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Spring 2014

DIPL 6119 AA New Approaches to Managing the Evolving Conflict Environment

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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

NEW APPROACHES TO MANAGING THE EVOLVING CONFLICT ENVIRONMENT

DIPL 6119 AA
Spring 2014
Wednesday, 2:00-4:10 pm
Class dates: January 14- April 30

Pamela Aall

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Course Description

Changes in the international environment – the decline in the interest of the major states in providing global security, a decrease in the role and influence of the UN, a rise in the activities of non-state actors, transitions in a number of fragile states – require changes in the way we think about peace and security. It is no longer a matter of simply establishing strong global defense alliances and bolstering the capacity of states to provide security to their inhabitants. Long-term sustainable stability requires improved governance, protection of individual rights, equitable economic development, and engagement of many different individuals and institutions in order to work. This course explores the new international environment, and looks at different actors and some of the issues they face in trying to provide peace, stability and social and political development in this environment. This course is intended to provide a solid foundation for both inquiry and application. The course will introduce students to some of the major concepts and dilemmas faced by professionals and policymakers, and will also put them into the role of practitioners trying to develop responses to these challenges. The course will connect theory to practice through discussion, research, and case studies, and will stress application through frequent class exercises. It will be useful for anyone with an interest in conflict resolution and management, including professionals in the fields of diplomacy, conflict management, security, journalism, development assistance, humanitarian aid, the military or international peacekeeping who wish to develop their knowledge of this important area.

Course Goals

1. To develop an understanding of some of the dilemmas facing policymakers and practitioners in providing sustainable peace and security;

2. To develop an understanding of the new actors and approaches to providing sustainable peace and security; and
3. To develop practical skills and capabilities in the field.

Course Overview

1. Introduction and Overview (Wednesday, January 15)

The New Conflict Environment

2. Conflict Today: Neither War Nor Peace (Wednesday, January 22)
3. Security or Freedom: A Central Dilemma (Wednesday, January 29)
4. The Future of Conflict (Wednesday, February 5)

Collective Conflict Management: Old and New Actors

5. Traditional Actors – States and the UN (Wednesday, February 12)
6. Growing Role of Regional Organizations (Wednesday, February 19)
7. International NGOs and Private Actors: Good or Bad? (Wednesday, February 26)

New Approaches

8. Capacity-building: Encouraging the “Local” in Local Engagement (Wednesday, March 5)
9. Spring Break (Wednesday, March 12)
10. Case: Conflict Resolution in Pakistan (Wednesday, March 19)
11. What’s Going on in Your Community? (Wednesday, March 26)
12. Does Mediation Still Work? (Wednesday, April 2)
13. Protecting People: What is our Responsibility? (Wednesday, April 9)
14. Social Media and Human Rights (Wednesday, April 16)

Assessments

15. Class Exercise (April 23)
16. Conclusions (Wednesday, April 30)

Course Assessment

Attendance and Individual Participation	30 %
Interim Paper	30 %
Final Paper	40 %

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (30%): This is a seminar plus practice format; attendance is very important as is participation in discussion and exercises. There will be short exercises in nearly all of the classes, plus an out-of-class assignment to identify and report on an initiative in your local community to address a serious conflict in another country.

Assessed Papers:

There are two papers with the second paper building on the first one. Both papers will address the same situation, which can be a conflict or can be another violent or violence-prone situation.

In the first paper (30 %), you will map and analyze the dynamics of the conflict or problem situation.

- What is the history?
- Who are the parties, both direct and indirect?
 - How are these parties organized i.e. where does power lie within them, who calls the shots, how big/powerful are they?
 - What are their primary sources of support i.e. key constituencies both at home and abroad?
- What do the parties disagree about? What are the core incompatibilities between them? Are there underlying issues as well as overt ones?
- Where is the dispute or fighting taking place?
- How are the parties carrying out the dispute or fighting?

The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point type), excluding bibliography and maps. **Due: In class, March 5 (hard copy and electronic version)**

In the second paper (40%), you will propose solutions to the difficulties that you described in your first paper. In the paper,

- describe and analyze the problem you would like to resolve (based on Paper #1);
- describe different means that others have taken of addressing the situation you analyzed in the first paper, assessing their strengths and weaknesses;
- and finally, give your own recommendations for the best way to respond to the problem, building on one or several responses that we have addressed in class.

The second paper should be approximately 20 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point type), excluding bibliography and maps. Students should submit one hard and one electronic version of the paper. **Due: In class, April 30, in hard copy and electronic versions.**

- Sources must be cited using a recognized system of referencing – the best are either the Chicago or Harvard methods.

Core Readings

Many readings will be taken from the book-in-progress, *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*, edited by Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall (Washington DC: U.S. Institute of Peace Press and Waterloo ON: Centre for International Governance Initiatives, forthcoming) If a link is not provided in the syllabus itself, readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

1. Session 1 (January 15): Introduction and Overview

- Overview of the course and your role in it.

PART 1: The New Conflict Environment

2. Session 2 (January 22): International Environment Today: Neither War Nor Peace

- What are the characteristics of the current international environment?
- What do we mean by: 1) war; 2) peace; and 3) violence?
- What counts as an armed conflict, a deadly quarrel, or lethal violence? What are the major trends in organized violence?
- How can you analyze conflict or conflict-prone situations?

Reading

Levinger, Matthew, "Conflict Analysis Frameworks," in *Conflict Analysis: Understanding Causes, Unlocking Solutions* (Washington: USIP Press, 2013), 87-111.

Steven Pinker, "The Surprising Decline in Violence," *Ted Talk*, September 2007.

http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_on_the_myth_of_violence.html

Uppsala Conflict Data Program: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/>

3. Session 3 (January 29): Peace, Truth, Security, Justice, Reconciliation: Central Dilemmas

- What are the main goals of the various means of addressing instability and violence?
- What are the trade-offs between providing security, ensuring freedom, bringing justice, promoting reconciliation?
- How do you set priorities?

Reading

Jack Snyder, Dawn Brancati, and Edward Mansfield, "A Not So Great Awakening? Early Elections, Weak Institutions, and the Risk of Violence" in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*

Welch, David A., "Contending Ideas in Conflict Management," in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

4. Session 4 (February 5): The Future of Conflict and Instability

- Will war look the same in the future as it does today?
- What are trends in terms of the conduct of war?
- What are new frontiers?
- Will new environment require new conflict management techniques?

Reading

Elizabeth Cole, "Ourselves, Others, and the Past That Binds Us," in *Education for Global Citizenship* (Doha: Education Above All, 2012), 206-217.
http://www.ineesite.org/uploads/files/resources/EAA_Education_for_Global_Citizenship.pdf

Crocker, C., F. Hampson and P. Aall, "The Centre Cannot Hold: Conflict Management in an Age of Diffusion" in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*, 1-14.

Gleditsch, N. P., "Climate Change, Environmental Stress and Conflict" in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Patrick, S., "Conflict and Cooperation in the Global Commons" in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

PART 2: Collective Conflict Management: Old and New Actors

Session 5 (February 12): Traditional Actors – Sovereign States and the UN

- What are the traditional sources of global peace and stability and how do they function?
- How have they changed their approaches in the face of changes in the international environment?
- What should they be doing that they are not doing now?

Reading

Betts, Richard, "The Lost Logic of Deterrence," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2013.

Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall, "Collective Conflict Management: A New Formula for Global Peace and Security Cooperation?" in *International Affairs* 87:1 (2011) 39-58.

Jones, Bruce, "The Security Council and Crisis Management: Still Central after All these Years," in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Stares, P., "The Future of Conflict Prevention" in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Session 6 (February 19): Growing Role of Local Actors: Regions and Regional Organizations

- How are regions and regional organizations organizing themselves to resolve conflicts and solve problems?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the regional approach? How can this approach be strengthened?

Readings

Williams, Paul D. and Jurgen Haacke, "Regional Approaches to Conflict Management," in Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, *Rewiring Regional Security in a Fragmented World*, 49-74.

Other selected readings.

Session 7 (February 26): International NGOs and Private Actors: Good or Bad?

- Who are the new non-state actors?

- When are they helpful?
- How do non-state actors challenge traditional methods of resolving disputes and providing sustainable peace?

Chigas, Diana, Capabilities and Limits of NGOs as Conflict Managers, “ in Crocker, Hampson, Aall, eds., *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*.
 Crenshaw, Martha, “Dealing with Terrorism,” in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.
 Readings on private peacemakers and conflict entrepreneurs.

PART III: NEW APPROACHES

Session 8 (March 5): Capacity-building: Encouraging the “Local” in Local Engagement

- What does “building capacity” mean?
- What are some of the new institutions in conflict management and resolution?
- Who builds capacity: locals or internationals?
- What are the pros and cons of capacity-building?

Reading

Aall, Pamela, “Building Interests, Relationships, and Capacity: Three Approaches to Conflict Management” in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.
 Selections from Beth Cole, *Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction* (Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace Press and Carlisle, PA: US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, 2009), <http://www.usip.org/publications/guiding-principles-stabilization-and-reconstruction>
 Gates, Robert, “Helping Others Defend Themselves,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010, <http://www.usnwc.edu/events/csf/documents/Helping%20Others%20Defend%20Themselves.pdf>
 Selections from International IDEA, “Constitution Building after Conflict: External Support to a Sovereign Process,” *Policy Paper May 2011* (Stockholm: International IDEA May 2011). <http://www.idea.int/publications/constitution-building-after-conflict/index.cfm>

SPRING BREAK (March 12)

Session 9 (March 19): Case: Conflict Resolution in Pakistan

Reading: Readings to be provided.

Session 10 (March 26): What’s Going on in Your Community?

Reading: This is a research, writing, and analytical assignment, but most of the research will be through interviews with some background reading on the particular conflict/problem selected.

Session 11 (April 2): Does Mediation Still Work?

- What is mediation and when does it work? When does it fail?
- Which actors make the best mediators?

- What are the main challenges facing mediators?
- In the new conflict environment, are conflicts ever ripe for resolution?

Reading

Hampson, Fen Osler and I. William Zartman, “The Tools of Mediation and Negotiation,” in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Crocker, C., F.O. Hampson & P. Aall, “Building a Negotiating Strategy,” in *Taming Intractable Conflicts* (USIP, 2004), 93-118.

Zartman, I.W. & S. Touval, ‘International Mediation’ in C. Crocker, F. Osler Hampson & P. Aall (eds.), *Leashing the Dogs of War* (USIP, 2007), 437-54.

Session 12 (April 9): Protecting People and Encouraging Reconciliation: What is our Responsibility?

- What does protection mean?
- What does reconciliation mean?
- Do outsiders have a responsibility to protect and/or a responsibility to help encourage reconciliation?

Reading

Bellamy, Alex and Paul Williams, “The New Politics of Protection? Côte d’Ivoire, Libya and the Responsibility to Protect,” *International Affairs*, Vol. 87, Issue 4. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2011.01006.x/abstract>

Stromseth, Jane, “Peacebuilding and Justice: Where are We Headed?” in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Williams, Abiodun, “The Changing Normative Environment for Conflict Management,” in *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift*.

Session 13 (April 15): Social Media and Human Rights

Guest Lecture: Dr. Ella McPherson, Cambridge University

- How has the use of social media influenced our understanding of events on the ground in troubled zones?
- How reliable are social media reports? What can be done verify the information transmitted by social media?

Reading

Himelfarb, Sheldon., “Spread of Networks with Destabilizing and Enabling Impacts on CM Capacity” in *Conflict Management and Global Governance*

McPherson, Ella, “The Use of Social Media at Advocacy Organizations,” (citation to follow).

Session 14 (April 23): Class Presentations (based on research conducted on community-based international conflicts).

Session 15 (April 30): Debrief and Concluding Reflections

Important Notes:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www.shu.edu/offices/community-development/community-standards/>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

*** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Mrs. Linda Walter at (973) 313-6003.
