Since the dawn of time, human history has been marked by conflict. People fight wars over resources, religion, ideology, and power. These conflicts carry costs, not only for the belligerents themselves, but also for society at large. In this course, we will focus upon the ways in which these conflicts can be both managed and resolved by third parties. We will examine the primary impediments to conflict resolution as well as the ways in which third parties can help disputants overcome these barriers.

Learning Objective
This course seeks to help students understand both the challenges to successfully managing international and civil conflicts and the variety of conflict management tools at the disposal of policymakers.

Required Books/Subscriptions
- ICONS Project International Relations of Africa simulation registration (information available online)

Additional readings will be available electronically through the class webpage

Course Requirements
Midterm and final exam – Each exam is worth 25% of your grade.

Conflict Management Action Plan – the two most pressing conflict management challenges currently facing the United States are the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Students, working as part of a group, will develop a conflict management plan for one of the conflicts. The conflict management plan will detail the sources of conflict, barriers to conflict management, and develop and justify an action plan for managing the conflict. Each group will produce two products for this project: a 20-25 page double-spaced paper and an 8-10 minute presentation of the conflict management plan to be presented in class during the last week of the term. Further information about the expectations for each work product will be posted online.

Because I recognize that free-riding can be a problem in group projects, students will submit evaluations of their individual group members at two intermediate points during the preparation of the project. These evaluations will be factored into each student’s course participation grade. At the conclusion of the project, each student will submit a final evaluation of their peers for both the paper and the presentation. These evaluations will be used to adjust the grade received by each group member for the overall project. Students who contribute less than their fair share of work on the project will receive a grade lower than the overall assignment grade received by the group while those who do more than their fair share of work will receive a higher grade than the overall group grade. Students who consistently refuse to work with their group on the project will first be warned by the professor and, if the problem continues, will be asked to withdraw from the course. Further details regarding the assignment and its grading will be available on Blackboard. – 20% of course grade

International Relations of Africa Simulation – During the semester, you will participate in an online diplomatic simulation. This simulation requires the purchase of a $12 subscription through the ICONS project. As part of this simulation, you will be assigned to a negotiating team for a specific African country. Your responsibilities will be two-fold. First, you will be responsible for conducting background research on a specific issue area for your country to use as part of its negotiations. Second, you will be responsible for participating in the negotiations during the simulation. At the conclusion of the simulation, you will submit both the dossier you assembled for your issue area and a brief response paper analyzing the results of the simulation. The simulation will begin on October 5th. Further details of the assignment will be posted online. – Research dossier - 10% of course grade; Simulation participation & paper – 10% of course grade
Class participation – Much of this class will be run as a seminar in which students will be expected to discuss the assigned readings and respond to the points raised by their fellow students. During each class, students will receive positive credit for worthwhile contributions to our class discussions and negative credit for poor contributions. If no one responds to a question posed, I will select a name at random to answer the question. If your name is called and you are absent or unable to respond, you will lose credit. Students who are habitually absent from class will also be penalized – 10% of course grade

Course Rules
1. I take academic honesty very seriously. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive an F in the course and will be referred to the proper university authorities.
2. I do not give extra credit or other compensatory assignments. Please do not ask. It will make both of us sad when I say “no”.
3. Course information will be disseminated through both the class webpage (ecampus.unt.edu). You are responsible for checking the class webpage on a regular basis for class updates, information, and announcements.
4. This syllabus is not a contract; I reserve the right to alter both dates and assignments
5. Late assignments will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances, with prior approval, and with appropriate documentation.
6. Students are expected to arrive at each class meeting with the readings for that class completed and prepared to discuss them.
7. I am available to answer questions about the course during my office hours, via e-mail, or by appointment. If you have a question about the course, do not hesitate to ask me. I get paid to study and talk about international conflict, a topic that interests me greatly. I am more than happy to do so with you.

Week 1 – August 26 – Introduction

Week 2 – August 31 & September 2 – The Effects of Conflict
*Beah, *A Long Way Gone*, all

**Part I – Conflict Management Through Diplomacy**
Week 3 – September 7 & 9 – Barriers to Conflict Resolution

Week 4 – September 14 & 16 – Conflict Prevention/Early Warning

Week 5 – September 21 & 23 - Negotiation

Week 6 – September 28 & 30 - Mediation

*** Africa Simulation Research Dossier Due, October 1, 12:01 am ***

Week 7 – October 5 & 7 - Timing

*** Online Africa Simulation Begins, Tuesday, October 5th ***

Week 8 – October 12 & 14 – Bargaining Tactics
*Fisher, et. al. *Beyond Machiavelli

*** Midterm exam, Thursday, October 14th ***

**Part II – Conflict Management Through Military Intervention**

Week 9 – October 19 & 21 – What is Peacekeeping?
*Howard, *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars*, chapters 1 & 9

Week 10 – October 26 & 28 – The Dynamics and Performance of Peacekeeping

*** Dedicated Africa Simulation Negotiation Day, Thursday, October 28th ***

Week 11 – November 2 & 4 - Humanitarian Intervention

Week 12 – November 9 & 11 - Peacebuilding
*Howard, *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars*, Chapter 7

*** Simulation Paper Due Friday, November 12th, 12:01 am ***

Week 13 – November 16 & 18 – Failure of Peacekeeping
*Howard, *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars*, Chapter 1

Week 14 – November 23 & 25 – On Our Watch: Darfur

*** Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25th ***

Week 15 – November 30 & December 2 – Civil Conflict Management In-Class Simulation
*Simulation background reading will be posted online

*** Written Conflict Management Plan Papers Due No Later than 12:01 AM, Friday December 3rd **

Week 16 – December 7 & 9 – Conflict Management Action Plan Presentations
*Iraq – Tuesday, December 7th  
*Afghanistan – Thursday, December 9th

*** Final Exam, Thursday, December 16th 8 am-10 am ***
**Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism**
The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf). Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

**Statement of ADA Compliance**
The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning by the second week of classes.)

**Course Evaluations**
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.