

Michigan State University
James Madison College
Fall Semester 2007
MC 492, Section 4

Professor Linda Racioppi
372 North Case Hall
Office hours: M 9:30 - 11:30, Th 10:00 - 11:00,
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SENIOR SEMINAR

Culture, Conflict and Conflict Resolution

"Why can't we be friends now?" said the other... "It's what I want. It's what you want."

But the horses didn't want it - they swerved apart; the earth didn't want it...; the temples, the tank, the jail, the palace, the birds, the carrion, the Guest House...: they didn't want it, they said in their hundred voices, "No, not yet," and the sky said, "No, not there."

(E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*)

Course description: E.M. Forster's great novel of British colonialism in India narrates the inability of men of good will but from different cultures to come together in a context of imperialism's global power differentials. *A Passage to India* ends dispiritingly for students of international relations with an interest in conflict. Is Forster right? Are intercultural amity and cooperation unachievable in a world of power disparities? Where cultures conflict, are peace and reconciliation really unattainable? Is it impossible to transform conflict situations?

This course investigates the prospects for resolution and transformation of cases of protracted conflict where the identities and interests of groups that see themselves as culturally distinct collide. It probes the meaning of 'culture' and its impact on conflicts through an examination of two cases of protracted conflict: Northern Ireland, a conflict that seems to have been resolved, and Kashmir, an ongoing deadly conflict. In this course, you will learn about anthropological approaches to the study of culture that are relevant to international relations; you will be exposed to some of the leading international relations approaches to the study of conflict and its resolution; and you will practice the application of these approaches to our class' case studies as well as to a research case of your choosing. Thus, student research will enrich and complement our common readings, as you give presentations of your own research findings.

Course objectives: This course has five important objectives: (1) to expose you to a small portion of the very large multi- and inter-disciplinary scholarship in the fields of conflict and conflict resolution; (2) to give you the opportunity to think seriously about the ways in which 'culture' is implicated in conflict; (3) to encourage you to apply the insights you have gained in your career as a Madison student as well as those you generate in this class to one of international relations' most pressing problems; (4) to allow you to shape the substance and subject matter of a course through your own work; and (5) to help you develop research and writing skills, write a major paper and present it, and improve your speaking and listening skills.

Readings: The following five books are required reading for the course. Additional on-line articles and reserve readings, identified in the course outline below, complete the mandatory readings for this course.

Kevin Avruch, *Culture and Conflict Resolution*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 1998.

Sumantra Bose, *Kashmir: Roots of Conflict, Paths to Peace*. Harvard University Press, 2003.
 John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*. Oxford University Press, 2005.
 Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd ed. Polity Press, 2005.
 Jonathan Tonge, *Northern Ireland*. Polity Press, 2006

Course requirements: The major written work for this seminar consists of ANGEL dialoguing, a paper proposal, a draft research paper, and final research paper. The main oral requirements are to lead discussion of course readings, to contribute to class discussions, to participate in the simulation, and to present research findings to the class. Students are also expected to attend class regularly, to complete the readings prior to the class for which they are assigned, and to participate in class discussions and other activities. *In order to pass the course, it is necessary to participate in the seminar, including the simulation and the oral research presentation, and to complete all written assignments.* Unannounced quizzes are possible. A separate addendum details each of the assignments and explains grading practices.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Participation	20%
ANGEL dialoguing	25%
Paper proposal	10%
Oral presentation	10%
Seminar paper	35%

Instructional model: You should realize that because this course receives 5 credits for 4 in-class contact hours, you will be expected to do considerably more out-of-class work than for a regular 4 credit course. This out-of-class work will include consulting with me on a regular basis to ensure comprehension of course materials and successful completion of the research paper, participating in workshop opportunities, as well as engaging with other students outside of class to further explore course materials.

Academic honesty: The James Madison College and Michigan State University policies on academic integrity and plagiarism will be strictly enforced in this course. See the James Madison College Handbook section, Standards and Expectations, and the MSU Academic Programs catalogue, for further information. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask.

Course Outline

Please complete the readings by the date assigned. In the event that we run ahead of or behind schedule, students should complete the readings in the order given, unless otherwise instructed. Due dates for major assignments are given in bold print.

Introduction: 'culture' and conflict

August 28	Introduction to the course and its requirements
August 30	Culture(s) clash? Reading: Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations" and "If Not Civilizations, What? Paradigms of the Post-Cold War," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (1993) vol. 72, no. 3: 22 - 49 and 186-194; Fouad Ajami, "The Summoning," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (1993) vol. 72, no. 4: 2-8; Liu Binyan, "Civilization Grafting," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (1993) vol. 72, no. 4: 19-21 (all available on-line on ANGEL course site).

- September 4 Cultures and conflict
Reading: Avruch, *Culture and Conflict Resolution*, Parts 1 and 2.
- September 6 'Culturing' conflict resolution
Reading: Avruch, *Culture and Conflict Resolution*, Parts 3 and 4.
- September 7 **First ANGEL dialogue due by 5:00**
- Understanding 'cultures' in conflict: the case of Northern Ireland
- September 11 Roots of 'the Troubles'
Reading: Tonge, *Northern Ireland*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
Research topic ideas due in class
- September 13 The parties I: Nationalists and Republicans
Reading: Tonge, *Northern Ireland*: Chapters 2 - 5.
- September 18 The parties II: Unionists and Loyalists
Reading: Tonge, *Northern Ireland*: Chapters 6 - 8.
Research topic and preliminary bibliography due in class
- September 20 Overcoming the conflict; the Good Friday Agreement
Reading: Tonge, *Northern Ireland*: Chapter 9 and Conclusion; Bose, *Kashmir*: 208-215; The Good Friday Agreement (available on-line on the ANGEL course site).
- September 21 **Second ANGEL dialogue due by 5:00**
- Analyzing conflict and conflict resolution
- September 25 Concepts, approaches and culture in conflict resolution
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapters 1, 2, and 15.
- September 26 **Research proposal and bibliography due by 5:00**
- September 27 Problem and analysis
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapters 3, 4, and 12.
- October 2 Preventing and Containing Conflict
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapters 5 and 6.
- October 4 Peacemaking and mediation
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapter 7; Jacob Bercovitch, "Mediation in the Most Resistant Cases" and Diana Chigas, "Negotiating Intractable Conflicts," in *Grasping the Nettle*, ed. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall. Washington: United States Institute of Peace: 99 - 158 (on reserve in Madison Library).
- October 8 **Third ANGEL dialogue due by 5:00**

- October 9 Reconstructing conflicted societies
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapters 8 - 10.
- October 11 Resolving the problem of terrorism
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapter 11.
- October 16 Globalizing conflict resolution
Reading: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Chapters 13, 14, and 16.

Resolving conflict and imagining peace: the case of Kashmir

- October 18 Roots of the conflict
Bose, *Kashmir*, Chapters 1 and 2.
- October 22 **Fourth ANGEL dialogue due by 5:00**
- October 23 Kashmir at war
Bose, *Kashmir*, Chapters 3 and 4.
- October 25 Simulation I: Understanding the conflicting parties - presentations of conflicting parties
Reading: Bose, *Kashmir*, Chapter 5; Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, Chapters 1 and 2.
- October 30 Simulation II: Reformulating the conflict - Track II actors and mediators
Reading: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, Chapters 3 - 8.
- November 1 Simulation III: Articulating a political solution - conflicting parties, Track II actors and mediators
Reading: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, Chapters 9 - 11.
- November 6 **Research paper workshopping session**
- November 8 Simulation IV: Imagining paths to conflict transformation
Reading: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, Chapters 12 - 15.
- November 11 **Research papers due by 5:00**

Student research presentations:

- November 13 Presenter:

Presenter:
- November 14 **Fifth ANGEL dialogue due by 5:00**
- November 15 Presenter:

Presenter:

November 20	Presenter: Presenter:
November 22	University holiday - no class
November 27	Presenter: Presenter:
November 29	Presenter: Presenter:
November 30	Optional revised research papers due by 5:00
December 4	Presenter: Presenter:
December 6	Presenter: Presenter: 7:00 - senior seminar party
December 12	Final ANGEL dialogue due by 3:00