

Intensive Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution

CONF 502 Section 001 – Spring 2008

<u>Class Time:</u>	Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 – 4:00 January 26 & 27, February 23 & 24, April 12 & 13
<u>Location:</u>	Arlington Campus, Room 268 webct41.gmu.edu
<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.

This course will be run as a learning community – discussions, written assignments and in-class activities will facilitate the exchange of thinking and experience. Please read the assigned books and articles prior to class. Active participation is expected, both in-class and online. The compressed course format means that the online component is particularly important to your course learning and experience. Participants will work together in small groups as well as individually to analyze and suggest responses to specific cases of small group, community, inter-group, or international conflict.

During the three weekends, 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 all weekends for the time scheduled.
2. Effective preparation. Class involves discussion and activities that depend on your advance preparation.
3. Appropriate participation. Actively engage in the course in as many formats as you are able including large group discussions, homework assignments, small group work, and class exercises.
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. Late work will not be accepted.

Course Requirements

1. Participation, in-class exercises, and online discussions **20%**
In addition to the in-class exercises and online discussions, there will be several topics or short exercises posted to the online discussion board in WebCT. Postings or responses are due on WebCT by the date specified. These short assignments should not take more than one half hour and will allow an opportunity to reflect on course concepts between classes. The assignments are graded only as completed or not but do contribute to your participation grade.
2. Short essay assignment **20%**
In place of a midterm, a short essay assignment will be handed out in class and due by the date specified. Your answers should be typed and returned via email or in the instructor's departmental mailbox. **Due: February 19.**
3. Group project – in-depth study of conflict resolution intervention **25%**
Small groups of 3 or 4 individuals will be formed the first weekend and will work together throughout the course. Each group will examine a particular form of conflict intervention chosen in consultation with the course instructor. **Preliminary group topics should be submitted via email by February 15.**
Groups will work together to apply the concepts, theories, and ideas presented in the course to analyze the underlying assumptions, appropriate applications, and distinguishing features of the chosen intervention. The project should include an example of the intervention type as applied to a conflict. There will be some time for groups to meet during class, but outside meetings will also be necessary. Each group will give a one half hour presentation to the class with supporting materials made available online.
Due: April 12.
4. Individual analysis/assessment of a conflict **35%**
In consultation with the instructor, you will choose a conflict from your own experience or interest. **Topics will be agreed upon by February 21.** Your paper will offer an analytical assessment as well as recommendations for next steps. In other words, you will operationalize aspects of theory and practice within the conflict context. The paper should be 15-20 pages and be a synthesis and application of the concepts covered in the course. **Due: April 21.**

Readings

Books

The required 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. Lederach, John Paul. 1997. *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
3. Pruitt, Dean G. and Sung-Hee Kim. 2004. *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*. Third edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.
4. Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall. 2005. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Second edition. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Articles

The readings, unless otherwise noted, are available on the library page, E-Reserve link. Search electronic reserves, find CONF 502, Section 001 and Maulden, Patricia, and type in the password 'evaluation.'

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.
2. Brown, Michael. 2001. Ethnic and Internal Conflicts. In *Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflicts*. Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Dugan, Máire A. 1996. A Nested Theory of Conflict. In *A Leadership Journal: Women in Leadership*. Volume 1.

6. Ericksen, Thomas H. 2001. Ethnic Identity, National Identity, and Intergroup Conflict: The Significance of Personal Experience. *In Social Identity, Intergroup Conflict, and Conflict Reduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. 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).
8. Galtung, Johan. 1990. Cultural Violence. *In Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 27, No. 3. (Library E journals, JSTOR.)
9. Galtung, Johan. 1969. Violence, Peace, and Peace Research. *In Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 6, No. 3.
10. Saunders, Harold. 2001. Prenegotiation and Circumnegotiation: Arenas of the Peace Process. *In Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflicts*. Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
11. 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.
12. Stein, Janice Gross. 2001. Image, Identity, and Conflict Resolution. *In Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflicts*. Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, eds. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.

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 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

Weekend 1 – January 26 & 27

1. Saturday Readings

Pruitt & Kim, Chapters 1-3
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, & Miall, Chapters 1-3
Galtung 1969
Burton 1993

Saturday Activities

Introduction of class members
Course overview and organization
Form presentation groups
Reflection exercise
Introduction to the field – conflict, conflict analysis, and conflict resolution
Examine analytical concepts and frameworks
Look at assumptions of human nature / social structure

2. Sunday Readings

Assefa & Wahrhaftig
Galtung 1990
Avruch & Black 1993
Dugan 1996

Sunday Activities

Analyze MOVE in Philadelphia
Explore conflict behaviors and responses to conflict
Consider culture and its effects
Group time to consider topic for presentation

3. Assignments

Form groups for intervention study (in class)
Online assignments posted to WebCT
 Tuesday, January 29 – Due Monday, February 4
 Tuesday, February 5 – Due Monday, February 11
Preliminary group topic due February 15
Short essay assignment due February 19
Finalize individual topic by February 21
Finish readings for second weekend by February 23

Weekend 2 – February 23 & 24

1. Saturday Readings

Pruitt & Kim, Chapters 4-8
Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, & Miall, Chapters 4-5
Erickson 2001
Stein 2001
Brown 2001

Saturday Activities

Library research orientation
Framework/themes of contemporary conflicts
Conflict dynamics, escalation, de-escalation
Identity and ethnicity in conflict/resolution dynamics

2. Sunday Readings

Pruitt & Kim, Chapters 9-11
Lederach, Chapters 3-6
Cormick & Laue 1978

Sunday Activities

Settlement and intervention strategies
Peacebuilding and reconciliation
Conflict transformation
Intervention ethics
Forgiveness
Group project work

3. Assignments

Group project materials and presentations due April 12
Online assignments posted to WebCT
 Tuesday, February 26 – Due Monday, March 3
 Tuesday, March 4 – Due Monday, March 17
Finish readings for third weekend by April 12

Weekend 3 – April 12 & 13

1. Saturday Readings

Lederach, Chapters 7-11

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, & Miall, Chapters 6-10

Fisher & Keashly 1991

Saunders 2001

Saturday Activities

Group presentations

Integrating theory and practice, conflict and intervention

Conflict and intervention roles

Post-war reconstruction and stabilization issues

2. Sunday Readings

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse, & Miall, Chapter 11-12

Schoeny & Warfield 2000

Sunday Activities

Class role play exercise

Gender in conflict analysis and resolution

Conflict resolution and justice

Course evaluations

3. Assignments

Individual papers due April 21