

**Dr. Debbie Abuelghanam**  
**University of Jordan**  
**Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II Faculty of International Studies**  
**Department of International Studies, Diplomacy and Regional Studies**

**3001720 Theories of Conflict**  
**Spring Semester 2016**  
**Old Faculty Building, Room 1**  
**Sunday 5:00-8:00 P.M.**

**Office:** Faculty Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 4  
**Office Hours:** Sunday and Tuesday 2:00-5:00  
**Phone:** 06-535-5000, ext 24841  
**E-mail:** [da.abuelghanam@yahoo.com](mailto:da.abuelghanam@yahoo.com)

### **Required Readings**

Theories of Conflict Class Readings – Part I  
Theories of Conflict Class Readings – Part II

### **Course Description**

This course presents a critical inspection of theoretical and empirical literature on the causes of war, violence, and conflict and whether it is possible to mitigate these causes to realize security for all. This course presents and critiques key theories that have been used to analyze different kinds of social and political conflicts. Additionally, the course will assess the usefulness of these theories by applying them to specific case studies.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be in a position to develop their own perspectives and to construct useful theories for conflict analysis and conflict resolution. A key objective of this course is to help students think theoretically about warfare and mass political violence, using a variety of perspectives to explain the same set of events.

### **Course Requirements**

**Exams** There will be two exams for our enjoyment. There will be a Midterm Exam on **March 27, 2016** and a Final Exam on **May 15, 2015**. The exams will consist of essay questions. The Midterm Exam is worth **30 points** and the Final Exam is worth **40 points**.

**Term Paper** A term paper is a requirement of this course. The topic of the paper should be relevant to one of the topics in the Assignment Schedule. The paper should be 10 – 15 pages in length. The topic and preliminary outline are due on **March 6, 2016**. The first draft of the paper is due on **April 3, 2016** and the final draft is due

at the paper presentations scheduled on **May 8, 2016** (see Assignment Schedule). If you use a published source it must be **documented**. You will present your paper at the end of the semester.

**Attendance** Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each session. Legitimate reasons for any absence will be accepted and must be accompanied with documentation.

**Class Participation** Each student is expected to have read the assigned reading prior to attending class. **THIS IS A SEMINAR STYLE COURSE**. Each student must be prepared to participate in class discussion concerning the readings.

**Grading** The total number of points that can be earned for the semester is **100 points**. The points are distributed as follows:

Midterm Exam	30 points
Final Exam	40 points
Term Paper	20 points
Class Participation	<u>10 points</u>
	100 points

Term Paper	Outline	5 points
	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft	5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft	5 points
	Presentation	<u>5 points</u>
		20 points

## Assignment Schedule

		<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1	Jan. 31	Orientation	
Week 2	Feb. 7	Orientation	
Week 3	Feb. 14	Levels of Analysis	Waltz Ch. 2, 4
Week 4	Feb.21	Levels of Analysis II	Singer Jervis Ch. 3
Week 5	Feb. 28	The Logic of Conflict: Systemic Theories and their Critics <b><u>Outline Due</u></b>	Nye, Ch. 1 Kissane
.Week 6	Mar. 6	Liberalism & Marxist Approaches to Conflict	Wolfe Lieberfeld
Week 7	Mar, 13	Sources and Causes of Violence, War, Conflict	Levy Mearsheimer & Walt
Week 8	Mar. 20	Cultural Identity, Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict	Habyarimana Gagnon Barari
Week 9	Mar. 27	<b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>	
Week 10	Apr. 3	Conflicts & Peace in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century between Balance of Power & Collective Security <b><u>First Draft Due</u></b>	Nye Ch. 3, 4
Week 11	Apr. 10	The End of the Cold War & the Changing Nature of Conflict	Huntington Fukuyama Mazrui
Week 12	Apr. 17	A New World Order & War on Terror	Kepel Ch. 13, 14, 15
Week 13	Apr. 24	Wrap Up	
Week 14	May 1	HOLIDAY	
Week 15	May 8	<b><u>Paper Presentations</u></b>	
Week 16	May 15	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b>	

# **Class Readings**

Axelrod, Robert and Robert Keohane. 1985. Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions. *World Politics*. 38:1, 226-254.

Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. The End of History. *The National Interest*. Summer, 1989.

Habyarimana. 2008. Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? *Foreign Affairs*. 87:4, 138-141.

Huntington, Samuel. 1993. The Clash of Civilizations. *Foreign Affairs*. 72:3, 22-49.

Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

- ❖ Chapter 3 – Deterrence, the Spiral Model and Intentions of the Adversary.

Kepel, Gilles. 2006. *Jihad: The Trial of Political Islam*. UK: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd.

Kissane, Dylan. The Illusion of Anarchy: Chaos, Complexity and the Origins of World War One.

Levy, Jack S. 1988. Domestic Politics and War. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 18:4, 653-673.

Lieberfeld, Daniel. 2005. Theories of Conflict and the Iraq War. *International Journal of Peace Studies*. 10:2, 1-21.

Mazrui, Ali. 1993. Islam and the End of History. *The American Journal of Islamic and Social Sciences*. 10:4, 512-535.

Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy. *Middle East Policy*. 15:3, 29-89.

Nye, Joseph. 2009. *Understanding International Conflict, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. London: Longman Publishers.

- ❖ Chapter 1 – Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics
- ❖ Chapter 3 – Balance of Power and World War I
- ❖ Chapter 4 – The Failure of Collective Security and World War I

Singer, J. David. 1961. The Level of Analysis Problem in International Politics. *World Politics*. 14:1, 77-92.

Waltz, Kenneth. 2001. *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press.

- ❖ Chapter 2. The First Image: International Conflict and Human Behavior.

❖ Chapter 4. The Second Stage: International Conflict and the Internal Structure of States.

Wolfe, Patrick. 1997. Century of Theory from Marx to Post Colonialism. *The American Historical Review*. 102:2, 388-420.