

# International Conflict Bargaining and Management

Rand Blimes

B140 JFSB, TTH 8:00–10:50

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Office hours: Wed 10–12

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## About the Course

The focus of this class will be on conflict bargaining and management. We will discuss how international actors behave during a crisis. We will seek to understand the nature of the bargaining that occurs leading up to, and continues throughout, an armed conflict, as well as discuss how actors (whether the states directly involved in the dispute or third parties) can manage conflicts to contain and resolve them.

The class will consist of two main parts. First, we will take an abstract, theoretical approach to understanding the role of force in bargaining. We will examine such topics as strategic interaction, bluffing, commitment, and brinkmanship. We will also discuss possible strategies to resolve conflicts with respect to each of these topics.

After you have gained a theoretic background to conflict bargaining and management, we will cover several case studies. We will examine the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Indo–Pakistani dispute over Kashmir, and the Arab–Israeli conflict.

## Materials

There are Five required books for this class along with several articles (which you will be able to access in electronic form). The required books are:

Axelrod, Robert, *The Evolution of Cooperation*

Smith, Charles, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*

Ganguly, Sumit, *Conflict Unending: India–Pakistan Tensions since 1947*

Kennedy, Robert, *Thirteen Days: a Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*

Schelling, Thomas, *The Strategy of Conflict*

The books are available in the bookstore; the articles will be made available to you online.

## Expectations

This will be a demanding class. There is a great deal of reading, and I will also expect you to put some serious thought into applying the theoretical concepts we cover into analyzing the case studies. There will also be a great deal of discussion that occurs in this class, and I will expect you to be prepared to participate each day.

This class is not about simply memorizing facts that can be spit back out for tests or discussion. I expect you to put in some time thinking about the topics we will cover and form your own opinions. These opinions will come out both in class discussion and in the paper you will write.

## Grading

Your grade for this class will be made up of the following.

2 Exams 40%

Reaction papers 15%

One day as discussion leader 10%

Research paper 35%

*Exams.* Each exam will last one hour and will consist of short identification and essay questions.

*Reaction papers.* Each day you will be required to turn in a very short (one–page, double–spaced) reaction to the days reading. You should focus on **one** aspect of the reading that stood out to you. These papers will provide topics for class discussion. You must be present in class to turn in your reaction papers.

*Discussion leader.* Each student will take a turn as a discussion leader during the second half of the class (the case studies). As discussion leader, your job will be to help the class link the abstract theoretical concepts we cover before the mid–term to the events covered in the reading. You will also facilitate a general discussion of the reading for the day.

*Research paper.* You will write an 8–12 page research paper on a conflict of your choosing. You should analyze this conflict from a bargaining perspective, noting the bargaining process before and during the conflict, and noting how the issues were eventually resolved. Because I want you to view the entire process, you must choose a conflict that has already been completed, and you cannot choose any of the conflicts that we will be covering in class. Topics for these papers must be approved by me no later than May 13. More information detailing the exact layout and evaluation of this paper will be given to you. The paper will be due at the time of the final exam.

Please note that I do not accept any late work. One thing you should be learning while you are here is how to meet deadlines. Barring extraordinary circumstances, if you do not deliver a hard copy of the assignment into my hand by the due date, you receive a zero for the assignment.

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in fulfilling any assignment will be grounds for failing the course. Thus, for instance, you must not represent someone else’s work as your own in carrying out your paper assignment. And, when presenting another person’s ideas or data, you must provide explicit citation to acknowledge your intellectual debt. Quotation marks must be used when you are quoting someone. Minor changes that try to paraphrase someone else’s ideas do not relieve you of the responsibility of acknowledging your intellectual debt. When in doubt, you should err on the conservative side (that is, by citing your sources) or you should at least consult with me. You are responsible to learn about the Honor Code adopted by the University. You can find relevant information at the following website:

[http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor\\_code.htm#HONESTY](http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm#HONESTY)

## Special Considerations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. BYU’s policy regarding sexual harassment extends to students as well as faculty. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 378-2847.

If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (378-2767).