

Brandeis University
Department of Politics
Spring 2004
Politics 127 – Seminar: Managing Ethnic Conflict
Dr. Mari Fitzduff

Usdan/Ethics Centre, Phone: x62873
Spring Office Hours: Wed, 9:30- 12:30; and by appointment
Email: Fitzduff@brandeis.edu

Course Description

This is a research and writing seminar, focused on the sources, nature, and politics of ethnic conflict, beginning with an exploration of alternative analytical perspectives on these issues. The course also explores the possible local and international interventions that can assist in preventing, managing and resolving such conflicts. These issues are addressed through the comparative study of cases of ethnic conflict in democratic states and non-democratic states. It is designed for undergraduate students with prior study in comparative politics, history, or political sociology. Graduate students may also enroll. It is a discussion- and writing-based course with a demanding reading load. *It is not recommended for first year students.*

Course Requirements

*All students are required to attend every class, barring illness, and to complete the assigned readings listed below in advance of each class. Students will be called upon to discuss the readings in class and to participate in group and individual presentations. Well-informed classroom discussion is required of each student. It is highly recommended that students annotate personal copies of, or take notes from the readings. The *writing requirements listed below* are intended to encourage students to approach reading materials critically, to foster improved research and writing skills, and to serve as a basis for contributing to class discussion. Students are expected to devote careful attention to the technical quality of their written work, as well as its substance. *Graduate students will be required to do additional reading of the conceptual literature on ethnic conflict and its management, to participate in additional discussion meetings, and to prepare a graduate-level case study of ethnic conflict, selected with the approval of the instructor.**

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. All written work for this course must include appropriate citation of the sources used. See section 56c (“Avoid Plagiarism”) of the *Concise English Handbook* for guidance. The university policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the *Rights and Responsibilities* handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the university. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

Individual Written and Group Assignments

All written assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced in 12-point font (this syllabus is in 12-point), and submitted electronically on the 'Written Assignments' section of the WebCT course page, as a Microsoft Word attachment (if you are not using Word, you may format your file in Rich Text Format [RTF]). They will be returned via email with comments embedded in the text. In order to preserve privacy, grades will not be conveyed electronically.

1. Three short essays (one-to-three pages) will be required in response to the following questions:
 - a) What is ethnic conflict? How does it differ from other politically salient conflicts, and why are these differences significant? Due on January 30th.
 - b) Why do ethnic conflicts turn violent? Due on February 21.
 - c) Why are ethnic conflicts, peaceful and violent, so difficult to end? Due on March 19.
2. A list of 6 current case studies will be offered to students for their choice in the first class session e.g. Indonesia, Nepal, Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine, Columbia, India/Kashmir/Pakistan. Choices will be made by the second session. Each case study group will work on a group presentation, involving all group participants, to be made to the rest of the class in subsequent sessions, starting in session 4. (Dates of presentations will be chosen by lottery and will take place on Feb 4/5 and March 2/8/16/23) *Groups are required, one week in advance of their presentation, to identify a particularly good journal article, web source or article or book chapter for members of the class to read in preparation for their presentation.*
3. Term research papers will be prepared by each student on their case study of choice. We will discuss in class what is meant by a “case study” and what is involved in writing one. It is assumed that learning from both group preparation and individual research will be used in preparing the term paper. This paper should not exceed 20 pages in length. Students must submit a draft outline of their paper e.g. outline of the events and explanatory arguments, with discussion of use of theory; and an extensive bibliography of sources by March 1. Students are invited to schedule individual meetings with Prof. Fitzduff beginning the week of March 15 to discuss their term papers. Students are encouraged to submit preliminary, even if incomplete, rough drafts of their papers (electronically) by March 29 in order to receive suggestions, help, guidance in preparing final paper and presentation.
Seniors: Final paper due Friday, April 30, by 10 am.
All others: Final paper due Monday, May 3, by 10 am.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see Prof. Fitzduff about this.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the *three assigned essays* (~15 percent each), *seminar participation* (~15 percent), and the *term paper* (~40 percent) The presentation will not be graded; it is intended to give students experience “presenting” in front of peers, fielding questions, and leading the resulting discussion. All written work will be evaluated in terms of the technical and stylistic quality of the writing as well as the intellectual substance; i.e., spelling, syntax, word usage, etc. all “count”. Students may revise their short essays in response to the instructor’s critique and re-submit it for re-grading within one week; Permanent grade will be the average of the initial and revised grades. Participation is evaluated in terms of the preparation evidenced by it (assigned reading and reflection thereupon). Students enjoy complete academic freedom in the classroom, within the limits defined by the standards of mutual respect. Attendance is required.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Discussion Topics

Three texts will be available at the bookstore, and some readings will be available to download from the course WebCT page. All other readings are from books that have been put on reserve for this course in the library.

1) Tuesday, January 20

Introduction to the course

Trends in ethnic conflict

First steps Case Analysis.

2) Tuesday, January 27

(Students to have familiarized themselves with the following web sites before Class 2)

PRIO: <http://www.prio.no/cwp/ArmedConflict/>

SIPRI: <http://www.sipri.se/>

International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisweb.org/>

INCORE Conflict Data Service <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/cds/>

Peace Brigades International <http://www.peacebrigades.org>

Intractable Conflict Project:

http://www.conflictresearch.com/crc2000/intractable_con_project_papers.htm

CRInfo : <http://www.crimo.org>

Plus Read:

Gurr, Ted Robert. "Minorities and Nationalists - Managing Ethnopolitical Conflict in the New Century." Turbulent Peace. Eds. C. Crockett, F.O. Hampson, & P.Aall. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001. pg. 163-188. (WebCT)

Smith, D. "Trends and Causes of Armed Conflicts." N. Ropers, M. Fischer, A. Austin & C-D. Wild, eds. The Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation. <http://www.berghof-handbook.net/>, 2000. (WebCT)

Ignatieff, M. Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism. New York: Noonday Press: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1995. (Scan: i.e. read not for facts, but for patterns and trends.)

Brubaker, R. and D. Laitin, "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence," Annual Review of Sociology 24, 1 (1998) (WebCT)

Fitzduff M. Diversity Policies: In the Past or For the Future? (WebCT)

3) Tuesday, February 3. *Conflict Resolution: history. Theory 1. Realistic/political Theories.*

Reading:

Miall, H., O. Ramsbotham & T. Woodhouse. Contemporary Conflict Resolution: the Prevention, Management, and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 1999. (Bookstore)

Kriesberg L: "The Growth of the Conflict Resolution Field." Turbulent Peace. Eds. Chester Crockett, Fen Osler Hampson, & Pamela Aall. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001. pg. 407 – 426. (WebCT)

Collier. P. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications For Policy." Turbulent Peace. Pg. 143-162. (WebCT)

Zartman, I.W. and L. Rasmussen, eds. Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997. Chapters 1, 6, & 10. (WebCT)

Fearon, J. and D. Laitin, "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." American Political Science Review 90, 4, (December 1996): 715-735 (WebCT)

4) Tuesday, February 10. *Theories 2.*

Reading:

Hedges, C. War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning. New York: Random House, 2002. (Scan)

Lake, D. and D. Rothchild. "Containing fear: the Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict," International Security 21, 2 (Fall 1996) (WebCT)

Prunier, G. The Rwanda Crisis. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995. (Scan)

OR

Gourevitch, P. We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998. (Scan)

Group Presentation 1.

5) Tuesday, February 24. *New Order Wars.*

Reading:

Kaldor, M. New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1999. (Bookstore)

Halliday, F. (2002) Two Hours that Shook the World: September 11, 2001: Causes and Consequences. London: Saqi Books, 2002.

Group Presentation 2.

6) Tuesday, March 2. *Conflict Prevention.*

Reading:

Lund, M. "A Toolbox for Responding to Conflicts and Building Peace." Peace-Building: A Field Guide. L. Reychler and T. Paffenholz, eds. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001. (WebCT)

USAID. "The Role of Foreign Assistance in Conflict Prevention." Conference Proceedings and Background Papers (Part 1).
(<http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/confprev/jan2001/index.html>)

Fewer Website. <http://www.fewer.org/>

Group Presentation 3.

7) Tuesday, March 9. *Conflict Management*

Reading:

Collin Marks, S.C. Watching the Wind: Conflict Resolution During South Africa's Transition to Democracy. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute for Peace Press, 2001.

McCartney, C. "Comparative Review Of Public Policies Towards Improving Inter-Community Relations." INCORE 2002. (WebCT)

Fitzduff, M. Beyond Violence: Conflict Resolution Processes in Northern Ireland. Tokyo: United Nations, 2002. Chapters 2, 6, 7. (WebCT, Bookstore)

Group Presentation 4.

8) Tuesday, March 16. *Peace Processes.*

Reading:

Darby J. and R. Mac Ginty, eds. The Management of Peace Processes. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. pg 228-262. (WebCT)

Darby, J. The Effects of Violence on Peace Processes. Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001.

Stedman, S.J. et al. Ending Civil Wars. The Implementation of Peace Agreements. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002. Pg 1-117. (WebCT)

Group Presentation 5.

9) Tuesday, March 23. *Post conflict/settlement work.*

Reading:

Mani, R. Beyond Retribution: Seeking Justice in the Shadows of War. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2002. Chapters 1,2 & 6. (WebCT)

Hamber, B. (Ed). Past Imperfect: Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland and Countries in Transition. INCORE: University of Ulster: London/Derry, Northern Ireland. <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/home/publication/research/dwtp/>

Post-Conflict Fund :

<http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/sdvext.nsf/67ByDocName/ThePostConflictFund>

Presentation 6.

10) Tuesday, March 30. *Intervention strategies.*

Reading:

Harris, P. and B. Reilly (editors). 1998. Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators. Stockholm: International IDEA, 1998. Sections 1 & 4. (WebCT)

Crocker, CA. & Hampson FO and Pamela Aall (eds). Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict Part 2. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001.

Power, S. A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide. New York: Basic Books, 2002. Conclusion. (WebCT)

International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. "The Responsibility To Protect." Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada, 2002. <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/iciss-ciise/report-en.asp>

11) Tuesday, April 20. *Interventions. Community.*

Reading:

Lederach, J. P. Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 1997.

Varshney A. Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002 . Chapters 1, 2, & 12. (WebCT)

Nelson, B. "The Concord Handbook: How to Build Social Capital Across Communities." Written with Linda Kaboolian and Kathryn A. Carver. 2002. <http://concord.spsr.ucla.edu/>

Fitzduff, M. Beyond Violence: Conflict Resolution Processes in Northern Ireland. Tokyo: United Nations, 2002. Chapters 3, 5, 9. (WebCT, Bookstore)

Ury, W. The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop. New York: Penguin Books, 2000. pg 114-169. (WebCT)

12) Tuesday, April 27. *Evaluating Conflict interventions.*

Reading:

Church, C. and J. Shouldice. "The Evaluation of Conflict Resolution Interventions: Framing the State of Play & Emerging Practice and Theory" October, 2002. <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/home/policy/Publication.html>

Bush, K. "A Measure of Peace: Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment of Development Projects in Conflict Zones." International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, 1998. (WebCT)

Anderson, M. & L. Olsen, 2002. "Confronting War: A Critical Lessons for Peace Practitioners." Cambridge, M.A.: Reflection on Peace Practices Project, The Collaborative for Development Action. (8-19, 45-59, 65-82) (WebCT)

Hoffman, M., "Evaluation and Conflict Impact Assessment", The Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation. <http://www.berghof-handbook.net/>, 2000. (WebCT)

13) Tuesday, May 4.

Reviewing Learning.