CONF 101: Conflicts and our World
Mason Korea
Fall 2019
Friday, 0900-1140 (section 001)
Room: G203

Instructor: Dr. Roland B. Wilson
Office: Room 604
E-mail: rwilso13@gmu.edu

Office Hours:
Thursdays: from 1000-1200
and by appointment

Course Description:
Welcome to Mason Korea and CONF 101, Conflicts and our World! This is a Mason Core Course and satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement. Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) is a relatively new and exciting hybrid academic field that incorporates many ideas drawn from the study of such disciplines as psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, law, diplomacy, and political science to name a few. Conflicts are natural phenomena in human beings’ lives and can be healthy and nonviolent or destructive and violently. Moreover, conflicts occur at all levels of society: between individuals, groups, institutions and even at the state and international levels.
CONF 101 is a foundation course and provides an introduction to CAR. It is especially designed for students interested in understanding and helping to resolve complex conflicts in our society.
As an introduction, this course is deliberately broad as later courses cover specific conflict issues in greater depth. Also, the concepts, theories and tools learned in this course can be applied to conflicts and social issues around the world from personal disagreements to international conflicts.
The course includes an overview of the field; origins and causes of conflict; how to map a conflict; and strategies for resolving a conflict. Key questions that will be explored include: What is conflict? What are the causes/roots of conflict? Why do individuals make certain choices in situations of conflict? What are some of the major models and approaches used to help understand and resolve conflicts?
CONF 101, like the CAR field, will be examined through the integrated lenses of theory, research and practice (also known as intervention). This is also an interactive course that will use seminar style discussions of the readings and will include group projects, presentations, movies and games.

Requirements:
1. Prerequisites: Acceptance into S-CAR's BA/BSc, or permission from the instructor.
2. This can be taken to fulfill Mason Core Course and satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement.
Course Goal:
At the end of the course, you should be able to identify the basic concepts, theories, frameworks, and techniques used in the field of CAR, and look at unique ways to analyze and help resolve conflicts.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of CONF 101, you should be able to:

- (SLO 1) Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors such as identity, group dynamics, and race (Social and Behavioral Sciences #1). This will be evaluated throughout the course in your individual and collaborative group discussions and work, the two individual essays, and the final group project.
- (SLO 2) Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs (Social and Behavioral Sciences #2). This will be evaluated through quizzes, the midterm examination, and the final group project.
- (SLO 3) Use appropriate methods and resources to understand and apply social and behavior science concepts, terminology, principles, tools and CAR theories in the analysis of human issues including conflicts, past or present, and at all levels of our society (Social and Behavioral Sciences #3). This will be evaluated throughout the course in your daily participation, the two individual essays, and the final group project.
- (SLO 4) Increase awareness of the complexity of underlying causes and contributing factors to conflict dynamics and conflict transformations. This will be evaluated throughout the course in your daily participation, the pop quizzes and two individual essays.
- (SLO 5) Apply different approaches and models when analyzing and resolving conflicts in a variety of contexts. This will be evaluated through the midterm exam, mapping assignment and final group project.
- (SLO 6) Examine and compare different conflicts, their conditions, dynamics, stakeholders and conflict resolution efforts. This will be evaluated throughout the course in your daily participation and in the final group project.

Required Books:
Students are expected to bring or PDF printed copies of the readings (or extended notes) to class. You can also use your computer or Kindle. The following texts are required for the course:

**Recommended Books:**

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard (located on MyMason) or the links will be provided. Blackboard will also be used to post all announcements (including schedule changes and extra credit opportunities), and for the submission of all work. Check it and your Mason email daily and respond as needed in a timely manner.

**Course Policies and Information:**

**Diversity Statement:** George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and
practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected. Please see [http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/](http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/) for the full GMU diversity statement.

**Course Content:** Like all conflict analysis and resolution courses, we will cover a number of controversial conflict issues including those involving politics, religion, race and gender, and other biases. Open dialogue and understanding of others are a must in class, despite any particular stance or view. I expect all of you to openly discuss all complex issues in class.

**Participation and Attendance:** Like many social science and humanity classes, this is a very interactive class and will be run in a seminar style format with an emphasis on discussions, participation and group work. Please be to class and in your seat *prior* to the start time. Participation in this class includes: completing readings and assignments on time (all readings must be done before the day of class where the readings are listed); actively engaging course materials; coming to class regularly and on time; and listening and engaging attentively to discussions made in class. Active participation based on thoughtful consideration of the literature and experience in class discussions will be expected. Some of the questions you should be asking yourself as you read for class or prepare a group exercise include: What are the authors’ main concerns? Are their arguments logically compelling? How can we relate their arguments to the field of conflict analysis and resolution? How might they help us to better understand particular conflicts and their transformation? What might be left out of a particular analysis that it would be important to explore? How will these theories help you understand and analyze various conflicts at different levels of society?

Unexcused and excessive absences will adversely affect your participation and ultimately your final grade, and you will not be able to make up work, quizzes or other assignments due to these unexcused absences. An absence is excused when it is due to serious illness, religious observance, participation in university activities at the request of university authorities and approved by the professor, or compelling circumstances beyond your control. To claim an excused absence, you must provide proper proof within three calendar days of your return from that absence. In cases where you know you will be missing class, please let me know as soon as possible. You are responsible for all announcements, group work, assignments, materials and date changes covered or made in class while you are absent. If you have an excused absence and missed a quiz on that day, *you*, and not the professor, are responsible for setting up a time to make-up the quiz. Do not ask to make up work in the
final three weeks of class, please plan ahead.

During each class session, **TAKE NOTES!** As needed, I will also provide brief outlines or PowerPoints on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to be alert and aware in order to benefit from this class. I also **highly** urge you to bring detailed notes of your reading assignments to class each day and to be ready to actively discuss them.

**Readings:** Students are **required** to read everything assigned as “required readings” for that day/week prior to class that day. Some weeks have additional suggested readings; they are not required but encouraged. Your quizzes and tests will be based on the required readings, and class discussions only.

**Class Discussion:** Students will lead many discussions in this class, especially on assigned readings. All questions and vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. In our classes we deal with sensitive and sometimes controversial and provoking materials, images and ideas. I expect you to approach our class with seriousness, critical thinking, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and respect for everyone. Above else, have fun and enjoy the interaction and vigorous debates. These discussions are also part of your participation grade!

**Writing Guidelines:** Your written assignments for this class will be graded according to the following criteria. The relative weight given to each of these categories will vary depending on the nature of the assignment, and separate rubrics will be given as needed. *(Note: Everyone needs help from time-to-time. If you need writing/grammar assistance, do not wait until after an assignment is submitted to make an appointment with the writing center. I will not excessively fix any grammar issues.)*

2. Depth of engagement with ideas, originality, seriousness of thought, and conceptual complexity.
3. Well-organized structure including: text that “flows” with coherent and effective transition between and among ideas; and appropriate voice, tone, and style for audience (e.g. no slang or contractions).
4. Sufficiently and consistently cited and documented; Chicago style citation used throughout the paper; references adequate number and appropriate type of sources; and proper use of indirect and direct quotations and references.

5. Correct mechanics including grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

6. Your name on both the paper and on the file submitted (example, CONF 101 1st Essay, WilsonRB).

All papers should be thoroughly proofread and spellchecked before being handed in, and will be marked down for excessive typographical errors. Quality of writing is critical because if the writing is poor, then you are likely to be unable to communicate clearly an argument that is clear and carefully supported. Note: When asked to go to the writing center, you must do so. A note from the writing center on what was done to assist you on the paper must be submitted to me. Failure to seek the help you need will reflect on your grade.

All papers must be in Microsoft Word format and double spaced; have one-inch margins on all four sides; be left aligned; use 12in Times New Roman Font; and use Chicago style in-paragraph citations with bibliography. Online dictionaries, Naver and Wikipedia are not academic sites to do research at: do not use them! In addition, an excellent source on how to write papers, properly site and use a bibliography is at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/. I also highly suggest you download and use Zotero citation software (https://www.zotero.org) with Firefox web browser in order to help you properly save and cite sources. You are required to submit all papers and other work electronically via blackboard by the due date on the syllabus. (More details to follow.) All presentations must also be in PowerPoint format (not Prizio) with note pages and proper citations and references.

Communication: My door is always open to talk with and assist you. However, please bring any questions and concerns you may have to me in a timely manner. Do not hesitate to ask for guidance and clarification, whatever the issue is. If you need additional assistance for assignments, or are having any other issues, let me know, I am here to help mentor you. I will assume that the class is comfortable and satisfactory and the material I present is clear unless I hear from you otherwise. Do not wait until the day an assignment is due to ask for assistance, or contact me late at night, unless it is an emergency.
**Electronic Devices:** Before each class, please remember to silence or turn off (not vibrate!) any electronic devices, especially cell phones. No calls or texting during class. If you must use your cell phone during class time for a personal emergency, please leave the room without disturbing the class. You may use your laptops or tablets to take notes and look up information pertinent to our class topics. However, you may NOT use this opportunity to complete tasks that are not related to our classroom, play games, surf the internet or chat with your friends on social media or elsewhere. In the event that this opportunity is abused, you will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. During all quizzes and exams, you will leave your cell phones and all other electronic equipment and bags at the front of the classroom.

**Email Policy:** In compliance with a University-wide initiative, our correspondence will be only through GMU assigned email accounts. Please check your email account regularly for updates and important announcements. This also means that you must use blackboard. Please check the syllabus before emailing me regarding course matters, and contact a classmate or a group member for notes if you miss class. I will not respond to email inquiries that arise from a lack of attention to the syllabus (i.e. office location, office hour times, due date for assignments, etc.) or class absences. I am happy to respond to clarification requests on assignments, though I strongly prefer to address these matters during class time.

**Notice: Mandatory Reporting**
As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per George Mason University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, for GMU Fairfax’s main campus, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (703-993-2380). You may also seek local counseling assistance from the IGC counseling center by calling 032 626-6142 or emailing wellness@gmu.edu. Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu. For GMUK Psychological Services, you may call 032 626-6142 or visit the multi-complex building, room 3052. For GMUK’s Title IX Coordinator, you may contact Professor Zimmerman by calling 032 626-5110 or emailing dzimmer2@gmu.edu.

**Academic Accommodations:** If you are a student with a documented disability and need academic accommodations or assistance, please see me at the beginning of the semester. Even if the disability is
not documented, speak with me right away so I can get you the assistance you need. The bottom line is that we want you to succeed in class!

**Important Dates:** [http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/](http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/)

**Honor Code:** You are expected to abide by George Mason University’s Honor Code while preparing all work for this class. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely.

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the University and Honor Committee for review. Plagiarism means using the exact words (even with a few word changes), opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Plagiarism includes copying paragraphs of information from other sources and putting them in your paper as if they are your own words (even if the source is cited). Writers MUST give full credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes.

All material used from other authors must be cited, using in-paragraph Chicago format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me before submitting something. *No more than 25-30%* of your paper should be materials used directly and indirectly from another source (direct and indirect quotes). With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. **DO NOT** copy and paste from the internet or submit papers from other classes. Finally, do not use your papers from other classes. If there is an important (small part) of a prior paper you wrote (not group work), you can use it (no more than 2-3 sentences) with proper citations! No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with me before submitting any work.
Course Requirements and Grading

Active participation: Active participation means having arrived at class with notes on the readings and questions/comments prepared for discussion. Occasionally, you may be asked to bring short responses to readings to class.

Quizzes: You will have about 4-5 pop-quizzes over the course of the semester based on the daily/weekly readings (Readings due on that day of class). The quizzes will cover the required readings and NOT the suggested readings. These quizzes are given at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, you miss the quiz.

Exams. You will have a midterm in-class exam. For the written midterm, you will be asked to identify key terms, authors, and theories and write short essay responses.

Short Papers: You will be required to write two short essays (essay one: ~2,000; essay two: ~1,500) during the semester, which engage course readings, videos and incorporate additional bibliography with proper citations. Papers length is strictly enforced (do not write more than 200 words over or 100 words under for each paper). All papers must be written in accordance to the guidelines given in this syllabus, and the examples given on Blackboard. You are required to submit all papers electronically via blackboard by the due date on the syllabus. Detailed information on these two essays can be found on Blackboard. (More details to follow.)

Final Presentations. You will have a final group PowerPoint presentation. The final group presentation will be based on a subject agreed on between your group and the professor, and must include terms, theories and key parts of the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions. The final presentation must also be in PowerPoint format with note pages, and will also include the essay portion (paper) of this subject combined from all its members in Microsoft Word format essay. In the final PowerPoint and paper, you must use at least six conflict theories. You must also tell me how to resolve this conflict with a resolution plan. More details will provided by the instructor.

Final Grades: I fully realize grades matter, but they should matter all the time, not just at the end of the semester. I give everyone one chance for extra credit equally. Therefore, do not ask for any additional extra credit or to relook at your grade at the end of the semester or after final grades are submitted. It is your responsibility to know your grade (or ask) and to do the work needed for success.
Again, unless it is an error on my part, I will not change final grades or give any additional extra credit outside of what was already given during the semester.

**Grading Rubric:**
- Participation: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- First Short Paper: 10%
- Second Short Paper: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- PowerPoint Final Presentation and Paper: 25%

**Grading scale:**

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<th>Points Accumulated</th>
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<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
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**Weekly Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Part I: Introductions and Foundation to CAR</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>• Syllabus and Structure of Class</td>
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<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong> What is Conflict? Intro to conflict analyses and resolution.</td>
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<td>• Pruitt and Kim, pp. 3-14</td>
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<td><strong>Recommended Readings:</strong> Kriesberg: Emergence of Conflicts, pp.49-85 (on blackboard)</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Group A</th>
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<td>Required Readings: Theory, Practice and Management</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Woodhouse, et al (ch 6 and 9): pp. 33-34, pp. 47-58</td>
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<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong></td>
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<td>• Pruitt and Kim, pp. 15-36</td>
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| 6    | Friday | Group E | - Pruitt and Kim, pp.37-62  
- Woodhouse, et al (ch 22 and 23): pp. 120-124, 125-131  

**Required Readings: Conflict Mapping**  
- Spitcerow and Sandole’s 3-pillar framework (on blackboard)  
- Dugan, Nested Theory of Conflict (BB)  
- Wehr, Mapping Tools (BB)  

*ELA (1) Mapping Exercises to presented in next class (19 April 2019)*  

| 7    | Friday | No Group | Required Readings:  

Mapping Presentations in class on Chosen Final Group Projects sent to instructor with corrections by Oct 2019 (Submitted by BB).  

**Recommended Readings:**  
- Video: Dr. King (3 minutes): Nonviolence is the Most Powerful Weapon: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74XJJ3Tq5ew](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74XJJ3Tq5ew)  

**Review for Midterm Test**  

| 8    | Friday | No Group | **Part IV: Conflict Resolution Praxis: Prevention (Provention) Problem Solving, Mediation and Negotiation**  

Midterm Exam, in class  

In Class Midterm Evaluations  

| 9    | Friday | Group F | Required Readings:  
- Woodhouse, et al (ch 44, 45 and 46): pp. 234-235, 236-243, 244-247  
- Winslade: Narrative Mediation: What is it? (on blackboard)  

*ELA (2): Introduction to Conflict Intervention*  

**Recommended Readings:**  
Watch in class: Problem Solving Workshops (53 Min):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kK50Np75x8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kK50Np75x8)  

**Part V: Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding**
| Week 10 | Friday | **Group G**  
Readings Lead  

**Required Readings:**  
- Lederach, Reconciliation: Building of Relations, pp.23-35 (on blackboard)  

**Recommended Readings:** Barsulou, Trauma and Transitional Justice in Divided Societies,” pp. 1-12 (on blackboard)  

Second writing assignment **Due by June 2019** (reflective paper on Challenges to Resolving Conflicts using conflict resolution (from a CAR perspective), details on BB)  

**Required Readings:**  

| Week 11 | Friday | **Week 11**  
No Group Readings and PPT Presentation  

**Required Readings:**  

**Part VI: Challenges and Future Direction**  
- Practice: Six-Party Talks ELA  
  (Exercise)  

Written Assignment #2 due June 2019 by end of day, (Submitted by BB). |

| Week 12 | Friday | **Week 12**  

- Group talks on their final presentations (each group will have ~5 minutes to orally present about their project and any difficulties). Mandatory. |

| Week 13 | Friday | **Week 13**  

- Review  
- Jeopardy Game  

Final Paper and PowerPoint due 5 June 2019 by end of day, (Submitted by BB). |

| Week 14 | Friday | **Week 14**  
Final Presentations |

| Week 15 | Friday | **Week 15**  
Final Presentations  

- Final Course Discussion and Review  
  - Integration: What we have learned and where do we go from here?  
  - Course Evaluations |
Partial Bibliography


Conflict Resolution Information Source. "Tools and Conflict Resolution Information" (available through http://www.crinfo.org/index.jsp)