Welcome to Conflict in Development 2015.

Both conflict and development are complex processes that have inhered in human society in various forms and intensities from time immemorial. The fall of colonial empires after World War II leading to the establishment of numerous new states, and the inexorable process of global integration, have moved both processes firmly onto the international agenda. The relationship between the two processes, despite decades of examination, remains poorly understood. There exists some agreement among scholars and practitioners that poverty, inequality, and lack of development contribute to conflict, including violent conflict. However the nature of the relationship remains contested. It is also widely observed that conflict not only impedes but reverses development gains. This year (2015) is the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There has been unprecedented progress toward those goals, however many regions remain snarled in deadly conflict, making the achievement of these ambitious goals disappointingly unlikely.

As this is a graduate seminar the emphasis will be on full class participation and interactive discussion. Readings are substantial – it is not anticipated that you will read every page of every book/article; however you will be expected to understand the principles and arguments of each. Regular participation will constitute a significant element in the grading formula. Students will be expected to lead as well as contribute to discussions. Verbal communication skills are vital to successful careers in all contemporary professions. Written assignments for the class include a mid-term paper due March 16 (approximately 3000 words), and a term paper (4000-5000 words) due on April 27. Each student will be required to lead the class discussion on at least one date, and each student will be required to serve as rapporteur for one session. Grading will be based on the following formula:

Mid-term paper; 20%
Term paper; 40%
Class participation; 30%
Rapporteur report; 10%

Please note; There will be no class on February 16.

This class has no final exam – however we will hold our final session (Session 14), on May 11, the scheduled final exam day/time.
Sessions

January 26: SESSION 1; Introduction to Course and Concepts


February 2: SESSION 2; Development Context in Historical Perspective


February 9: SESSION 3; Development’s Promise


February 16: NO CLASS

February 23: SESSION 4; Development and Culture

- Culture Matters, Lawrence Harrison, Samuel Huntington (Eds.), Basic Books, 2000


March 2: SESSION 5; Development as Freedom
March 9: Spring Break – No Class

March 16: SESSION 6; Causes of Conflict
* Greed and Grievance, Mats Berdal, David Malone (eds.), Lynne Reinner, Boulder, CO, 2000; chapters 1 – 7


FIRST ESSAY DUE

March 23: SESSION 7; Causes of Conflict
* Rethinking the Economics of War, Cynthia Aronson, I.William Zartman, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, 2005; chapters 1, 10

March 30: SESSION 8; Causes of Conflict; Economic Explanations


April 6: SESSION 9; Building the Post-Conflict State

April 13: SESSION 10; The State and its Challenges; Illicit Power Structures and Illicit Networks
* Insurgents, Terrorists and Militias: The Warriors of Contemporary Combat, Richard H.
April 20: SESSION 11; Democratization and Good Governance (Barbara Smith)


- "How Development Leads to Democracy; What We Know About Modernization," Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, From Foreign Affairs, March/April 2009

April 27: SESSION 12; Transitional Justice


- "Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Paradise Lost or Pragmatism?" Brandon Hamber, Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 13(1), 115–125, 2007 (e-journals)

- Amnesty After Atrocity? Helena Cobban, (Chapter 6); http://www.archipelago.org/vol10-34/cobban.htm


SECOND ESSAY DUE
May 4: SESSION 13; Reconstruction and Stabilization (rick barton)
  ¥ "The Art of Stabilisation: Designing Post-Conflict Stabilisation Interventions," Seth G. Jones and Andrew Rathmell, June 2005


May 11: SESSION 14; Emerging Challenges to Development