

Political Science 3366E
International Conflict Management
2016-17
Nigmendra Narain

1. Course Description

International conflict is an ever-present part of the contemporary world – and addressing, managing and solving these conflicts is an on-going challenge.

Whether conflict is between states or inside states, or whether it is between state and/or non-state actors, the affects and effects of international conflict are numerous. At the same time, there are always calls and demands to handle and solve – at a minimum, bound and limit – international conflicts and their deadly consequences – whether resulting through slow processes or swift actions. Thus, for millennia, the causes and sources of conflict, and the resulting measures or solutions suggested to resolve them, have been studied, analyzed, debated and re-evaluated. In contemporary times, while techniques such as diplomacy, invasion, war crimes tribunals, border patrols, and global governance, are used to grapple with international conflict, they not only provide a path for success and action, but also pose challenges and obstacles to management and solutions.

Consequently, Term 1 of this course begins by delving into Conflict Studies. In the first half, we will analyze the correlates of conflict from the individual to the global levels, and their interconnections. In the second half, we will consider options, frameworks and methods for conflict management and – sometimes – resolution.

From there, Term 2 turns to student-led classes focusing on students' interests in current and on-going global conflicts with a focus on contending proposed international conflict management techniques to redress the conflict, or critical presentation of the Community Experiential Learning (CEL) experience by those who did the CEL.

Overall, this course will show you what causes & explains global conflict and get you thinking about how to handle & deal with selected conflicts.

2. Contact Information

- Professor: **Nigmendra Narain**
- Email: nnarain@uwo.ca
- Office Room: SSC 4149
- Office Phone: 519-661-2111, extension 85108
- Cell-/text-phone: 519-860-3290 (preferred over office phone)
- Office Hours: Wed 1:30-2:30pm & Thursday 2:00-3:30pm

3. Class Time and Location

- Time: Tuesday 2:30pm – 4:30 pm
- Location: University Community Centre 58

4. Requisites and Anti-Requisites

- “Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.” – *Office of the Dean*
- Anti-requisites: Politics 3366E and the former Politics 366E
- Pre-requisites: Politics 2231E or 2245E; the former Politics 231E or 245E; or International Relations 2701E or the former International Relations 210E
- "Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. [The University may also choose not to adjust your fees, such as not providing you a refund for the course.] This decision may not be appealed." (Western University Academic Calendar)

5. Learning Outcomes

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>
Essay Research Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment to develop Information Literacy Skills: research; source-identification, verification & prioritization • Understand how to compile, write and format a proper Works Cited • Learn how to select sources for annotation and how to annotate correctly, e.g. CRAAP criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence; • Well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries
Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop both base-line knowledge and critical assessment skills through a variety of question formats, including match-ups, multiple choice, identifiers, and essays • Materials for exams will be drawn from the textbooks, lectures, presentations, and guest lectures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of diverse theories and approaches • Understanding of methods; knowledge of epistemological approaches and ontological diversity • How power, culture and history condition knowledge formation • Understand the ambiguity, uncertainty, ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in focused, credible and sustained research in order to develop an articulate position on the chosen topic and its related-issues • Writing clearly and succinctly, and demonstrating an ability to present arguments with good evidence and credible sources • Essay: Conflict management techniques in a conflict between 1990-present, including Literature Review; 3000-4000 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence • Well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries • Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion • Situate knowledge historically and contextually • Assess evidence critically • Ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology

Student-led Class OR CEL Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider possible conflict management solutions and assert a preferred solution to a current issue/crisis in global politics • Choose a current conflict • Provide 2 academic articles for your student-led class • Max 4 students OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize CEL project • Critically assess CEL experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the importance of listening • Communicate verbally in an analytic and clear fashion • Assess evidence critically • An awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience
Class Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged to participate in discussions and Presentations • Attendance in 90% of classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience • Exposure to qualitative and quantitative methods

6. Course Readings

You are required to purchase this textbook from the Western Bookstore: Jean-Francois Rioux & Vern Neufeld Redekop. *Introduction to Conflict Studies*. Oxford University Press, 2013. [Rioux & Redekop]

Other readings will be posted through the class OWL site, and ample notification will be provided.

7. Community Engaged Learning Opportunity

- Description: “*Community Engaged Learning at Western partners with local and international organizations to mobilize knowledge and exchange resources in order to address critical societal issues. By engaging students, staff, and faculty in meaningful experiential learning opportunities, CEL helps meet community defined needs while promoting students’ sense of civic engagement and social responsibility. These partnerships help extend Western’s reach beyond campus and foster excellence and innovation in teaching and learning.*” (http://www.success.uwo.ca/experience/community_service_learning_csl/)
- Details of the requirements, etc., will posted on our class OWL site and presented in class

CEL Learning Outcomes

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge	Knowledge Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and describe specific local and social issues and explain governing structures and social policies that impact upon them Describe composition of diverse populations and inequalities among those populations
Knowledge of Methodologies	Skills Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate intercultural competence and sensitivity and distinguish contexts through these principles are enacted Manage group projects from vision to completion by employing planning, delegation, prioritizing, time-management, and organizational strategies
Application of Knowledge	Knowledge Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relate degree/discipline specific content to various fields of research, practice, and policy Identify factors that contribute to social/local issues and barriers to implementing change
	Skills Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply content knowledge to real-world settings and contexts Compare and critique programs and services designed to minimize effects of social/local issues and generate strategies to improve their functioning and intended outcomes
	Values Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare political platforms and articulate their own political values and involvement Practice reflective thinking to connect CSL experience with course content and personal values
Communication Skills	Skills Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate intercultural competence and sensitivity and distinguish contexts through which these principles are enacted Explain ideas and concepts through written and oral forms of communication Enact strategies for building and maintaining reciprocal collaborations and partnerships Adapt oral and written communication and/or behaviour to match unique audience/demographic
Awareness of Limits of Knowledge	Values Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of their own scope of practice, knowledge, and abilities Practice reflective thinking to connect CSL experience with course content and personal values

8. Evaluation & Assignments

Class Attendance	5%
Readings' Quizzes	10%
December Exam	15%
Essay Research Assignment	5%
Essay Draft	5%
Essay Draft Comments	5%
Essay	15%
Student-led Class or CEL Presentation	15%
April Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Notes:

- Assignments will be detailed on the OWL site
- Maximum grade on any particular assignment or particular assessment or for the whole course is 100%
- Minimum grade on any particular assignment or particular assessment or for the whole course is 0%
- If you are an International Student, note that all grades are assessed using Canadian University standards
- Opportunities for Bonus work and grades will be provided, but are not part of the regular assignment schedule or evaluation

9. Course Schedule

<i>Term 1</i>	
Sep 13	Introduction to the Course
Sep 20	<i>What is Conflict?</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 1, "What is Conflict"
Sep 27	<i>What is International Conflict?</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 4, "International Conflict"
Oct 4	<i>Rational Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 5, "Is Conflict Behaviour Rational?"
Oct 11	<i>Biological Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 6, "Are Conflict Driven by Biological Needs" <i>Psychological Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 7, "The Psychology of Conflict"

Oct 18	<p>Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Coordinator's Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ http://www.success.uwo.ca/experience/curricular/index.html ➤ Other readings posted to OWL
Essay Research Assignment due via OWL site by Sat Oct 22 11:55 pm	
Oct 25	<p><i>Social Causes of Conflict</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 8, "Conflict as Social Outcome?"
Nov 1	<p>Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Partners Presentations</p>
CEL choice-sheet due via OWL site by Sat Nov 5 11:55 pm	
Nov 8	<p><i>Philosophical Causes of Conflict</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 9, "Recent Philosophical Approaches to Conflict"
Nov 15	<p><i>Behavioural Causes of Conflict</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 10, "How People Behave in Conflict"
Student-led Class choice-sheet due via OWL site by Sat Nov 19 11:55 pm	
Nov 22	<p><i>Techniques for Conflict Resolution</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 11, "Processes for Dealing with Conflict"
Nov 29	<p><i>Techniques for Violent Conflict Resolution</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 12, "The Prevention and Resolution of Violent Conflict"
Dec 6	<p><i>Conflict Resolution through Reconciliation</i> Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 13, "Reconciliation"</p> <p><i>Conflict Resolution through Ethical Means</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 14, "Conflict, Violence and Ethics" <p><i>Class Party</i></p>
December Exam: During Exam Season	
<p>Student-led Class articles will be due by Thurs Jan 5 – your group can always get this done <u>BEFORE</u> this date</p>	

Term 2

Jan 10	<i>Student-led Class 1</i>
Essay Draft Due via OWL site by Sat Jan 14 11:55pm	
Jan 17	<i>Student-led Class 2</i>
Jan 24	<i>Student-led Class 3</i>
Jan 31	<i>Student-led Class 4</i>
Feb 7	<i>Student-led Class 5</i>
Essay Draft Comments Due via OWL site by Sat Feb 11 11:55pm	
Feb 13	<i>Student-led Class 6</i>
Feb 20-24	Reading Week
Feb 27	<i>Student-led Class 7</i>
Essay Due via OWL site by Sat Mar 4 11:55pm	
Mar 7	<i>Student-led Class 8</i>
Mar 14	<i>CEL Presentation 1</i> <i>CEL Presentation 2</i>
Mar 21	<i>CEL Presentation 3</i> <i>CEL Presentation 4</i>
Mar 28	<i>CEL Presentation 5</i> <i>CEL Presentation 6</i>
Apr 4	<i>Class Party</i>

11. General Course Guidelines

- *Learning is a multi-lane, interconnected roadway: we are all encouraged to share, discuss and learn from each other*
- Check the OWL site regularly OWL site regularly for updates, details, etc.
- Emails: please use your UWO email account for class-related emails
- Conduct in Lectures, Presentations and Discussions: Conduct yourself according the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.
- Assignments:
 - Submission via OWL site → times, rules, etc., will be posted here
 - Late Penalty = -2% per day (weekdays and weekends inclusive)
 - *Any Assignment assessed by the Lecturer to be in flagrant, repeated and/or egregious violation of the rules, guidelines, etc., will be assigned a grade of Zero/0*
 - “Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as, footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>” (university regulation)
 - Unless with good reason, no submissions will be accepted after 2 weeks of the Original due date
 - Extensions: If you have genuine and unavoidable reasons for requesting an extension of a deadline, please email me *ahead of time* and provide relevant documentation as requested
- Non-Medical and Medical Absences:
 - If you know you will be absent, please email me *ahead of time* to let me know why and when, and I will try to accommodate you as reasonably possible
 - If you have medical or other documentation, you **must** take it to the Dean’s Office or Academic Counsellor, who will then confirm your accommodation; the STUDENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (SMC) is available at: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>
 - If I am unable to grant you fair and reasonable accommodation, the *whole percentage weight* for that assignment may be added to the value of the exam for that term
- Religious Accommodation: “Notice: Please be advised that students must give proper written notice for such an accommodation in accordance with the directives in the 2014-15 UWO Academic Calendar (page 18-19): <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg119.html>”
← You can email me your notice of accommodation
- Grade concerns: come talk to me at your earliest convenience
- Read the Course Outline fully and *do ask questions*
- Course Outline changes: due to certain circumstances and/or situations, changes to this course outline and other course documents are necessary; in such cases, you will be informed through all available channels of communication as soon as possible

Enjoy the class!

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.