

# Senior Seminar in Peace and Conflict Studies

## PACS 4500: Spring 2007

**Instructor: Ian Feinhandler**  
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Office: Guggenheim 201 H  
Office Hours: Tue 3:00-5:00

**Course Web Page:** <http://www.colorado.edu/peacestudies/PACS4500/PACS4500.html>

This course examines the political, economic, geographical, and environmental factors associated with conflict, and its resolution. The course requires basic knowledge about international affairs, global locations and current events; I recommend that students regularly read a substantive newspaper or magazine, such as *The Economist* or *The New York Times*. This is a critical thinking course that requires students to read carefully and participate in class discussion. The course is divided into two parts:

### **Part 1: Inter-State Conflict**

In part one of the course, we look at state-to-state conflict, focusing on geopolitics (the geographical dimension of international relations). We will examine the geopolitical factors driving U.S. foreign policy, including access to energy reserves, and we look at current U.S. policies of containing regional powers. We take a critical approach to the study of geopolitics, and investigate the power dynamics that shape a state's geopolitical objectives. We will evaluate the United Nations as a peace-keeping institution, and we will examine local consequences of the geopolitics of oil.

### **Part 2: Intra-State Conflict**

In part two, we turn to ethnic conflict and civil war. We examine the roots of conflict, from the perspectives of nationalism, environmental scarcity, environmental abundance, and economic inequality. We conclude this study by evaluating different forms of conflict resolution, both at the state-scale, and at the local-scale.

There are three textbooks for the course:

**Klare** *Resource Wars*, by Michael T. Klare, 2001. ISBN: 0-8050-5576-2

**T&G** *Understanding Ethnic Conflict: the International Dimension*, by Raymond C. Taras and Rajat Ganguly, 2006 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). ISBN: 0-321-36480-5

**A&Z** *Rethinking the Economics of War*, edited by Cynthia J. Arnson and I. William Zartman, 2005. ISBN: 0-8018-8298-2

All other readings are available on electronic reserve through Norlin Library. The electronic reserves (listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS) can be accessed through a link on our course web page. You will need your Identkey login and password to access these online reserve readings.

<b>Grades are assigned on the basis of:</b>	<b>Ten reading quizzes</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Research Paper 1</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>Short Case-Study</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>Research Paper 2</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>

## Course and University Policies

**Attendance is required, and vital to your success in this course.** It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with information they have missed due to unexcused absences.

Email is considered an official means of communication by the university. It is your responsibility both to ensure that you are on the instructor's email list, and to check your email regularly.

No make-up exams will be given without a written excuse from a doctor or without some other valid reason for absence, such as observance of a religious holiday (see next paragraph).

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please inform your instructor within the first two weeks of the semester if you will be missing any part of this course due to religious obligations. The university policy on religious observance can be viewed at: [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to the instructor a letter from Disability Services within the first four weeks of the semester so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322; information is also available at: [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. University policies on behavioral standards can be viewed at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and also at: [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member (a failing grade in the course) and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Information on the Honor Code can be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>

<b>PACS 4500: Course Readings</b>			
Week 1	Jan 15 Jan 17	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Lecture:</b>	None No Classes - MLK Day Introduction
Week 2	Jan 22 Jan 24	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Lecture:</b>	Stratfor: US GEOPOLITICS (3 pgs.) Cohen: GEOPOLITICS (9 pgs.) O'Tuathail: THINKING CRITICALLY (12 pgs.) Intro to Geopolitics Mackinder's Heartland Theory
Week 3	Jan 29 Jan 31	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	T&G: 247-260 Thomas: NATO (9 pgs.) BBC: BURMA-UN (1 pg.) Stratfor: RUSSIAN NATIONALISM (1 pg.) Post-Cold War Geopolitics International Law
Week 4	Feb 5 Feb 7 Feb 8	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b> <b>Optional:</b>	Barnett: PENTAGON'S MAP (9 pgs.) Selfa: FOG OF DECEPTION (9 pgs.) Nye: NEW ROME (6 pgs.) Economist: PUSHTUNWALI (7 pgs.) Post 9/11 Geopolitics What drives U.S. foreign policy? Film: Why We Fight - ECON 205 7:00 PM
Week 5	Feb 12 Feb 14 Feb 15	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b> <b>Optional:</b>	Klare: chapters 1-4 (pgs. 1-108) Friedman: GEO-GREEN (2 pgs.) Geopolitics of Oil Green geopolitics Film: Extreme Oil - ECON 205 7:00 PM
Week 6	Feb 19 Feb 21	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Klare: chapters 8 & 9 (pgs. 190-226) Cohen: EURASIAN CONVERGENCE (20 pgs.) Friedman: FINDING RUSSIA'S LIMIT (3 pgs.) Great Power Geopolitics Geopolitics of Central Asia / Democracy as Security
Week 7	Feb 26 Feb 28	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Friedman: PETROPOLITICS (7 pgs.) EarthRights: FUELING ABUSE (5 pgs.) Hawken: NATURAL CAPITALISM (21 pgs.) Local Consequences of the Geopolitics of Oil Blowback from energy dependence

Week 8	Mar 5 Mar 7	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Lecture:</b>	T&G: chapters 1 & 2 (pgs. 1-69) Nationalism Nationalism
Week 9	Mar 12 Mar 14	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	T&G: chapters 3 & 4 (pgs. 70-119) Geographic Solutions to National Conflict Identity politics and national mobilization
Week 10	Mar 19 Mar 21	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Discuss:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Economist: UNITED NATIONS (10 pgs.) T&G: chapter 10 (pgs. 264-275) T&G: pick one case study (ch 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9) Case Studies Case Studies
Week 11			<b>Spring Break</b>
Week 12	Apr 2 Apr 4	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Kaplan: COMING ANARCHY (24 pgs.) Homer-Dixon: ENVIRONMENTAL SCARCITIES (24 pgs.) Gleditsch: CONFLICT AND THE ENVIRONMENT (16 pgs.) Environmental Scarcity & Conflict Environmental Scarcity & Conflict
Week 13	Apr 9 Apr 11	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Collier: CIVIL WARS (41 pgs.) Fairhead: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS (23 pgs.) Ethnicity, Resources & Conflict Resource Scarcity vs. Resource Abundance
Week 14	Apr 16 Apr 18	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Discuss:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	A&Z: chapter 1 (pgs. 1-22) A&Z: chapter 10 (pgs. 256-284) A&Z: pick one case study from chapters 2-9 Case Studies Case Studies
Week 15	Apr 23 Apr 25	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Caspersen: GOOD FENCES (50 pgs.) EarthRights: CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN BURMA (17 pgs.) Solutions to Intra-State Conflict Geopolitical factors in conflict resolution
Week 16	Apr 30 May 2	<b>Reading:</b> <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Discuss:</b>	Stevens: CULTURAL SURVIVAL (41 pgs.) Routledge: CHIPKO (43 pgs.) Nonviolent & Participatory Approaches to Mediation Local-scale conflict resolution
<b>Final Exam: Thursday May 10, 10:30 - 1:00 (in lecture room)</b>			