

Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Institutions

CAS IR 562 – SUMMER 2015

Calendar

Duration:	May 26, 2015 – June 19, 2015
Arrival in Geneva:	Tuesday May 26
Orientation:	Wednesday May 27
Start of teaching:	Thursday May 28
London transfer:	Monday June 22
London end contact:	Monday July 13: Workshop linking the works done in Geneva to the cases Wednesday July 15: Capstone Seminar

1. Course Content and Teaching

In this four-week 4-credit course, students will be given an overview of the history, theory and actors of conflict resolution and will visit a range of international agencies working on these issues in Geneva.

There will be at least 40 hours of teaching, consisting of lectures in the BU classroom and visits to international organizations, including but not limited to the UN and ICRC, as well as smaller agencies working on humanitarian and security issues.

The teaching will be led by the local coordinator, Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo, with the contribution of specialized guest lecturers from international organizations and research centres. Required readings for each session, about 30 pages per lecture, are indicated in the syllabus. Readings not protected by copyright, such as reports and peace agreements, are posted at the course Learn Blackboard website (**PDF**), and the rest compiled in a reading brick (**RB**) distributed to students at the beginning of the course.

As the first module of a joint summer course between Geneva and London BU programmes, this course is a prerequisite for the registration to the London module, which concentrates on case studies and workshop.

2. Course assessment

The course will be assessed by a critical review of reading, mid-term quiz, final exam, and students' active participation in class.

- 1) **Short critical review of reading (2 pages, 20%)**: This is a writing task that asks students to summarise and evaluate a text. It usually requires them to read the selected text in detail and to also read other related sources so that they can present a fair and reasonable evaluation of the text. Students will find a guidance on writing a critical review in Learn Blackboard website. The paper is due on June 12, by 7 PM.
- 2) **Mid-term quiz (Tuesday June 9, 30%)**: This is a 90-minutes factual quiz on material covered in classes 1 to 7. This aims to ensure that students have assimilated the basic definitions and concepts of conflict resolution seen in class.
- 3) **Final exam (Friday June 19, 40%)**: It consists of 4 questions 2 hours written exam on the whole course.
- 4) **Active class participation (10%)**: Participation at 'A' level is based on the following criteria:
 - The participant has insightful comments and questions that prompt on-topic discussion;
 - The participant states informed comments and opinions that draw upon relevant readings, lectures, class discussions and/or other experiences. The student's participation helps clarify or synthesize issues;
 - The student's participation demonstrates that s/he has read the assigned readings with a 'critical eye'. Participation should demonstrate not only mastery of the content of the assigned materials but an ability to critically analyse.

3. Course schedule

WEEK ONE (May 26 – 31)

Thursday, May 28

- Morning 9.00 – 11.00: **Introduction to the course: evolution, definition, models, techniques, and actors of conflict resolution**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo, BU Study Abroad Geneva](#)
30 minutes break
- 11.30 – 13.00: **Patterns of contemporary conflicts: from interstate wars to internal conflicts and terrorism**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)
- Reading O. Ramsbotham, T. Hugh & H. Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 3rd ed., 2011), Chapter Two: ‘Conflict Resolution: Origins, Foundations and Development’, 35-62 [27 p.] **Reading Brick (RB)**
O. Ramsbotham & al., Chapter Three: ‘The Statistics of Deadly Quarrels and the Measurement of Peace’, 63-93 [30 p.] **(RB)**
A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (UN Doc. A/59/565, 2 Dec. 2004), Part two: ‘Collective Security and the challenge of prevention’, pp. 25-50 [26 p.] **(PDF – Learn Blackboard)**

Friday, May 29

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00 **The UN Global Strategy to Counter Terrorism and theories of conflict resolution**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)
- Reading UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) of 24 September 2014 on the threat caused by ‘Foreign terrorist fighters’ **(PDF)**
- Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00 **Visit to the Palais des Nations, UN Office in Geneva**

WEEK TWO (June 1 – 7)

Monday, June 1

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00 **Good offices and Mediation by International Organizations**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)
- Reading Extracts of the main international texts on peaceful settlement of disputes: the General Act for the PSID 1928 (rev. 1949), the Pact of Bogota on PSID 1948, and the Manila Declaration on PSID 1982 **(RB)**
A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility [...], Part one: ‘Towards a new security consensus’, pp. 15-24 [10 p.] **(PDF)**
Reading M. Griffiths & T. Whitfield, *Mediation: Ten Years On - Challenges and Opportunities for Peacemaking*, HD Centre [20 p.] **(PDF)**
- Afternoon 14.00 – 15.30 **Discussion** – The EU and OSCE conflict resolution efforts in Ukraine: methods used and critical appraisal
- Reading International Crisis Group, *The Ukraine Crisis: Risks of Renewed Military Conflict after Minsk II*, Crisis Group Europe Briefing N° 73, 1 April 2015 [16 p.] **(PDF)**

Tuesday, June 2

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00: **Introduction to Swiss history / Introduction to British history**
[Dr. Carla Rachman, BU Geneva](#) / [Dr. Michael Peplar, BU London](#)
- Afternoon Optional guided walk through the Old Town, led by Carla Rachman

Wednesday, June 3

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00 **Introduction to the London module case studies**
[Dr. Paul Cousins, Boston University London Programme](#)
- Reading Background notes on the Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Kashmir problems **(PDF)**

Thursday, June 4

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00: Visit to the Red Cross Museum, led by [Dr. Carla Rachman](#)
- Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00: **Outline of the main political theories relating to conflict resolution**,
[Dr. Mohammad Nafissi, BU London](#)
- Reading O. Ramsbotham & al., Chapter Nineteen: 'Conflict Resolution: Theories and Critiques', 396-413 [19 p.] **(RB)**

Friday, June 5

DAY OFF

WEEK THREE (June 8 – 14)

Monday, June 8

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00: **Outcome of conflict resolution process: peace agreements and their value** - [Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)
- Reading UN Peacemaker, 'Peace Agreements: Types, Structure and Components' [6 p.] **(PDF – Bb)**
J. Arnault, 'Good Agreement? Bad Agreement? An Implementation Perspective', (Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public Int'l Affairs) [25 p.] **(PDF– Bb)**
List of peace agreements on the three case studies (to be discussed in London)
- Afternoon 14.00 – 15.30: **Discussion on the Minsk Agreements on the Ukrainian conflict**
- Reading Minsk Agreements **(PDF)**
Read any article on the denunciation of the agreements by Ukraine on March 15, 2015

Tuesday, June 9

- Morning Free for mid-term quiz revision
- Afternoon 14.00 – 15.30: **Mid-term quiz on material covered till Monday 8 June**

Wednesday, June 10

- Morning 09.00 – 11.00: **Limits to a military solution to crisis and disputes**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)
- Reading D. Bethlehem, 'Self-Defence Against an Imminent or Actual Armed Attack by Non-State Actors', 106 *American Journal of International Law* 4 (2012), 770-777.
'United States Threatens Military Strikes Against Syria, Then Joins in Diplomatic Efforts to Control Syrian Chemical Weapons', 4 *American J. of I.L.* 107 (Oct. 2013), 900-907 **(RB)**
- Afternoon 14.30 – 16.30: **Visit to the US Permanent Mission to the United Nations**,
<http://geneva.usmission.gov>, led by [Dr. Carla Rachman](#)

Thursday, June 11

- Morning 10.00 – 12.00: **Current development on peace-building**
[Dr. Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, G.I.D.S. Geneva](#)
- Reading K. Krause, 'Beyond Definition: Violence in a Global Perspective', *Global Crime*, 10:4 (2009), 337-355 [20 p.] **(PDF – Bb)**
M. R. Montgomery, 'The Urban Transformation of the Developing World', *Science*, vol. 319 (8 Feb. 2008), 761-764 [4 p.] **(PDF – Bb)**
- Afternoon 14.00 – 15.30: **Visit to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees** www.unhcr.org

Friday, June 12 DAY OFF (Critical review due date)

WEEK FOUR (June 15 – 21)

Monday, June 15

Morning 10.00 – 12.00: **Peacekeeping operations by the United Nations and Regional Organizations** – [Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)

Reading O. Ramsbotham & al., Chapter Six: ‘Containing Violent Conflict: Peacekeeping’, 147-170 [24 p.] **(RB)**

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Principles and Guidelines (‘Capstone doctrine’), New York: UN Dept. of PKO, January 2010, Chap. 2: ‘The Evolving Role of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations’, pp. 17-30 [8 p.] **(PDF, 53 p. in all)**

Afternoon 15.00 – 16.30: **Dialogue among civilizations**, Briefing at the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue – www.gchragd.org

E-mail the Director in mid-April for reading

Tuesday, June 16

Morning 9.30 – 12.00: **Briefing at the International Committee of the Red Cross on the protection of victims of armed conflicts**

Reading D. Schindler, ‘International Humanitarian Law: Its Remarkable Development and its Persistent Violation’, 5 *Journal of the History of International Law* (2003), 165-188 [24 p.]

Afternoon 13.00 – 14.00: **Briefing on the visit¹** - Linking respect for IHL and conflict resolution

Wednesday, June 17

Morning 09.00 – 11.00 **Post conflict resolution and transitional justice: mechanisms for dealing with past atrocities for a lasting peace**
[Dr. Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo](#)

Reading P. Arthur, ‘Memory-Retrieval and Truth-Recovery’, in *Handbook*, chap. 26. [12 p.] **(RB)**

Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, UN General Assembly Resolution 60/147, 16 Dec. 2005 **(PDF - Bb)**

N. Niland, ‘Impunity and insurgency: a deadly combination in Afghanistan’, *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 92, No. 880, Dec. 2010, pp. 931-950 **(PDF – Bb)**

Afternoon Free for revision

Thursday, June 18 Free for revision

Friday, June 19

Morning 10:00 – 12:00 **Final exam** on the whole course

Saturday - Sunday, June 20-21: Free days

Monday, June 22 **Group departure for London** - BU will provide transport at both ends

¹ Parc Ariana if weather permits ; otherwise, in Vollandes classroom from 2 to 3pm.