

CONF 656
Integrating Complementary Approaches in Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Spring 2008

Instructor: Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: ajadalla@gmu.edu

Tel: ICAR- 703-993-1300
703-850-4919

Class Days:

Feb. 9 & 10, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

March 29 & 30, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April 26 & 27, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Arlington Campus, Original Building Room 268

Welcome to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and especially to the Certificate Program! I am delighted to have you in class and look forward to an engaging learning experience. My hope is to partner with you on creating an environment that promotes learning, discussions, reflection and integration.

Course Overview

This course is designed to help certificate students learn methods of integrating multiple approaches, stakeholders, and methods in the conflict analysis and resolution work.

Course topics will range broadly across consideration of pieces of international peace processes, dispute resolution system design with multiple processes available in interpersonal, local community, and international conflicts, and ways of engaging multiple sectors in long-term conflict resolution. Participants will consider the variety of third-side roles, various insider-partial roles, and multi-track diplomacy approaches to conflict resolution. Cross-sectoral work, both locally and internationally, will receive substantial attention.

The three-day weekends will address the following objectives:

- Introduce the work of a diverse group of practitioners and their practice;
- Provide a forum to discuss, analyze and critique the application, integration and evaluation of proposed approaches;
- Provide you with an opportunity to gain practical experiences designing an intervention;

Course Philosophy

As faculty for this class, I would like to acknowledge that my personal and professional experience, ethnic and cultural heritage, and religious identity impacts the way I understand the issues and the way I select to present them. In light of this acknowledgement, I would invite you to:

- a) Respect all points of view regardless of where you are on these issues;
- b) Listen to gain insight; reflect on what the other person is trying to communicate;

- c) Accept that we are here as a learning community – in which each person is a teacher and a learner.

Course Expectations

Due to the intensive nature of the three-day weekend format, the following expectations will ensure that you get the most rewarding and engaging experience from the class. I would like to get your commitment to the following:

Attendance: consistent attendance is required. Failure to do so will be noted. Please let me know if you are facing circumstances beyond your control and inform me as soon as possible. The highest grade to expect is a "B" if you happen to miss one full weekend.

Participation: You are expected to participate fully in class discussions and activities. Structured exercises will support that objective. Please do not hesitate to let me know about your experience during class. I am happy to respond to any concerns that might impede your participation.

Preparation: The success of this class is dependent on our ability to discuss class readings. There will be opportunities to engage in on-line assignments, but first and foremost, in-class participation is a must. Please come prepared to discuss all readings including the Feb. class readings.

Class Completion: Please note that departmental policies dictate that an incomplete grade is granted in cases of personal or immediate family illness.

Class assignments: You are expected to complete class assignments on time. Please request prior permission should you not be able to do so. Permission for late submissions is only granted for medical and or family emergencies or circumstances beyond your sphere of control. These guidelines allow for a fair grading process for all students.

Please note that occasionally additional assignments will be sent via email. You are responsible for keeping up with these up to date assignments.

University Resources and Assistance

- If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.
- The Writing Center is available to all Mason students and offers online and individual consultations as well as workshops and mini-courses. Writers at all levels can benefit. Each Mason campus has a location; you can find them on the Arlington Campus in the Original Building, Room 334C, by phone at 703 993-4491 or online at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
- You are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following Mason's Honor Code, found at: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>. Be sure that all work submitted is your own and that you use sources appropriately. I strongly

recommend that you review requirements regarding use and citation of sources prior to submitting your final work.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Bernie Mayer. (2004) *Beyond Neutrality. Confronting the Crisis in Conflict Resolution*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.

John Paul Lederach and Janice Jenner (2002) *Into the Eye of the Storm: A Handbook of International Peace building*. San Francisco; Jossey Bass.

Jayne Seminare Docherty. (2005) *The Little Book of Strategic Negotiation*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books

Schirch, Lisa. (2004) *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books

Required Articles and Online Readings (e-reserve) Password: approach)

Paul Salem. "A Critique of western conflict resolution from a non-Western Perspective. In *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. American University of Beirut Publications, 1997. 11-24

Christison, Kathleen and Bill. "Meeting the Other in Israel and Palestine." Retrieved 1/14/08 from:
http://mostlywater.org/meeting_the_other_in_israel_and_palestine

Sweetman, D. (2001). *Peace and conflict resolution in the face of terror*. Retrieved 2/2/2002 from <http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcer/pterror.html>

Nan, Susan Allen and Andrea Strimling, eds. "Coordination in Conflict Resolution." Special Issue of *Journal of International Negotiation*, forthcoming 2006.

Sweetman, D. (2001). *Peace and conflict resolution in the face of terror*. Retrieved 2/2/2002 from <http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcer/pterror.html>

Power, Samantha. "The Envoy: The United Nation's Doomed Mission In Iraq." *The New Yorker*, Jan. 7, 2008.

Volpe, M. & Strobl, S. (2003). Dispute resolvers in a post-September 11th world. *Practical Dispute Resolution*, 3, (1), (pp. 1-15)

Wing, L. and Rifkin, J. "Racial Identity Development and the Mediation of Conflicts." In C. L. Wijeyesinghe and B.W. Jackson (eds.), *New Perspectives on Racial Identity Development: A Theoretical and Practical Anthology*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

Chataway, Cynthia. "In Practice: Track II Diplomacy: From a Track I Perspective." *Negotiation Journal*. Vol 14, No. 3, 1998.

Dukes, Frank. "Public Conflict Resolution: A transformative approach." *Negotiation Journal*, vol 9, no. 1, p. 45-57.

You may also enjoy reading: (Optional)

Bierle, Thomas C. and Jerry Cayford. Evaluating Dispute Resolution as an Approach to Public Participation. Resources for the Future. August, 2001.
<http://www.rff.org/Documents/RFF-DP-01-40.pdf>

Ronald J. Fisher.(1997) *Inter-Active Conflict Resolution* Syracuse University Press.

Harold H. Saunders. (1999) *A Public Peace Process*. New York; St. Martins Press.

John Paul Lederach (1997) *Building Peace; Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington DC; USIP Press.

Burton, John W. (1996) *Conflict Resolution; Its Language and Processes* Lanham. MD; Scarecrow Press; 1996.

Curle, Adam *In the Middle; A Non-Violent Mediation in Violent Situations* (1986)(Berg Publishers/ St. Martins Press; 1986).

Lipsky, David B. and Ronald L Seeber. "Dispute Resolution in the Changing Workplace." The Industrial Relations Research Association, Proceedings, 2004.
<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/irra/proceedings2004/04lipsky.html>

Peacebuilding; A Field Guide edited by Luc Reyhler & Thania Paffenholz (Boulder, CA; Lynne Reinner; 2001)

Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual 4th edition. Mennonite Conciliation Services (Akron, PA; MCC Resources; 2001)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignment # 1: (50 percent)

1. Group Project: You are a respected practitioner in your field and currently working with peers on a number of projects related to conflict prevention and mitigation. As a group, you have the opportunity to select an on-going conflict (community, national, international, organizational, environmental, . . .) that is of interest to you and other members of your group. In this role and to complete this assignment, you are to:
 - o Compile a **portfolio** that captures your initial approach, design, research and insights into that particular conflict;

As a group, your collective efforts should include the following:

- Research, explore, and analyze on-going efforts that may have been initiated to address the conflict. Please submit a detailed log of activities of individual responsibilities assigned to each member.
- Design an intervention to address the conflict that might build on existing efforts or changes the way the conflict is being understood or addressed.
- Prepare a group presentation. The purpose of your presentation is to educate them on the conflict, its sources, dynamics and current outcome and your proposed intervention. You are encouraged and will be rewarded on the interactive nature of your group presentation. Each group member should have a role during the presentation.
- Your intervention design should speak to the rational behind your approach, assessment and intervention tools that you deem appropriate. A written narrative of this rational should be included in the portfolio.
- Evaluate your group efforts from a conflict resolution perspective and in light of class discussions and readings. Develop the criteria that you might use to do so and include that list in your portfolio.
- For the class presentation, please prepare a handout (and/or PowerPoint slide) where you would a) list dilemmas that you encountered and faced as practitioners. Tie your reflections to class readings and experiences.
- Present any recommendations for future practitioners engaging in similar research and activities.
- Please note that we will allocate the final week of class for group presentations. **(Due: April 26, 2008)**

Assignment # 2: (20 percent)

Due: March 24, 2008

2. Compare and contrast the work of two lead practitioners of your choice on two dimensions of their work. Report your findings and analysis in a 12 - 15 page paper (double space). The paper should highlight the reasons behind your selection of these two practitioners, differences and similarities with regard to their practice and work. Please submit a list of the two practitioners to me for approval and a proposed outline for areas of comparison.

Assignment #3: (15 percent)

Presenting On: March 29&30, 2008

3. In collaboration with a classmate, choose one article from the class readings and prepare a 30 min. class presentation and discussion to highlight issues of practice and theory related to the article. Research one additional article that pertains to the topic and share your insights with the class. We will dedicate the second week of class - March 29 and 30 - for your class presentation. *Article selection will be decided upon during our first class session in February.*

Class Participation, preparation and WebCT (contingent on class needs) discussions (15 percent)

In addition to in-class exercises and participation, there will be several discussion topics and/or short exercises posted to the course online discussion board in WebCT.

The purpose of these exercises is to encourage reflection on course concepts between classes. Some readings assignments will be discussed using WebCT discussion groups.

CLASS PLAN

Week 1: Feb. 9 & 10, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Approaches in Conflict Resolution: Overview

Assigned readings in preparation for class:

Guest Speakers: TBD

Mayer, Bernie. (2004) *Beyond Neutrality*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. Read: Part 1

Read (select one or two from each chapter): John Paul Lederach and Janice Jenner (2002) *Into the Eye of the Storm: A Handbook of International Peace building*. San Francisco; Jossey Bass.

Week II: March 29 & 30, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Reflections on Practice: Lead voices

Guest Speakers: TBD

Mayer, Bernie. (2004) *Beyond Neutrality*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. Read: Part 2 (pg. 181- 248))

Nan, Susan Allen and Andrea Strimling, eds. "Coordination in Conflict Resolution." Special Issue of *Journal of International Negotiation*, forthcoming 2006.

Dukes, Frank. "Public Conflict Resolution: A transformative approach." *Negotiation Journal*, vol 9, no. 1, p. 45-57.

Paul Salem. "A Critique of western conflict resolution from a non-Western Perspective. In *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: Selected Essays*. American University of Beirut Publications, 1997. 11-24

Chataway, Cynthia. "In Practice: Track II Diplomacy: From a Track I Perspective." *Negotiation Journal*. Vol 14, No. 3, 1998.

Sweetman, D. (2001). *Peace and conflict resolution in the face of terror*. Retrieved 2/2/2002 from <http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcer/pterror.html>

Dukes, E. Franklin. "What we know about environmental conflict resolution: an analysis based on research." *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, vol. 22, 1-2, p. 191-220.

Volpe, M. & Strobl, S. (2003). Dispute resolvers in a post-September 11th world. *Practical Dispute Resolution*, 3, (1), (pp. 1-15)

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Wing, L. and Rifkin, J. "Racial Identity Development and the Mediation of Conflicts." In C. L. Wijeyesinghe and B.W. Jackson (eds.), *New Perspectives on Racial Identity Development: A Theoretical and Practical Anthology*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

Christison, Kathleen and Bill. "Meeting the Other in Israel and Palestine." Retrieved 1/14/08 from:
http://mostlywater.org/meeting_the_other_in_israel_and_palestine

Read and participate in WebCT Discussion: John Paul Lederach and Janice Jenner (2002) *Into the Eye of the Storm: A Handbook of International Peace building*. San Francisco; Jossey Bass. TBD

Week 3: April 26 & 27, 2008
Integration and Conclusion

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mayer, Bernie. (2004) *Beyond Neutrality*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. Read: Part 3 (pp. pp 248 – 280).

Jayne Seminare Docherty. (2005) *The Little Book of Strategic Negotiation*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books

Schirch, Lisa. (2004) *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*. Intercourse, PA: Good books

Group presentations / CELEBRATION