Welcome to Conflict in the World!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course introduces the study of conflict in the world. We will analyze the nature and forms of conflicts, examine how and why conflicts occur, and define ways to prevent or mitigate their destructive aspects. We will also highlight the political, the economic, the societal, and the cultural factors that play a part in conflict and peace. In addition, we will discuss strategies to resolve conflicts and the role the state and nonstate actors play in this process. Special attention will be given to major theoretical perspectives that explain conflict and peace in the world. Keep in mind that explaining conflicts depends on how we view the world, and our worldviews rarely fall outside a particular theory.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Ideally, students will leave this course being able to demonstrate the following:

1. An understanding of major types and causes of conflicts around the world
2. An understanding of different theoretical approaches to explain world conflicts and peace
3. The impact the state and nonstate actors have on preventing and resolving conflict and maintaining peace
4. The role different political systems, democratic or nondemocratic, play in dealing with conflict and peace
5. An understanding of how global inequality and resource scarcity impact the occurrence of conflicts around the world

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES
The course will be a combination of lectures, discussion (participation required), videos, and exams.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
ISBN 978-1-4422-1803-1

Also, given the subject matter of this course, I expect you to be familiar with current events. You should regularly read a quality national newspaper, such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, or similar newspapers. They are available online, free of charge.
**CANVAS USE:**

The class syllabus is posted in Canvas, an online course management system. Other course materials will be posted in Canvas, and you will be able to upload and print them. In addition, Canvas will be used for communication purpose outside the classroom. Please feel free to contact me at any time whenever you have a need.

Information on how to use Canvas is available at: [http://www.usfsm.edu/infocommons/students.php](http://www.usfsm.edu/infocommons/students.php)

**COMPUTER LAPTOP USE (suggested):**

USFSM requires all students to have laptops that can be brought with them to class. *Laptops will be permitted on specific days for specific purposes as noted on the schedule of assignments.*

**PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE:**

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to *Turnitin* through Canvas. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

**PLEASE REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE BODY OF YOUR PAPER AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID#. ALSO REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE FILE NAME AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID# (e.g., “U12345678 Essay 1.docx”) BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO TURNITIN.**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.

**INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS:**

**Respect is paramount!** Courtesy towards the instructor and class members is expected at all times. Students are expected to attend class, participate in class discussions, read materials before lecture, and complete all assignments on time.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Your grade will be determined by a combination of a research paper, exams, class presentation, and class attendance. You will have two exams throughout the term, a mid-term exam and a final exam.

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Your research paper should be about a specific conflict in the world. The selected topic may be an ongoing conflict or a conflict that has occurred in the past. The paper must have an introduction
paragraph with the last sentence clearly stating the issue to be discussed throughout the paper. In addition, each body paragraph should have a secondary thesis statement supporting the main thesis statement of the paper. Moreover, the concluding paragraph should discuss your findings and incorporate your critical thinking approach about the issue.

**Research Paper Content**

The paper should demonstrate your capacity to analyze conflict. This is an opportunity for you to apply what you have learned in this class. Use critical thinking in your analysis and support your argument if you engage in one.

Among others, the research paper should address the following questions:

- What is the conflict about?
  - What type of conflict is it?
  - What parties—state and/or nonstate—are involved in conflict?
  - What means were used (or are being used) by parties in conflict?
- Where did the conflict occur?
- When did it start?
- What is the cycle of the conflict?
- Why did the conflict occur?
  - What is/are the main cause(s) of the conflict?
- How was it managed?
  - What kinds of negotiations took or are taking place?
  - How was it resolved?
- What is the lesson learned?
  - What is your take on the outcome and the way how the conflict was handled?

**Research Paper Format**

The research paper should be no less than seven but no more than ten double-spaced pages in *Times New Roman*, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and no extra spacing or use of bold. Your paper should follow APA format. For more information, see the following link: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

**Research Paper Due Date**

The due date for the research paper is **April 22nd, 2015**. No later papers will be accepted.

**EXAMS**

There will be two exams throughout the course—the *Mid-Term Exam* and *Final Exam*. Exams will be taken in class on the scheduled dates on the course schedule. While taking the exam, your eyes should be only on your exam. No conversation of any kind is allowed during exams.
Make-up exams are only available to students with documented emergencies or advanced permission from the instructor. Make-up exams may vary substantially in form from regularly scheduled exams.

Exams Dates

Mid-Term Exam: March 11th, 2015
Final Exam: April 29th, 2015

CLASS PRESENTATION

You are required to make a class presentation of a week’s reading(s).

How to Present in Class

Chapter presentation should not exceed 15 Minutes. They should be aimed at presenting the core arguments made by the author.

Suggested Structure of your Presentation:

1. Overview and main points;
2. Organization of the chapter (subchapters, parts, etc.);
3. What is the main point of each chapter and of the book overall;
4. Conclusion(s) of the book;
5. What are the books achievements and what are its shortcomings?

After presenting those points, you are expected to lead the class discussion about this chapter. The most fruitful way of doing this is going through the chapter subheading by subheading, with the aim of discerning the main points made.

GRADING

The grading is weighted as follows:

1. Class Participation: 10% of the final grade
2. Class Presentation: 10% of the final grade
3. Mid-term Exam 25% of the final grade
4. Final Exam 35% of the final grade
5. Research Paper 20% of the final grade
6. TOTAL 100%

GRADING SCALE:

Your final grade will correspond to the grade scale below:

97.5-100 = A+ 72.5-77.49 = C
92.5-97.49 = A 69.5-72.49 = C-
89.5-92.49 = A- 67.5-69.49 = D+
87.5-89.49 = B+ 62.5-67.49 = D
82.5-87.49 = B
79.5-82.49 = B-
77.5-79.49 = C+

59.5-62.49 = D-
0-59.49 = F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

I expect you to attend and participate in each class. Class attendance counts for 10% (10 points) toward your final grade.

- All students are expected to attend class in its entirety. A student who is late to class or leaves early is considered absent.
- Excused absences must be documented. If possible, you should inform me and provide documentation beforehand; if that is not possible, you should inform me as soon as possible (by phone or email) and submit documentation upon return.
- If you miss more than one class unexcused, points will be deducted from your final grade, according to the chart below.
- If you will need to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday, you must notify the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNEXCUSED Absences</th>
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<tr>
<td>Missed Classes</td>
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<td>6+</td>
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CLASSROOM ISSUES:

I expect you to come to class on time and prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that session. Each class will have a lecture and discussion component, and your ability to appreciate both is directly related to your reading the assigned material before class. Students are expected to be familiar with university policies on academic honesty and conduct themselves accordingly.

CELL PHONES and SOCIAL MEDIA:

All cell phones, computers, and electronic devices and components must be turned off and put away at all times while in classroom. No calls in the classroom at any time, including text messages. No leaving class for calls.

Students are not allowed to record class lectures without Instructor’s approval!
FINAL GRADES:

Final course grades are just that—final. This course may offer ‘extra credit’, depending on the overall performance of the class. However, it will not provide special considerations to individual students who want or need a particular grade. The grade you receive is a function of the effort you put forth in this class. Do the readings, come to class, put in the time, and you will be fine.

USFSM AND USF SYSTEM POLICIES:

A. Academic Dishonesty: The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog, the USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

B. Academic Disruption: The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog, USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

C. Contingency Plans: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule.

It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information.

D. Disabilities Accommodation: Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator, 941-359-4714, disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu, http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/

E. Fire Alarm Instructions: At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See Emergency Evacuation Procedures.


G. Religious Observances: USFSM recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Instructors canceling class for a religious observance should have this stated in the syllabus with an appropriate alternative assignment.
H. Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting: USFSM is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence (USF System Policy 0-004). The Counseling and Wellness Center is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report.

Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

Campus Resources:
- Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254
- Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599
- List of off-campus resources:
  - Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805
  - Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976
  - First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488
  - Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025
  - Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800

I. Web Portal Information: Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Canvas course information via that address.

J. Instructor Copyright: Students may not sell notes or other course materials.

COURSE SCHEDULE

You are required to read weekly assignments before coming to class!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Deadline to drop via OASIS by 5PM &amp; receive full refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Understanding Conflict and Peace (Available in Canvas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Ch. 2: Levels of Analysis: The People, Places, and Things We Study</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Ch. 3: Community Conflict: A Quick Look at the Planet</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>Ch. 4: The Country in Question: Sovereign States and Nations</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Ch. 5: Containing Conflict: The International Community</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Ch. 6: <em>Freedom and Ideology: Imagining the Ideal World</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>Ch. 7: <em>How Democracies Manage Freedom and Conflict</em></td>
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<td>March 2-7</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam (Chs. 2-7 and <em>Understanding Conflict &amp; Peace</em>)</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Ch. 8: <em>Conflict and Less-Free Societies</em></td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Last day for a student to drop from a course with a W; no refund, no</td>
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<td>academic penalty</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Ch. 9: <em>Conflict, Violence, War, and Mayhem</em></td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Ch. 10: <em>The War of the Mind: Violent Ideological Conflict</em></td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Ch. 11: <em>The War of the Heart: Violent Nationalist Conflict</em></td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Ch. 13: <em>Too Many Plates at the Table: Population and Political Conflict</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Robert D. Kaplan on <em>The Coming Anarchy</em> (Available in Canvas)</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td><strong>Research Paper Due Date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM WEEK</strong> (Chs. 2, 4, 5, 8-11 &amp; 13, <em>Understanding Conflict and Peace</em>. and <em>The Coming Anarchy</em>)</td>
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