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HSS 404-102: Global Conflict Resolution (Revised for Remote Learning)

Karl Schweizer

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HSS 404 102
Global Conflict and Resolution

Spring 2020

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wednesdays noon – 12:30 pm or

By appointment

Instructor: Dr. K.W. Schweizer

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Tuesdays 6 pm – 8:50 pm
Faculty Memorial Hall 314

“The purpose of all war is peace.” St. Augustine

Course Description: This course is a structured and coherent investigation of the salient approaches to the study of international conflict and peacemaking. Conflict resolution is the process of attempting to resolve a dispute or a conflict, in our case, at the interstate level. This may involve conflict management in which the parties continue the conflict but with less extreme duties; settlement in which they reach agreement on enough issues that the conflict stops; or removal of the underlying causes of conflict—“resolution,” usually by means of creative diplomatic techniques.

This course will also examine the systemic contexts shaping the course of conflict resolution: these include alliance structures, the role of power, influence, fluctuating national interests, and the role of misperception in policy decisions.

Conflict itself has both positive and negative outcomes. Practitioners in the field of conflict resolution seek to find ways to promote positive outcomes and minimize the negative ones. Sometimes stalled or dysfunctional peace processes thwart negotiations and new strategies for rejuvenating or reorienting have to be devised. There exists an enormous body of literature on this subject with considerable confusion and competition among proponents of various approaches. Moreover—precisely because of this confusion—vital links of communication among various schools of thought either have never existed or have broken down.

A further aim of this course is to help students understand and thus help to build and repair these communication links, in the process helping you identify your own position and viewpoints within the epistemology of international relations as a whole. The objective is not to produce a “definitive” mode of analysis but to encourage thought about the interconnections between and among various conceptual approaches to war, conflict management and the modalities of sustainable peace settlements.

Course Goals: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply international relations theory to history theory to historical reality thereby gaining a firmer grasp of world issues and politics.
- Understand the policy prescriptions, moral principles and ethical dilemma underlying the effective resolution of armed conflict.
- Appreciate the problematic nature of international/security choices thus making them more informed citizens.
- Write effective essays that critically analyze, in fluent prose, highly complex and textured peace settlement scenarios.
- Better understand the scope and limits of arbitration and mediation as vital organizational tools in both international and domestic settings.
- Confront conflicts, at all levels, more creatively, with greater understanding of governing dynamics.

Assignments and Marks:

Book Review	20%	Due Tues., March 3
Mid Term	20%	Tues., March 10
Research Essay	30%	Due Tues., April 21
Wrap-up Quiz	20%	Tues., April 28
Class Participation	10%	

Grading Scale for Assignments and Participation:

A = 85 – 100	B+ = 80 – 84.5	
B = 75 – 79.5	C+ = 69.5 – 74.5	
C = 65 – 69.5	D = 50 – 64.9	F = 49.9 – 0

Texts: (required readings)

John W. Burton, Conflict Resolution: Its Language and Processes (London, 1996)

Ronald Fisher, Interactive Conflict Resolution (Syracuse, 1997)

Charles Kegley & Gregory Raymond, How Nations Make Peace (NY, 1999)

Gordon Craig & A.L. George, Force and Statecraft (NY, 1983)

Semester Schedule:

Jan. 21: Introduction

Jan. 28: State Interests, Power, Capability and Influence

Readings: Burton, intro., ch. 2; Craig, ch. 1.

Feb. 4: State Interests: Conflict, Alignment (Alliances), Systemic Dimensions.

Readings: Kegley, ch. 1; Craig, ch. 2.

Feb. 11: Crises and War: The Categories of Wars and Implications for Peace Strategies

Readings: Burton, ch. 2; Kegley, ch.1, 10; Craig, ch. 16.

Feb. 18: International Political Processes: i) Diplomacy and Negotiation; ii) Diplomatic Theory; iii) Types of Diplomacy; iv) Reconciliation or Retribution

Readings: K.W. Schweizer, “Diplomacy”, “Callierès and the Development of Diplomatic Theory”, “Diplomatic Thought 1648-1815” class handouts; Fisher, ch. 4; Kegley, ch. 2.

Feb. 25: Elements of Conflict Resolution: Game Theory, Mediation, Negotiation Theory, Unofficial Diplomacy.

Readings: Burton, chs. 4, 5; Fisher, chs. 4, 5, 7; K.W. Schweizer, “Diplomacy’s Seamless Web,” class handout.

Mar. 3: Review for Midterm Quiz * Book Review Due

Mar. 10: Midterm Quiz

Mar. 17: Spring Break

Mar. 24: Deterrence: Coercive Diplomacy and Collective Security.

Readings: Fisher, chs. 5, 8; Kegley, ch. 8; Craig, chs. 13, 14.

Mar. 31: Justice and Expedience in International Affairs: Reconciliation vs Retribution.

Readings: Burton, ch. 4; Fisher, ch. 9; Kegley, ch. 2.

Apr. 7: Case Study: The Treaty of Versailles.

Readings: Burton, ch. 5; Kegley, ch. 7; Craig, ch. 6.

Apr. 14 International Law: Globalization and the Balance of Power.

Readings: Kegley, ch. 1; Craig, ch. 19; K.W. Schweizer, "British Foreign Policy 1689-1790: Origins, Aims, and Dynamics"; "Global History: Traditions, Innovations, Debates," class handouts.

Apr. 21: Review for Wrap-up Quiz * Research Paper Due

Apr. 28: Wrap-up Quiz

Course Requirements:

- **ONE BOOK REVIEW**
- 5-6 pages
- Based on a book relating to the themes of the course
- Autobiographies, memoirs and novels are not acceptable
- Chosen by student and approved by professor
- Book review guidelines will be provided
- Hard copy with notes due on Tuesday, March 3
- Worth 20 % of final grade

- **RESEARCH PAPER**
- 13-15 pages
- Topic chosen by student relevant to the course and approved by professor
- Hard copy with notes due on Tuesday, April 21
- Worth 30% of final grade

- **MIDTERM QUIZ AND WRAP UP QUIZ**
- Each quiz is worth 20%

Policies:

- Class attendance will be taken via a student-signed attendance book.
- Absences will be accepted only from the Dean of Students.
- This is an intellectually demanding course. Students are expected to read all assigned readings and it is highly suggested that work on written assignments be started as soon as the book and later the research subject has been approved.
- A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class weeks prior to when the book review and later the research paper are due. Please check the sheet to make sure that your choice has been approved by the professor.
- Assignments **MUST** be completed on time and will be due at the beginning of class.

- Assignments will only be accepted on the due date OR at the beginning of the next class and not after that. They CANNOT be left under my office door or in the History office.
- Hard copy with research notes are to be turned in and email attachments are not accepted.
- One grade per day late will be applied to final assignment grade.
- There will be no “make-up” exam. If you miss either quizzes and cannot provide documentation to the Dean of Students’ office, you will receive an F.
- There will be no “re-writing” of book reviews or research papers. Students having problems with written English should consult the Humanities Dept. Writing Center.
- Plagiarism in any written assignment will result in an automatic failure and will be reported to the Dean.
- All submitted work must contain the following signed statement: **I have fully complied with the NJIT Honor Code. Signed: Your Name.**

Amended Syllabus for Tele-Learning via Canvas

Each week there will be a written lecture on Canvas. Besides reading the lecture, students will access links and also read assigned readings from the course texts. These readings may not necessarily correspond to the original assigned readings on the syllabus. After completing the readings, students will answer a question provided at the end of the lecture and this work will be submitted on Canvas via the Discussion link.

Students will not write a research paper or take a final quiz. The weekly written work will take the place of the paper and quiz and will be worth 50% of the final grade.

The following are the titles of the new written lectures that will appear on Canvas.

Week 1: March 23: Deterrence: Coercive Diplomacy and Collective Security.

Week 2: March 30: Justice and Expedience in International Affairs: Reconciliation vs Retribution.

Week 3: April 6: Case Study: The Treaty of Versailles

Week 4: April 13: International Law: Globalization and the Balance of Power

Week 5: April 20: War and Misperception: Further Reflections

Week 6: April 27: Globalization in History: A New Concept?

I did not provide a new syllabus to the class. At the start of the tele-learning phase of the semester, I sent an email to each student explaining how the rest of the semester would be structured, what I would provide for them in terms of instruction, and what would be expected of them.