

Conflict and Peace in the Post-Cold War Era
POLS 3290 (CRN 31773)
East Carolina University
Spring 2008

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COURSE OVERVIEW

The international system has undergone significant and powerful changes since the Cold War era, which has restructured the system apparently changing both the type of conflict we experience and how we deal with it. Our initial optimism over the end of the Cold War came to a screeching halt early on with the failure of the international humanitarian mission in Somalia and the genocide in Rwanda. Our previous preoccupation with a bipolar structure and avoiding nuclear annihilation has been replaced with concerns over the rising prevalence of non-state/transnational actors, civil war, and terrorism. These changes leave us re-evaluating what we thought we knew about international war and peace. Students will explore these issues and the various other challenges that exist in the post-cold war environment.

After a brief introduction to the cold war, this course will examine the various complexities of violent conflict, particularly that occurring between nations and internal opposition. The first part of the course will focus on the various factors contributing to the outbreak of mass-based, organized violence as identified by scholars in the field of international relations. In addition to discussing the challenges that these conflicts pose for the international community, we will discuss the various methods of resolution used for managing, transforming and resolving such conflicts.

REQUIRED READINGS

Crocker, Hampson, and Aall. 2007. *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington DC: USIP Press.
Bellamy, Williams and Griffin. 2004. *Understanding Peacekeeping*. Malden, MA: Polity.
Kaldor, Mary. 2006. *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era*, 2nd edition. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

GRADING

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:

Participation and Discussion	20%
Case Analyses	30%
Final Exam	50%

Participation and Discussion

This course asks that you think critically about the various types of conflict occurring in the post-cold war era. You will be introduced to theories about their occurrence. Theories should explain particular phenomenon, but they must be distinguished from fact. As a result, it is expected that we will critically analyze the material presented. Your participation in this analysis contributes to 20% of your grade.

A note on critical analysis: Students on occasion appear to struggle with what critical analysis entails. For the purposes of this course, you are being asked to examine and question the material presented. Questions you might ask would include: does this theory or argument appear to be valid in light of the evidence presented, or are there other potential explanations the author did not explore? What critical analysis does not include are inappropriate or disparaging remarks. Although the material presented may evoke an emotional response, our goal in the course is to examine material as academics. As a result, abusive language, gestures, and general expressions of disrespect will not be tolerated toward other students or the professor.

Case Analyses

In an effort to apply the material presented, we will be exploring a series of cases throughout the course. These cases have been identified in the course outline. Discussions of these cases will take place on the Friday of the week identified. Students are expected to come to the session prepared to discuss the following for each case:

1. Who are the parties to the conflict? (This would include relevant second and third parties.)
2. What are the issues under contention? Have these changed over time?
3. Identify the progression to war for the conflict. In other words, what were key moments in the interaction between relevant parties that escalated the conflict?
4. Have there been efforts to resolve the conflict? If so, were they successful?
5. What theories appear most relevant in helping to explain the case?

There are 12 cases we will discuss in this format. Students will need to prepare for all discussions, however you must also choose **5** to turn in for grade (NOTE: you may not choose the two cases with asterisks). Papers should be five pages in length (double-spaced with 1 inch margins, Times New Roman font). You will need to submit your five cases in hard copy **AND** electronic copy via blackboard on the day of discussion (by the start of class). Which cases you choose are up to you. It is highly recommended that students review rules relating to academic honesty and plagiarism. You can find this information through the student resources on the www.turnitin.com website.

Narrative material for case analysis can be found using the following scholarly and archival sources:

1. Uppsala Conflict database: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/database/index.php>
2. Onwar.com Wars of the World: <http://www.onwar.com/aced/nation/index.htm>
3. Globalsecurity.org: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/past.htm>
4. BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
5. *New York Times* archives
6. *Christian Science Monitor* archives

You are free to use other scholarly sources as well.

Exams

The final exam in this course is a cumulative exam. Students should expect short answer and essay questions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Although students are encouraged to study collaboratively and consult one another freely, cheating on tests, assignments, or the research paper will not be tolerated. The University Advising Handbook states the following:

“Academic integrity is expected of Every East Carolina University student. Academically violating the Honor Code consists of the following: cheating unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work; plagiarism, copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting those as one’s original work; falsification, statement of untruth, either spoken or written regarding any circumstances relating to academic work; and attempting any act which if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined above.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services, located in Brewster A-117, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-328-6799.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Assigned Readings should be completed before the beginning of each class.

Week One – 1/11	Introduction to the Course
Week Two – 1/14, 1/16, 1/18	The Challenging Post-Cold War Landscape <i>Readings:</i> Introduction, Levy, Brown, Crenshaw, Kemp (all in Crocker, et al.) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Defining the conflict in Iraq**
Week Three – 1/23, 1/25	“Old Wars” and “New Wars” <i>Readings:</i> Kaldor (1, 2, 4, 5), Henderson and Singer (blackboard)
Week Four – 1/28, 1/30, 2/1	Sources of PCW Conflict I <i>Readings:</i> Gurr, Stewart and Brown, Collier (Crocker, et al.) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Sierra Leone
Week Five – 2/4, 2/6, 2/8	Sources of PCW Conflict II <i>Readings:</i> Rotberg, Ayoob, Mansfield and Snyder, Gleditsch (Crocker, et al.) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Nepal
Week Six – 2/11, 2/13, 2/15	Dyadic Explanations Kriesberg (Crocker, et al.), additional readings to be assigned <i>Case Analysis:</i> Sri Lanka
Week Seven –	Consequences of PCW Conflict (Part I)

2/18, 2/20, 2/22	<i>Readings:</i> Kaldor (3), with additional readings to be assigned <i>Case Analysis:</i> Bosnia-Herzegovina
Week Eight – 2/25, 2/27, 2/29	Consequences of PCW Conflict (Part II) <i>Readings:</i> Kaplan (blackboard), additional readings to be assigned <i>Case Analysis:</i> Somalia** Movie – “Ambush in Mogadishu”
Week Nine – 3/3, 3/5, 3/7	Extremism and Terrorism <i>Readings:</i> Barber, Huntington, Zakaria (all on blackboard) and Crocker (Crocker, et al.) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Sudan
3/9-3/16	Spring Break
Week Ten – 3/17, 3/19	Conflict Management and the Use of Force <i>Readings:</i> Freeman, Jentleson, Art and Cronin, Oudrant (Crocker, et al.)
Week Eleven – 3/24, 3/26, 3/28	<i>Readings:</i> Bellamy, et al. (1-4) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Kosovo** Movie – “War in Europe”
Week Twelve – 3/31, 4/2, 4/4	Less Coercive Forms of Conflict Resolution <i>Readings:</i> Nye, Kritz, Zartman and Touval, Aall <i>Case Analysis:</i> Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Week Thirteen – 4/7, 4/9, 4/11	International Response: UN Peacekeeping <i>Readings:</i> Bellamy, et al. (5-9), Diehl (Crocker, et al.) <i>Case Analysis:</i> East Timor
Week Fourteen – 4/14, 4/16, 4/18	Limits, Challenges and Obstacles to Post Conflict Settlement <i>Readings:</i> Bellamy, et al. (10-12) <i>Case Analysis:</i> Rwanda
Week Fifteen – 4/21, 4/23, 4/25	Conflict Prevention <i>Readings:</i> Bellamy, et al. (13), Kaldor (6), additional readings to be assigned <i>Case Analysis:</i> Haiti
Last Day 4/28	Course Wrap Up

FINAL EXAM – May 7th, 11-1:30