can societies come together after divisive conflicts? What obligations do we have to others in the international community—even if we don't have a "direct stake" in the conflict? These questions have attracted an increasing amount of attention in recent years, yet we lack definitive answers. This makes the study of conflict and conflict resolution exciting and dynamic.

This course is designed to introduce you to theories of conflict, the origins of various conflicts, and potential strategies for addressing these conflicts. In the first section of the course, we will look at different theories of conflict and identity—where do identities come from, and what role (if any) do these identities play in conflict? The second section will look at ethics and intervention—what responsibilities do we have to other states? We will examine some case studies in the third section of the course, both historical and contemporary. Finally, we will explore potential strategies for resolving conflicts and rebuilding post-conflict societies—can societies driven apart by war, genocide, and racism find a way to reunite?

This course does not offer easy answers to these questions, but it will provide you with the analytical and intellectual tools necessary to understand conflicts and intelligently discuss possible viable courses of action.

Grading

Attendance/Participation	15%
Conflict Case Study	20%
Midsem	25%
Simulation (all parts)	40%

Extensions and Late Assignments

Each student may have *one* (and only one) extension for whatever reason. You must notify me via email 24 hours before the assignment is due, and you must turn in the assignment within 48 hours of when it was originally due.

Late assignments face a stiff penalty. You will lose two-thirds of a letter grade (a B+ becomes a B-) for every day that your assignment is late.

A Few Words on Plagiarism and Working with Others

It should go without saying, but I'll say it anyways—*don't plagiarize!* If you use the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper attribution, you're plagiarizing. Cutting and pasting from Wikipedia is plagiarizing, as is passing off someone else's ideas as your own. Not only is plagiarism unfair to the original source's author, but it will cause you to fail this course and possibly face additional sanctions from the College. We'll talk about plagiarism and citing sources during the

semester, but if you *ever* have any doubts, *ask first!* Come talk to me, or see the incredibly helpful folks in the Writing Center or Burling.

This does not mean, though, that you shouldn't talk with your classmates outside class about our assignments. Discussions with other students can be incredibly helpful, and I encourage them. That said, the actual writing of any assignment must be done independently.

Students with Disabilities

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustment or accommodations because of a documented disability is requested to speak with me no later than 10 September. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).

Required Readings

The following titles are available from the College Bookstore (or any number of online sources like amazon.com, bn.com, abebooks.com, or bookfinder.com) and required for the course:

Minow, Martha. 1999. *Between vengeance and forgiveness: facing history after genocide and mass violence*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Power, Samantha. 2003. *A problem from hell: America in the age of genocide*. New York: HarperCollins.

Wheeler, Nicholas J. 2001. *Saving strangers: humanitarian intervention in international society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reserve Readings (these readings are marked with [R])

Articles marked with +++ will be available online, either through the library or at the website given.

You should also keep up with current events. I recommend reading a daily national newspaper, such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), or *Los Angeles Times* (www.latimes.com). I also *highly* suggest that you read a non-US news sources at least once a week. Other countries don't always interpret US foreign policy in the same way we do, and these differences in understanding can be quite telling. National Public Radio also provides excellent coverage of international events and foreign policy, and the local NPR stations often carry the BBC, too. In Grinnell, you can hear NPR on WOI (640 AM), KUNI (90.9 FM), and WSUI (910 AM). The *New York Times*, NPR, and the BBC (among others) also offer free podcasts of the day's top news stories via iTunes.

Schedule of Readings

NOTE: While we will do our best to adhere to this schedule, the syllabus can and very well may change depending on time, class interests, and current events. I will announce any changes in class, and you will be responsible for keeping up with these changes.

I. The Origins of Identities and Conflicts

- 31 August**—Introduction to course
- 3 September**—Van den Berghe, Pierre. 1978. “Race and ethnicity: a sociobiological perspective,” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1: 401-411. [R]
- 5 September**—Anderson, Benedict. “Census, map, museum” In *Becoming National: A Reader* [R]
- 7 September**—Smith, Anthony D. “The origin of nations.” In *Becoming National: A Reader* [R]
- 10 September**—Gurr, Ted Robert. *Why Men Rebel*, Ch. 2 [R]
- 12 September**—Posner, Daniel N. “[The political salience of cultural difference: why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi.](#)” *American Political Science Review* 98: 529-546. +++
- 14 September**—**NO CLASS**
- 17 September**—**NO CLASS**
- 19 September**—Berejikian, Jeffrey. 1992. “[Revolutionary collective action and the agent-structure problem.](#)” *American Political Science Review* 86: 647-657.+++
- 21 September**—Pirages, Dennis and Theresa DeGeest. 2003. *Ecological Security*, Ch. 2 +++

II. Ethics, Intervention, and Genocide

- 24 September**—[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) +++
- 26 September**—Donnelly, Jack. *Universal human rights in theory and practice*, Chs. 1-2 [R]
- 28 September**—Buckley, William F. “[Human rights and foreign policy.](#)” *Foreign Affairs* 58 (Spring 1980): 775-796. +++
- Mead, Walter Russell. “The Jacksonian tradition.” *The National Interest* (Winter 1999): 5-29. [R]
- 1 October**—Walzer, Michael. *Just and unjust wars: a moral argument*, Ch. 6 [R]
- 3 October**—Wheeler, Nicholas. *Saving strangers*, Introduction and Ch. 1
- 5 October**—Wheeler, Nicholas. *Saving strangers*, Chs. 2 and 6
- 8 October**—Busby, Joshua William. 2007. “[Bono Made Jesse Helms Cry: Jubilee 2000, Debt Relief, and Moral Action in International Politics.](#)” *International Studies Quarterly* 51: 247-275. +++
- 10 October**—Slovic, Paul. 2007. “[Psychic Numbing and Genocide.](#)” *Judgment and Decision Making* 2: 79-95. +++
- Kristof, Nicholas. “[Save the Darfur Puppy.](#)” *New York Times* (10 May 2007). +++
- 12 October**—Bob, Clifford. *The Marketing of Rebellion*, Ch. 2 [R]
- 15 October**—Power, Chs. 2-4
- 17 October**—[UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#) +++
[Declarations and Reservations regarding the Genocide Convention.](#) +++ ←Midsem Due!
- 19 October**—Staub, Ervin. 2000. “[Genocide and mass killing: origins, prevention, healing and reconciliation.](#)” *Political Psychology* 21: 367-382. +++

III. Case Studies

- 29 October**—“Ghosts of Rwanda”
- 31 October**—“Ghosts of Rwanda”
- 2 November**—“Ghosts of Rwanda”
- 5 November**—Armenia and Turkey (Power, Ch. 1)
- 7 November**—Cambodia (Power, Ch. 6)

- 9 November**—Yugoslavia (Power, Chs. 9, 11, and 12)
12 November—Darfur (Fint and de Waal, Ch. 5 [R] see also <http://www.sudanreeves.org>)
14 November—Sri Lanka (Ganguly 2004 +++ and de Silva 2005 +++)

IV. Rebuilding Post-Conflict Societies

- 16 November**—Minow, Chs. 1 and 2
19 November—Paris, Roland. *At war's end*, Ch. 9 [R]
21 November—Skaar, Elin. 1999. "[Truth commissions, trials—or nothing? Policy options in democratic transitions.](#)" *Third World Quarterly* 20: 1109-1128. +++
26 November—Minow, Chs. 3
28 November—Minow, Ch. 4
Gibson, James L. 2004. "[Does truth lead to reconciliation? Testing the causal assumptions of the South African Truth and Reconciliation process.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 201-217. +++
30 November—Rushton, Simon. 2005. "Health and peacebuilding: resuscitating the failed state in Sierra Leone." *International Relations* 19: 441-456. [R]

V. Simulation

- 3 December**—Simulation, Day 1
5 December—Simulation, Day 2
7 December—Simulation, Day 3
10 December—Simulation Debriefing

VI. Reflecting on the Past

- 12 December**—"Fog of War"
14 December—"Fog of War"

Final Paper from Simulation due Wednesday, 19 December by 9:00am!