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:


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


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]


14 September—NO CLASS

17 September—NO CLASS


21 September—Pirages, Dennis and Theresa DeGeest. 2003. Ecological Security, Ch. 2 +++

II. Ethics, Intervention, and Genocide

24 September—Universal Declaration of Human Rights +++


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


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!


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]
26 November—Minow, Chs. 3
28 November—Minow, Ch. 4

V. Simulation

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

V/I. 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!