Political Science 378: Conflict Resolution

Basic Information

Time        Monday 1:20 pm – 3:15 pm
Location    Ingraham 113
Semester    Fall 2012
Professor   Andrew Kydd
Email       kydd@wisc.edu
Phone       608-263-2024
Office      322C North Hall
Office hours 12:00 to 1:00 pm Wednesday

Course Description

Every war must end, but some last longer than others. What determines when a conflict ends? This course will cover the main approaches to conflict resolution and war termination and study some of the salient cases. Both international and civil conflict will be considered. Topics covered include: theories of conflict and conflict resolution, negotiation, reassurance, partition, humanitarian intervention, mediation and peacekeeping. Salient cases will include the First World War, the Cold War, and the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The Simulation

An important component of this course will be a simulation in which the class analyzes the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each class member will adopt the identity of an important figure in the conflict. Available roles are listed in the table below. However, this list is not meant to be exhaustive. Students are encouraged to suggest a role they would like to adopt, as long as it is a person who might reasonably be involved in the issue.

The simulation will take place over three class sessions.

1. In the first session, each student will introduce the class to their role. They will give a biography and outline the person’s role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and their attitudes or positions towards it.

2. In the second session, the US administration, consisting of the President, National Security Advisor, Political Advisor, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, UN Ambassador, and Ambassador to Israel (along with any additional roles suggested by students) will present a proposal for solving the conflict. This group is required to work collaboratively to come up with the proposal. Each member of the administration will present some aspect of the plan.

3. In the last session, the other students will present their reactions to the proposal. US domestic actors will voice criticism or support. Foreign actors will then express criticism or support. Then two decisions will be made. First, the Israeli
Prime Minister and the Palestinian President will either agree to the proposal, agree to a modified version of the proposal, or decide to continue the conflict. Then the American People will choose to reelect President Obama or to elect Mitt Romney.

Roles for the Simulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Current Incumbent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US President</td>
<td>Barak Obama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Presidential Candidate</td>
<td>Mitt Romney</td>
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<tr>
<td>US National Security Advisor</td>
<td>Thomas E. Donilon</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Political Advisor</td>
<td>David Axelrod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Secretary of State</td>
<td>Hillary Clinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Ambassador to UN</td>
<td>Susan Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Ambassador to Israel</td>
<td>Daniel B. Shapiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Secretary of Defense</td>
<td>Leon Panetta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIPAC President</td>
<td>Roslyn M’cherzsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Street President</td>
<td>Jeremy Ben-Ami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The American People</td>
<td>Themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli Prime Minister</td>
<td>Benjamin Netanyahu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli Opposition Leader</td>
<td>Shaul Mofaz (Tzipi Livni)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian President</td>
<td>Mahmoud Abbas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamas Leader</td>
<td>Khaled Meshaal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egyptian Prime Minister</td>
<td>Mohamed Morsi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Foreign Minister</td>
<td>Saud al-Faisal</td>
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Course Requirements

This class is a seminar, and so is dependent on student participation. Students must do the readings before every class. Students will receive two points for attendance, an additional point for contributing to the discussion and an additional point for contributing in a particularly insightful way. If discussion flags I will call upon people to answer questions about the readings, being unable to answer will lower your grade.

Each student will make two presentations, their introductory presentation and their presentation of the proposal or their reaction to it. These presentations must be in the form of Powerpoint (or equivalent) slides. The first slide of each presentation must identify the student, class, date and subject of the presentation. The last slide(s) must contain a reference list for the sources used in compiling the presentation. Use the author-date system for citations, where a citation in the body of the presentation looks like this (Kydd 2000) and the references in the back look like the entries for the readings on this syllabus. You can also consult a recent issue of the American Political Science Review for examples. The presentations must be deposited by class time in the dropbox feature of the learn@uw website. The usual rules about academic honesty apply, each presentation must be your own work and material used in its creation must be cited.
adequately. Violations of this rule will be taken seriously and reported to the Committee on Academic Integrity in the Dean of Student’s office for further investigation and action.

There will also be a final exam. This will be administered through learn@UW as a take home final. It will consist of short answer questions based on the readings. I will provide more details as the end of the semester approaches.

Grading will be weighted as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Readings**

The following books are available at the Bookstore.


Other readings are available through the learn@uw site. Go to [https://learnuw.wisc.edu/](https://learnuw.wisc.edu/) and log in. The course should be visible there, click on it and then on the content.
Class Schedule

Week 1 (September 10) Introduction

- Pass out the syllabus and mutual introductions

Week 2 (September 17) Overview

- Iklé, Every War Must End

Week 3 (September 24) World War I and World War II


Week 4 (October 1) The Cold War


Week 5 (October 8) First Presentation: Biographical Sketches and Positions

Week 6 (October 15) Civil War


**Week 7 (October 22) The Arab-Israeli Conflict**


**Week 8 (October 29) Outbidding and the Spoiler Problem**


**Week 9 (November 5) The Partition Debate**

Week 10 (November 12)  Second Presentation: The US Proposal

Week 11 (November 19)  Mediation


Week 12 (November 26)  Peacekeeping and Reconstruction


Week 13 (December 3)  Final Presentation: Responses to the US Proposal

Week 14 (December 10)  Dilemmas of Humanitarian Intervention