

## **ISCOR 301: CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **FALL 2008**

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Office Hours: Monday 1-2 pm; Wednesday 1-2 pm

#### **Introduction:**

Conflict is as widespread as it is varied: from interpersonal conflict to international conflict, from violent conflict to verbal conflict, from conflict over resources to conflict over religion, no realm of human activity is free from conflict. At the same time, for every conflict there are numerous proposals and efforts at conflict resolution—some successful, some irrelevant, some counterproductive.

This course will narrow down the vast domain of conflict and conflict resolution to focus on one type of conflict—namely, violent armed conflict—in one geographical area—Africa—and on one type of conflict resolution—international intervention. We will begin with a detailed case study of the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan. Drawing out a number of themes and problems from this case, we will ask how we can better understand violent conflict in Africa, and will proceed to pursue this question through theoretical and historical inquiry. In so doing, we will inquire into the stereotypes and misconceptions around African conflict found in Western media, and try to find a route to a more historically, culturally, and politically rigorous and contextualized understanding.

From there, we will move on to consider the conflict resolution side of the equation. We will critically assess international interventions into armed conflicts in Africa, focusing on military humanitarian intervention, relief aid distribution, and international legal intervention, specifically the work of the International Criminal Court. We will ask how effective those interventions have been and how they might be more effective in the future. Throughout the course, we will critically examine the role of the West, and of the United States in particular, in conflict and conflict resolution in Africa, and try to define what the West's role should be.

#### **Reading:**

Four books are required for the course. All are available at the SDSU bookstore.

- Tim Allen, *Trial Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Lord's Resistance Army* (London, New York: Zed Books, 2006).
- Julie Flint and Alex de Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*, Revised and Updated (London, New York: Zed Books, 2008).
- Sven Lindqvist, *Exterminate All the Brutes* (New York: The New Press, 1996).
- Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997).

In addition to these four books, we will be reading numerous journal articles and book chapters. Almost all of these are available on-line through Electronic Course Reserves, signified by **\*ECR\*** in the reading schedule. The course's ECR homepage can be found at <http://ecr.sdsu.edu/eres/coursepass.aspx?cid=1315>. The password is "globalpolicy". Once you have access, you can select, download, and print the relevant articles and book chapters.

Those readings that are not on ECR are available on the internet through publicly accessible websites; URLs are provided in the reading schedule.

I strongly recommend that you print out all the reading materials on Electronic Course Reserves and from the internet. This will make it much easier to read and annotate these pieces, participate in class discussion, and refer back to them when writing papers or studying for exams.

I also recommend that you do the readings with a dictionary and a map of Africa at hand. Both can be found in the library or on-line. Difficult words and place names from the readings can show up on quizzes or exams, so it is a good idea to know what or where they refer to.

There is no Blackboard site for this class.

#### **Class Attendance and Participation:**

Formal or informal discussion will be a feature of every class session, and every student is expected to participate in these discussions. This requires attending class and having done the readings. Class attendance is not mandatory, but class participation accounts for 10% of your semester grade, so frequent absences or failure to participate will negatively affect your grade.

Also, pop quizzes on the reading will be given throughout the semester, and will account for 10% of your grade. I will drop your lowest quiz grade, so you can miss one quiz without it hurting your grade.

#### **Class Rules:**

*No computers.* I do not allow computers to be used in class.

*No voice recorders.* Electronically recording lectures is not allowed.

*No cell phones.* Turn your cell phone off or put it on silent, and do not check it or use it during the class period.

*No eating in class.* Beverages in spill-proof cups or bottles are fine.

*Proper classroom behavior.* The classroom is a place for open discussion and debate, but to facilitate this, we all need to abide by certain rules and standards. Most importantly, students are expected to be respectful of other students and of other opinions. Students should raise their hand and be recognized by the professor before contributing to the discussion.

*Email.* To get in touch with me via email, a special gmail account has been set up: [ISCOR301@gmail.com](mailto:ISCOR301@gmail.com). Please use this address for all communications. Treat emails as short letters, not as long text messages. Use a proper salutation, such as Dear Professor/Dr./Mr. Branch, and use full sentences and correct grammar and spelling.

**Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations in class or on tests must make arrangements through Student Disability Services, located at Calpulli Center, Suite 3101, phone number 594-6473, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/>.

**Grading and Assignments:**

Your semester grade will be determined as follows:

- Final Exam: 40%
- Take-home paper: 20%
- Midterm (in-class): 20%
- Pop Quizzes: 10%
- Class Participation: 10%

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in failure and will be reported to the University. For the SDSU Academic Senate Policy on plagiarism and cheating, see [http://its.sdsu.edu/resources/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism\\_AcadSen.pdf](http://its.sdsu.edu/resources/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf). For a tutorial on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, see <http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/index.cfm>.

If you have further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me or the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, located at Student Services West, Room 1604, phone 594-3069, webpage <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/>.

## Reading Schedule

**Theme 1: Case Study: Conflict and Resolution in Darfur, Sudan**

September 3: Introduction to the Course

September 5: Introduction to Sudan

September 8: Conflict in Sudan

Reading: Alex de Waal, "Sudan: The Turbulent State," in *War in Darfur and the Search for Peace*, pp. 1-38. \***ECR**\*

September 10: Darfur and Sudan

Reading: Flint & de Waal, *Darfur: A New History of a Long War*, pp. 1-32.

September 12: The Janjawiid

Reading: Flint & de Waal, pp. 33-70.

September 15: The Rebels

Reading: Flint & de Waal, pp. 71-115.

September 17: War, 2003-2006

Reading: Flint & de Waal, pp. 116-166.

September 19: International Involvement

Reading: Flint & de Waal, pp. 167-229

September 22: The Conflict at Present

Reading: Flint & de Waal, pp. 230-276

September 24: Darfur and the Question of Genocide

Reading: Mahmood Mamdani, "The Politics of Naming: Genocide, Civil War, Insurgency," *London Review of Books*, March 8, 2007, available at [http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n05/mamd01\\_.html](http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n05/mamd01_.html)

September 26: Darfur and the Question of Genocide

Reading: Letters in response to Mamdani, Mamdani's Response  
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n07/letters.html>  
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n08/letters.html>

## **Theme 2: Conflict in Africa: Image and Reality**

September 29: Africa and the End of the Cold War

Reading: Oliver Furley, "Introduction: Africa: The Habit of Conflict," in *Conflict in Africa*, pp. 1-18. \*ECR\*

October 1: African Violence and the Barbarism Thesis

Reading: Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994, available at:  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199402/anarchy>

Francine Orr, "Horror in Uganda," *Los Angeles Times*, June 5, 2005, available at:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-uganda5jun05-splash,0,70542.story>

October 3: Anthropology and "New Wars"

Reading: Paul Richards, "New War: an Ethnographic Approach," in *No Peace, No War: An Anthropology of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, pp. 1-13. \*ECR\*

Sverker Finnström, "'For God & My Life': War & Cosmology in Northern Uganda," in *No Peace, No War*, pp. 98-114. \*ECR\*

October 6: The International Politics of African Wars

Dena Montague, "Stolen Goods: Coltan and Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo," *SAIS Review* vol. XXII no. 1 (Winter-Spring 2002), pp. 103-118. \*ECR\*

October 8: Historical Images of Africa

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, *White on Black: Images of Africa and Blacks in Western Popular Culture*, pp. 64-75. \*ECR\*

- October 10: Contemporary Images of Africa  
 Reading: David Jefferess, "For Sale—Peace of Mind:..." *Critical Arts: A Journal of North-South Cultural Studies*, vol 16, no. 1 (2002): 1-21. \*ECR\*
- Erica Burman, "Innocents Abroad: Western Fantasies of Childhood and the Iconography of Emergencies," *Disasters* vol. 18, no. 3 (1994), pp. 238-253. \*ECR\*
- October 13: Images of Darfur  
 David Campbell, "Geopolitics and visuality: Sighting the Darfur Conflict," *Political Geography* 26 (2007): 357-382. \*ECR\*
- October 15: Movie: Invisible Children (United States, 2006)
- October 17: Discussion of Movie  
 Take-home Paper Topic Handed Out

### **Theme 3: Genocide**

- October 20: Introduction to Genocide as a Concept and Practice  
 \*\*\*Paper Due\*\*\*
- October 22: History of Genocide  
 Reading: Sven Lindqvist, *Exterminate All the Brutes*, Preface and Part I
- October 24: History of Genocide  
 Reading: Lindqvist, Parts II & III
- October 27: History of Genocide  
 Reading: Lindqvist, Part IV
- October 29: Popular Participation: Economic vs. Cultural Approaches  
 Reading: David Keen, "A Rational Kind of Madness," *Oxford Development Studies*, vol. 25, no. 1 (1997): 67-75. \*ECR\*
- Michael Taussig, "Culture of Terror—Space of Death," pp. 39-53 in *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*. \*ECR\*
- October 31: Popular Participation: Political Approaches  
 Reading: Stathis Kalyvas, "The Ontology of Political Violence..." *Perspectives on Politics*, vol. 1, no. 3 (Sept. 2003): 475-494. \*ECR\*
- November 3: Popular Participation: Political Approaches  
 Reading: Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers*, pages 185-233. \*ECR\*
- November 5: Discussion and Review
- November 7: \*\*\*In-Class Midterm\*\*\*

#### **Theme 4: Humanitarian Intervention**

November 10: Introduction

Reading: Jarat Chopra and Thomas Weiss, "Sovereignty is no Longer Sacrosanct," *Ethics and International Affairs*, vol. 6 (1992): 95-117. \*ECR\*

November 12: Humanitarian Intervention: International Politics

Reading: Noam Chomsky, "Humanitarian Intervention," *Boston Review*, vol. 18, no. 4, December 1993/January 1994, available at:  
<http://bostonreview.net/BR18.6/chomsky.html>

November 14: Humanitarian Intervention: International Politics

Reading: Essays by Richard Falk, Diane Orentlicher, Carl Conetta, and Responses to Chomsky in *Boston Review*, vol. 18, no. 4, December 1993/January 1994, available at:  
<http://bostonreview.net/BR18.6/chomsky.html>

November 17: Humanitarian Intervention: Local Politics

Reading: Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes*, pp. 1-6, 133-158.

November 19: Humanitarian Intervention: Local Politics

Reading: Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes*, pp.159-203.

November 21: Humanitarian Intervention: Local Politics

Reading: Alex de Waal, *Famine Crimes*, pp.204-221.

November 24: Humanitarian Intervention: Local Politics

Reading: Adam Branch, "Against Humanitarian Impunity: Rethinking Responsibility for Displacement and Disaster in Northern Uganda," *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* vol. 2, no. 2 (June 2008): 151-173. \*ECR\*

November 26: Humanitarian Intervention: Local Politics

Reading: Barbara Harrell-Bond, "Can Humanitarian Work with Refugees be Humane?," *Human Rights Quarterly* vol. 24, no. 1 (2002): 51-85. \*ECR\*

November 28: Thanksgiving Vacation.

#### **Theme 5: Peace and Justice: The ICC in Uganda**

December 1: Introduction

Reading: Begin Tim Allen, *Trial Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Lord's Resistance Army*.

December 3: The ICC and Uganda's Civil War

Reading: Tim Allen, *Trial Justice*, pp. 1-52.

December 5: Crimes in Northern Uganda

Reading: Tim Allen, *Trial Justice*, pp. 53-127.

December 8: Local Peace Initiatives

Reading: Tim Allen, *Trial Justice*, pp. 128-195.

December 10: Political Approaches to International Justice

Reading: Adam Branch, "Uganda's Civil War and the Politics of ICC Intervention,"  
*Ethics & International Affairs* vol. 21, no. 2 (Summer 2007), pp. 179-198. **\*ECR\***

December 12: Conclusion and Review

**FINAL EXAM:**

**9-9:50 am section: Wednesday, December 17, 8-10 am**

**11-11:50 am section: Monday, December 15, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**