

CONFLICT 490 – INTEGRATION
REVISED SYLLABUSREVISED SYLLABUS**REVISED SYLLABUS**
Spring 2006

Prof. Susan Hirsch ICAR—Inst. for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Robinson B365; Office hours: Tues. 3:00-4:30 or by appt.
Shirsch4@gmu.edu; Telephone ext. 3-9407

Conflict 490 is a capstone course in which students reflect on what they have learned, integrating and synthesizing knowledge from all their coursework in conflict analysis and resolution courses, as well as related areas of study. The course begins with an overview of the conflict field. Subsequently, Part One offers an in-depth consideration of one concept central to conflict studies. The concept will be examined in light of the conflict field and also its treatment in other fields. Part Two focuses on a technique of conflict resolution. Students will become acquainted with the technique and will consider the general question of how to integrate theory with practice. The aim of Part Three is to focus on a specific type of conflict toward the goals of mapping the conflict, that is determining the issues that tend to arise in such conflicts and the forms of interventions that are most effective. Each year the instructor will determine the areas of focus in the three parts. For Spring 2005, these are Justice (concept), Dialogue (resolution technique), and Religious Conflict (type of conflict).

Conflict 490 is a designated Synthesis Course in the General Education program. Accordingly, the course is interdisciplinary; students will study conflict and specific conflicts by drawing on material and ways of knowing from literature, anthropology, law, psychology, policy studies, documentary film, government, as well as conflict analysis and resolution, an interdisciplinary field itself. Students will also develop skills in a conflict resolution technique, examine writings about the technique, and reflect on the experience of conflict resolution, thus engaging in critical thinking about the integration of theory and practice. As a final project students will design conflict interventions intended to have policy and real world implications.

Students are expected to attend class sessions and participate in class discussion (20% of grade). Written assignments include: one short essay that synthesizes approaches to the concept of justice (5 pages/15%), a reflexive analysis of dialogue or problem solving (5 pages/15%), and an analytic map of a specific conflict (15 pages/25%), an oral presentation of proposed conflict interventions at a poster session (visual and/or audiovisual) reviewed by a faculty panel (10%), and a final take-home exam (15%).

The following books are available from the campus bookstore:

Coetzee, J.M. *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Rabinowitz, D. and K. Abu-Bakr. *Coffins on our Shoulders: The Experience of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel*

Schirch, L. *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*

Yankelovich, D. *The Magic of Dialogue: Transforming Conflict into Cooperation*

Conflict studies reader: selections include journal articles, book chapters, policy papers, and news media accounts.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

- Jan. 24** **Introduction**
- Jan. 26** **Overview of the conflict field**
 Discussion of Evaluation Process led by Ciara Rhodes and Cheryl Simmons
 Reading: Jeong, “Conflict Analysis” and “Peace Research”
- Jan. 31** **Overview of conflict mapping**
 Presentation: Mery Rodriguez and Maria Rodriguez
 Sandole, Dennis. 1998. A comprehensive mapping of conflict and conflict resolution: a three pillar approach. *Peace And Conflict Studies* 5(2).
 Access at <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/sandole>
- Feb. 2** **Overview of conflict resolution techniques**
 Begin *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*.
 Film: Little Injustices
- Feb. 7** **Overview of conflict analysis and resolution field**
 Finish *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*.
- Feb. 9** **How to research a conflict**
 Presentation: Min Zaw Oo
 Miall, et.al. “Understanding Contemporary Conflict”

CONCEPTS IN CONFLICT STUDIES: Justice

- Feb. 14** **Definitions of Justice across Fields**
 Rawls, TBA
 Estrada-Hollenbeck, “The Attainment of Justice through Restoration, Not Litigation”
 O’Barr and Conley, “Litigant Satisfaction versus Legal Adequacy in Small Claims Court Narratives.”
- Feb. 16** **Justice and Identity Conflict**
 Begin *Waiting for the Barbarians*
- Feb. 21** **Careers in Conflict Resolution Working Session**
- Feb. 23** **The Relation between Justice and Violence**
 Finish *Waiting for the Barbarians*
- Feb. 28** **The Rise of Transitional Justice**
 Presentation: Nancy Beiter
 Article by Martin at http://www.aspeninstitute.org/atf/cf/%7BDEB6F227-659B-4EC8-8F84-8DF23CA704F5%7D/LEGACY_OF_ABUSE.PDF

Mar. 2 Global Justice: ICAR's International Criminal Court (ICC) Project
 Presentation: Adam Nester
 Recent law review articles on the ICC

ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE by beginning of next class: Essay on Justice that synthesizes approaches from several fields

TECHNIQUES OF RESOLUTION: Dialogue

Mar. 7 Techniques of Dialogue
 Begin *The Magic of Dialogue*

Mar. 9 The Dialogue of Conflict Studies vs. the Debate of Philosophy and Political Science
 Presentation: Julie Ryan-Silva
 Continue *The Magic of Dialogue*

Final Project Topic must be approved prior to Spring Break

Mar. 21 Community Conflict
 Finish *The Magic of Dialogue*

Mar. 23 Dialogue as an Intervention in Community Conflict
 Film: *Flag Wars*

Mar. 28 Problem Solving Workshop
 Presentation: Lisa Shaw and Nalani Alexander

Mar. 30 Problem Solving Workshop
 Presentation: Lisa Shaw and Nalani Alexander

ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE by beginning of next class: Essay that reflects on the experience of integrating theory and practice

CURRENT CONFLICTS AND INTERVENTIONS: Religious Conflict

Apr. 4 Overview of Religious Conflicts
 Gopin, "Judaism, the Limits of War, and Conflict Resolution"
 Sachedina, "From Defensive to Offensive Warfare"

Apr. 5 CAR Annual Spring Lecture: Dr. Nadim Rouhana
 Johnson Center Theater; 2:00 pm

Apr. 6 Case study of Religious Conflict
Coffins on our Shoulders: the Experience of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel

- Apr. 11** **Case study continued**
Film: "Promises"
Continue *Coffins on our Shoulders*
- Apr. 13** **Case study continued**
Finish *Coffins on our Shoulders*
- April 18** **Oral presentation of conflict maps**
- Apr. 20** **Oral presentation of conflict maps**
- Apr. 25** **Techniques of Intervention in Religious Conflict**
Selections from *Faith-Based Diplomacy*
- Apr. 27** **Discussion of Interventions**
- May 2** **Poster session**
- May 4** **Wrap-up**

FINAL Project paper DUE May 5: Written conflict map and poster session presentation

FINAL Take-home exam due on day of scheduled final exam for this course.

Course Readings

Jeong, H. "Conflict Analysis" and "Peace Research." From: *Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction*. Aldershot; Ashgate. Pp. 31-49.

Miall, et. al. "Contemporary Conflict Resolution." In *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. New York: Polity.

Estrada-Hollenbeck, M. 2001. "The Attainment of Justice through Restoration, Not Litigation." In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Co-existence: Theory and Practice*. M. Abu-Nimer (ed.). Lanham: Lexington Books.

O'Barr, W. and J. Conley. 1985. "Litigant Satisfaction versus Legal Adequacy in Small Claims Court Narratives." *Law and Society Review* 19.4:661-701.

Gopin, M. 2002. "Judaism, the Limits of War, and Conflict Resolution." In: *Religion, Law, and the Role of Force: A Study of their Influence on Conflict and Conflict Resolution*. Coffey and Mathewes (ed.). Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers, pp. 7-22.

Sachedina, A. 2002. "From Defensive to Offensive Warfare: The Use and Abuse of *Jihad* in the Muslim World." In: *Religion, Law, and the Role of Force: A Study of their Influence on Conflict and Conflict Resolution*. Coffey and Mathewes (ed.). Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers, pp. 23-38.