

CONF 501
Fall 2007
Wed. 1:30 – 4:10 pm, ARLTB 333A
Instructor: Ho-Won Jeong
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Office Hour: Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce the basic theories and analytical framework of conflict to those who are interested in how to manage adversarial relationships in human society. The concepts and case studies to be examined in the class are relevant to different levels of analysis, i.e., inter-state and inter-group conflicts as well as issues which have global implications. This class should be useful for enhancing our understanding of various types of conflict emerging in social relationships of a modern society.

The topics are not limited to ethno-political conflict, but also include environmental, organizational, religious and other types of conflict that may result from incompatible economic interests and identity and value differences. Reflecting on the development of conflict studies, theoretical and conceptual explanation offered in this class benefit from cross utilization of multi-disciplinary approaches, especially, international relations, political science, sociology, psychology, communication, and anthropology.

The class is intended to enrich and expand our knowledge about conflict resolution by overcoming the limited scope of traditional management and control approaches to conflict which are commonly accepted in public policy and other traditional disciplinary fields (oriented toward the maintenance of the status quo). In providing foundational knowledge for students of conflict studies, this class will not only examine emerging theories, but also refer to classic work done by John W. Burton, Christopher Mitchell, Johan Galtung, Herbert Kelman, Louis Kriesberg, and others.

In enhancing the practical knowledge base for students, various concepts (related to conflict dynamics and processes) will be applied to important past and current issues. The class will discuss what kinds of concepts need to be further developed and explore the methods of profiling and mapping conflict. As an applied field, our attention needs to be drawn to the utility of concepts and theories in the comparison of diverse human experiences.

The class schedule for the entire semester is divided into three parts. The lesson will start with identifying the principles and methods of conflict analysis along with the introduction of basic concepts popularly used in the field. The second part of the course will focus on conflict dynamics and processes that will be followed by the investigation of strategies and methods of conflict resolution. The final part of the course will be devoted to case studies that are drawn from real world events.

Class Assignments

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion (10 percent of the total course grade), are required to take a mid-term exam (25 percent) and final exam (25 percent) as well as write a conflict analysis paper based on case studies (40 percent) and a presentation on the case study.

Students will be asked to choose one of the cases to be discussed in class and develop conflict management, transformation and resolution strategies. The strategies can be discussed in terms of their effects in conflict de-escalation and eventual resolution.

Required Reading

Major textbooks include Dean Pruitt and S. H. Kim, *Social Conflict* (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2004); Louis Kriesberg, *Constructive Conflicts* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998); Oliver Ramsbotham et al., *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (Polity, 2005), and Ho-Won Jeong (ed.), *Conflict Resolution* (Aldershot: Ashgate)

Schedule

Week 1

Introduction

Week 2 (9/5)

Concepts for conflict analysis

Pruitt and Kim, Chapter 1; Kriesberg, Chapter 1; Jeong, Chapter 1; Ramsbotham et al., Chapters 1-2

Week 3 (9/12)

Types of conflict and conflict management

Ramsbotham et al., Chapters 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10

Week 4 (9/19)

Nature and Sources of Conflict and Strategies

Pruitt and Kim chapters 3-5

Guest lecturer

Week 5 (9/26)

Conflict Dynamics

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 5-6; Kriesberg, Chapters 2-3

Guest lecturer

Week 6 (10/3)
Escalation and Entrapment

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 7-8; Kriesberg, Chapters 4-6

Week 7 (10/10)
Processes of De-escalation

Pruitt and Kim, Chapters 9-10; Kriesberg, Chapter 7; Jeong (ed.), Chapters 2-3

Week 8 (10/17)
Termination

Kriesberg, Chapters 10-12; Ramsbotham et al., Chapters 13, 16

Week 9 (10/22)
Mid-term Exam

Week 10 (10/31)
Conditions for conflict resolution

Jeong, Chapters 7-8; Ramsbotham et al., Chapters 11-12

Week 11 (11/7)
Negotiation/Mediation

Pruitt and Kim, chapter 11; Kriesberg, Chapters 8-9

Week 12 (11/14)
Facilitated Procedures

Jeong, Chapters 4-6; Ramsbotham et al., Chapters 14-15

Week 13 (11/28)
Case Studies

Class Presentations

Week 14 (12/5)
Case Studies

Class Presentations

Week 15 (12/12)
Final