

CONF 501

INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

Semester: Fall 2005
Class Time: Tuesdays, 4:30 to 7:10 PM
Location: Sec. 002, Truland Bldg., R. 666A
Arlington Campus

Instructor: Wallace Warfield
703.993.3649
wwarfiel@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Welcome to the course and to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR). This class is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution, and as the first course that many at ICAR will take, it is deliberately broad. Other courses at ICAR develop one or another of the themes in this introduction in greater depth.

This course examines definitions of conflict, diverse views of its resolution and explores thinking about human behavior and social systems as they relate to the origins of conflict and the role of conflict in violent and peaceful social change. It is designed to introduce you to academic thinking about conflict analysis and resolution and to help you think systematically and analytically about conflict.

This course will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion and student presentations. We value critical thinking and therefore, it is imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to the class. Active participation in class discussions will be expected.

The agenda of this course is to build the foundation for your work with the rest of us in the ICAR community and with those in the field of conflict analysis and resolution.

Course Requirements

In addition to regular attendance and participation, a take-home exam, an analytical paper, a group presentation of a case study, and a take-home final are required.

The first take-home exam will account for **15%** of the final grade. This exam will be handed out on September 27 and will be due October 4.

A 15-page (double-spaced, approximately 4,000 word) analysis of a conflict will form the basis for **25 %** of the grade. This paper will be due on the day of your presentation.

Students looking for guidance on stylistic rules should consult the ICAR Style Sheet for Academic Writing (Appendix I in the ICAR Handbook). Students should also read the statement of ICAR's Academic Standards (Appendix L in the Handbook) and the University's Honor Code.

For this paper, students can select from one of the assigned team presentation case studies or select one of their own to analyze. A basic book that provides background to the assigned case study is designated below and should be sufficient to provide the details of the conflict situation. The object of this paper is to reflect one's understanding of the tools of conflict analysis covered in the first section of the class. If students choose one of the case studies assigned for team presentations, the assigned book and an article or two will be sufficient to provide the narrative of the case because the focus on the essay should be to demonstrate one's ability to apply concepts of conflict analysis rather than an in-depth knowledge of a particular conflict. As noted, these papers are due on **the day of the team presentation** and will be the basis of **25 %** of the final class grade.

A small group presentation of your case study will account for **25 %** of your final grade.

The final examination, which will cover material from throughout the class, will form the basis of the final **35 %** of the grade. This exam will be handed out on November 29 and will be due December 13.

Delays, deferrals, or a grade of "incomplete" for the course will be given only in cases of personal or immediate family crisis.

Students will select and/or be assigned (in order to achieve rough balance in group size) to one of the following four cases:

South Africa

Waldmeir, Paul. (1997). Anatomy of a miracle: The end of apartheid and the birth of the new South Africa. New York: W. W. Norton and Co.

Copper Strike:

Rosenblum, Jonathan D. (1998). Copper crucible: how the Arizona miners strike of 1983 recast labor-management relations in America, 2nd ed. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.

For this conflict, students may also enjoy:

Kingslover, Barbara. (1989). Holding the line: women in the great Arizona mine strike of 1983. Ithaca, NY: ILR Press.

1968 Washington Riots:

Gilbert, Ben W. (1968). Ten blocks from the White House: anatomy of the Washington riots of 1968. New York: Praeger Press.

Northern Ireland

Arthur, Paul & Jeffery, Keith (1988). Northern Ireland since 1968. London: Institute of Contemporary British History.

After the papers are completed and turned in, those case studies selected by student teams will be the subject of a group presentation. The students in each case study group will find it necessary to meet to adequately prepare a plan for the presentation. Time will be provided during class hours, but additional meetings or coordination by e-mail, phone, or other means may be necessary as well. This may represent a consensus among the group or alternative perspectives may be present. The group presentations (during weeks 11, 12, and possibly 13) will be a maximum of 1 hour (time will be strictly enforced), followed by a general discussion in the class.

Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the Arlington Campus Bookstore. All readings are on reserve in the Arlington Campus Library, can be found on-line, or are available in the ICAR library.

Books

Assefa, Hizkias and Wahrhaftig, Paul. (1990). The MOVE crisis in Philadelphia: extremist groups and conflict resolution. University of Pittsburgh Press.

Lederach, John Paul. (1997). Building peace: sustainable reconciliation in divided societies. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.

Miall, Hugh et al. (2000). Contemporary conflict resolution. Oxford: Polity Press.

Roy, Beth. (1994). Some trouble with cows: making sense of social conflict Berkeley: University of California Press.

Pruitt, Dean & Sung Hee, Kim (2004). Social conflict: escalation, stalemate, and settlement. 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill.

Other Readings

Ashmore, R. D. (2001). Ethnic identity, national identity, and inter group conflict. In Social identity, inter group conflict, and conflict resolution. Oxford U. Press.

- Avruch, Kevin & Black, Peter (1993). Conflict resolution in intercultural settings: problems and prospects. In Dennis J. D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe (Eds.), Conflict resolution, theory and practice: integration and application. Manchester University Press.
- Avruch, Kevin & Vejarano, Beatriz (2001). Truth and reconciliation commissions: a review essay and annotated bibliography, Social Justice: Anthropology, Peace, and Human Rights 2, 47-108.
- Bercovitch, Jacob. (1997). Mediation in international conflict: An Overview of theory, a review of practice. In I. William Zartman, and Louis Rasmussen, (Eds.), Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
- Burton, John W. (1993). Conflict resolution as a political philosophy. In Dennis J.D. Sandole and Hugo van der Merwe, (Eds.), Conflict resolution theory and practice: integration and application. Manchester University Press.
- Fisher, Ronald J. and Keashly, Loreleigh. (1991). The potential complementarity of mediation and consultation within a contingency model of third party consultation. Journal of Peace Research, 28, 1, 29-42.
- Galtung, Johan. (1969). Violence, peace, and peace research. Journal of Peace Research, 6, 3, 167-191.
- Giddons, Anthony (2000). Globalization. In Runaway World. Routledge Press.
- Ho-Won Jeong. (2003). Structure. In Conflict, Sandra Cheldelin, et al, (Eds.), New York: Continuum Press.
- Laue, James H. and Cormick, Gerald W. (1978). The ethics of intervention in community disputes. In The ethics of social intervention, Gordon Bermant et al, (Eds.), Washington, DC: Hemisphere Publications.
- Mayer, Bernard. (2004). Beyond neutrality: confronting the crisis in conflict resolution. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Nathan, Laurie. (2001). The four horsemen of the Apocalypse: the structural causes of crisis and violence in Africa. track two10, 2. (<http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za/> and follow the link to "Track Two").
- Mitchell, Christopher. (1993). The process and stages of mediation: two Sudanese cases. In Making War and Waging Peace: Foreign Intervention in Africa. David R. Smock, (Eds.), Washington, DC: United States Institute for Peace Press.

Saunders, Harold. (1996). Prenegotiation and circum-negotiation: arenas of the peace process. In Chester A. Crocker & Fen o. Hampson (Eds.), Managing global chaos: sources of and responses to international conflict. Washington, DC: United States Institute for Peace Press.

Schoeny, Mara and Warfield, Wallace. (2000). Reconnecting systems maintenance with social justice: a critical role for conflict resolution, Negotiation Journal 16, 3, 253-268.

Week One (August 30): Introduction to the Course

This week will include self-introductions and a discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, expectations for the course, and library orientation.

Both sections will meet in the ICAR Conference Room for a library orientation by Marissa Cachero. The orientation is scheduled from 5:45 to 7:00 PM.

I. Conflict: Sources, Processes, and Dynamics

Week Two (September 6): Defining Conflict and the Field of Conflict Resolution

Miall, et al, ch. 1, 2

Pruitt, and Kim, ch. 1, 2

Mitchell, "Some basic initial frameworks for conflict analysis"

Week Three (September 13): Sources of Conflict

Miall, et al, ch. 3

Galtung, Violence, peace, and peace research

Burton, Conflict resolution as a political philosophy

Nathan, The four horsemen of the Apocalypse, etc.

Jeong, Structure

Giddons, Globalization

Week Four (September 20): Conflict Strategies and Dynamics of Escalation

Pruitt, and Kim, ch. 3-9

Avruch and Black

II. Conflict Management and Resolution

Week Five (September 27): Negotiations and Third Party Intervention

*Take-home exam handed out in class.

Pruitt, and Kim, ch. 10-11

Bercovitch, Mediation in international conflict, etc.

Mitchell-SPITCEROW

Week Six (October 4): Timing and Stages

Take-home exam due at beginning of class.

Saunders, Prenegotiation and circum-negotiation, etc.

Fisher & Keashly, The potential complementarity of mediation, etc.

Note: No class October 11-Columbus Day recess

Week Seven (October 18): Roles

*Mid term course evaluation

Laue & Cormick, The ethics of intervention in community disputes

Mitchell, The process and stages of mediation, etc.

Mayer, Beyond neutrality, etc.

Week Eight (October 25): Outcomes

Kriesberg

Schoeny & Warfield, Reconnecting systems maintenance with social justice, etc.

Miall, Chap. 6 & 7

III. Conflict Analysis: Case Studies

Week Nine (November 1): Conflict Analysis – The MOVE Crisis

Assefa & Wharharftig, The MOVE crisis in Philadelphia, and video.

*Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class.

Week Ten (November 8): Conflict Analysis – Some Trouble with Cows

Roy, Some trouble with cows, etc.

Ashmore, Ethnic identity, etc.

*Time will be made for group meetings at the end of class.

**Week Eleven (November 15): Case Study Group Presentations
Case Study Analysis Paper Due**

Week Twelve (November 22): Case Study Group Presentations

Week Thirteen (November 29): Reconciliation

Avruch and Vejarano
Lederach, Building peace, etc.

Week Fourteen (December 6): Review and Integrate

Mitchell's "Frameworks" revisited
Mayer, revisited

Take home final will be distributed at the end of class.

Final Exam Due December 13