

Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution

CONF 501 Section 003 – Fall 2007

<u>Class Time:</u>	Thursday, 4:30 – 7:10
<u>Location:</u>	Arlington Campus, Truland Building, Room 333A
<u>Instructor:</u>	Patricia Maulden, Ph.D. 703.834.5666 pmaulden@gmu.edu
<u>Office Hours:</u>	By appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This course is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution. Our focus is the study of human social conflict, the practices and strategies for responding to conflict, and frameworks for trying to resolve conflict. It is designed to (1) introduce you to academic thinking about conflict analysis and resolution, and (2) help you think systematically and analytically about conflict and conflict intervention.

The course will run as a seminar with the emphasis on discussion and student presentations. It is therefore imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active individual participation in class discussions is expected. The class format involves formal lectures, class questions, comments, and discussions. The atmosphere of the class should encourage the expression and appreciation of informed opinions as well as personal experiences where appropriate.

During the course class participants will:

- ⊗ Gain a better understanding of the various dynamics that occur among individuals and groups as part of social conflict.
- ⊗ Examine worldviews, values, and assumptions that underlie the conceptual frameworks people use as they analyze and respond to these conflicts.
- ⊗ Explore conflict resolution practices as they reflect and build upon these assumptions and understandings.
- ⊗ Study the relationship between analyzing conflict and attempting to resolve it.

Course Expectations

1. **Consistent attendance.** Barring exceptional circumstances, you will be expected to attend class on a regular basis.
2. **Effective preparation.** Class involves discussion and activities that depend on advance preparation.
3. **Appropriate participation.** Actively engage in the course in as many formats as you are able.
4. **Course completion.** In keeping with departmental policy, incomplete grades will be given only in cases of illness, either personal or in an immediate family member.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance & Participation** 10%
Regular attendance is required and excessive absences may result in a failing grade. In the event of your having to be absent more than one of two class meetings, please consult with the instructor. Attendance implies that students participate in class discussions and projects.
2. **Reflection Essay** 10%
On the fifth week of class, **September 27**, the topics for a 4 – 5 page paper will be announced. In the essay, you will reflect on specific topics and/or readings that will have been covered in the course up to that point. The paper will be due the following week. **Due: October 4.**
3. **Group Presentation** 25%
Small groups of 4 or 5 students will be formed the first week of class and will work together throughout the semester. Each group will choose one of the case study books that are listed in the readings section. The main purpose of the groups will be to see how concepts, ideas, and theories presented throughout the course can be applied to understanding the conflict and the resolution of the conflict. The presentation should **not** be a retelling of the conflict as related in the book. The idea is more an analysis and perhaps a reinterpretation using course concepts. Additional research is not required.
Alternative approaches may be presented, as well as problems and gaps in theory and practice that the case highlights. **Group case study choices are due September 13.** Occasionally time will be set aside at the end of class for group meetings but the group will also have to meet outside of class, through email, and so on. **Groups will report progress on their presentation October 25.**
Each member is expected to contribute substantially to the presentation materials as well as participate in the group presentation and question time following the presentation. The total presentation time is 30 minutes followed by 20 minutes of class

discussion. **Group presentations are scheduled for November 15 & 29.**

The accompanying group 'product' may be a power point demonstration, an interpretive dance, poetry, or anything that gives the class not a word by word rendition of the presentation but that adds depth and understanding to the main points the group is trying to make. A written copy of the product must be handed in the day of the presentation.

4. Research Paper 30%
This paper is an analytical study of an on-going or recent conflict. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. **A brief proposal outlining the subject and the approach to the subject is due September 20.** The paper should be 12 to 15 double-spaced pages (about 4,000 words). The paper should reflect graduate level research, analysis, and writing. Primary analytical sources should be course readings; secondary sources can be books, refereed journals, or news sources. Either Chicago, MLA, or APA citation styles are acceptable.
Due: December 13.
5. Final Exam 25%
A take-home exam will be handed out on **November 29.** The questions will cover materials from throughout the course. You may refer to course readings and notes but may not consult with other students. This is an individual project. **Due: December 6.**

Readings

Required Books

The texts, listed below, are available at the GMU Arlington Bookstore or from online booksellers.

1. Assefa, Hizkias and Paul Wahrhaftig. 1990. *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburg Press.
2. Crocker, Chester, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, eds. 2001. *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing Interstate Conflict*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
3. Lederach, John Paul. 1997. *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
4. Pruitt, Dean G. and Sung-Hee Kim. 2004. *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*. Third edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.
5. Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall. 2005. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Second edition. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
6. Roy, Beth. 1994. *Some Trouble with Cows: Making Sense of Social Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Group Case Study Books

1. Brugge, D.M. 1994. *The Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute: An American Tragedy*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
2. Rosenblum, Jonathan D. 1998. *Copper Crucible: How the Arizona Miners' Strike of 1983 Recast Labor-Management Relations in America*. 2nd Edition. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
3. Shipler, David. 2002. *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land*. New York: Penguin.
4. Waldmeir, Patti. 1997. *Anatomy of a Miracle: The End of Apartheid and the Birth of the New South Africa*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Articles

The articles may be found on the GMU Library page, either as E-Journals or E-Reserves (password 'theory').

1. Avruch, Kevin and Peter Black. 1993. Conflict Resolution in Intercultural Settings: Problems and Prospects. In *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application*. Dennis Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, eds. Manchester: Manchester University Press. (E Reserve)
2. Burton, John W. 1993. Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy. In *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application*. Dennis Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, eds. Manchester: Manchester University Press. (E Reserve)
3. Cormick, Gerald and James Laue. 1978. The Ethics of Intervention in Community Disputes. In *The Ethics of Social Intervention*. G. Bermant, H. Kelman, and D. Warwick, eds. Washington, DC: Halstead Press. (E Reserve)
4. Fisher, Ronald J. and Loreleigh Keashly. 1991. The Potential Complementarity of Mediation and Consultation within a Contingency Model of Third Party Consultation. In *Journal of Peace Research*. 28:1 (29-42). (E Journal)
5. Galtung, Johan. 1990. Cultural Violence. In *Journal of peace Research*. Vol. 27, No. 3. (E Journals)
6. Galtung, Johan. 1969. Violence, Peace, and Peace Research. In *Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 6, No. 3. (E Journals)

7. Nader, Laura. 1998. Harmony Models and the Construction of Law. *In Conflict Resolution: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. Kevin Avruch, Peter W. Black, and Joseph A. Scimecca, eds. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers. (E Reserves)
8. Schoeny, Mara and Wallace Warfield. 2000. Reconnecting Systems Maintenance with Social Justice: A Critical Role for Conflict Resolution. *In Negotiation Journal*. Vol. 16, No. 3. (E Journals)

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, Room334C, by phone at 703 993-4491 or online at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>.
- ⊕ Academic integrity: 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.

Class Agenda

Week 1 – August 30 Introduction and Overview

Introductions; review of syllabus, course requirements, and expectations; begin discussion of conflict frameworks

I. Conflict: Sources, Processes, and Dynamics

Week 2 – September 6 Basic Concepts & Analytical Frameworks

Pruitt & Kim (PK), Chapter 1
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, and Miall (RWM), Chapters 1-2
Galtung 1969, 1990 (E Journal)

Arlington Librarian LeRoy LaFleur will give an overview of available resources and how to access various databases.

Week 3 – September 13 Sources of Conflict I

PK, Chapter 2
RWM, Chapters 3-4
Crocker, Hampson, and Aall (CHA): Mohammed Ayoob; Janice Gross Stein

Group case study choices due.

Week 4 – September 20 Sources of Conflict II

PK, Chapters 3-6
CHA: Ted Robert Gurr; Michael E. Brown

Proposal outlining research paper subject and approach due.

Week 5 – September 27 Conflict Strategies & Escalation Dynamics

PK, Chapters 7-9

Reflection essay topics handed out.

II. Conflict Management & Resolution

Week 6 – October 4 Negotiation & Third Party Intervention

PK, Chapters 10-11
RWM, Chapters 5-7
Avruch & Black (E Reserve)
Burton (E Reserve)

Reflection essay due.

Week 7 – October 11 Timing & Roles

Lederach, Chapters 3-6
CHA: Harold H. Saunders
Fisher & Keashly (E Journal)
Laue & Cormick (E Reserve)

Week 8 – October 18 Outcomes

RWM, Chapters 8-10
CHA: Steadman
Schoeny & Warfield (E Journal)

Week 9 – October 25 Peacemaking & Peacebuilding

Lederach, Chapters 7-10
CHA: Roy Licklider; Nicole Ball

Groups will report progress on case study presentation.

Conflict Analysis

Week 10 – November 1 The Move Crisis in Philadelphia

Assefa & Wahrhaftig
Time will be made for group meetings.

Week 11 – November 8 Some Trouble with Cows

Beth Roy
Time will be made for group meetings.

Week 12 – November 15 Group Presentations

Week 13 – November 22 Holiday

Week 14 – November 29 Group Presentations

Take-home final passed out.

Week 15 – December 6 Integration

RWM, Chapters 11-13
Nader (E Reserves)

Take-home final due.

*****Research paper due December 13*****

