

CONF 642: Integration of Theory and Practice Semester  
Spring 2010

Class Time: Mondays, 4:30- 7:10 pm

Location: Arlington Campus, Truland Building 335

Instructor: Ho-Won Jeong, E-mail: [hwjeong@gmu.edu](mailto:hwjeong@gmu.edu)

## COURSE OUTLINE

This course is designed to help ICAR MS Students pull their understanding of conflict analysis and resolution together. In particular, we will focus on how we can develop an integrated approach to theory, research methods, and practice in such a way as to review what has been developed in the field of conflict studies. As this field is multi disciplinary in nature, our discussion will include the contributions of different disciplinary areas to the development of approaches to conflict analysis and resolution. In addition, we will examine how different theories can be applied to particular sets of problems, both domestic and international. Therefore this course will provide an integrative process of student learning with holistic orientations of our understanding of the field.

In our educational enterprise, students will be asked about what we know and do not know and the methods to find out what we don't know about the complexities of each conflict. Accordingly, students are expected to weave together into a coherent system "bits and pieces" from their various understanding of theories on 1) the causes and conditions of conflict initiation and escalation at all levels; 2) exploration of hypothesized approaches and processes for responding conflicts in different domains; 3) analysis of actual approaches and processes for conflict management and resolution; and 4) appropriate research tools for applying theory to practice and feeding the results of practice back to theory.

The format of the class consists of lectures, readings, class presentations, exercises, and written assignments. In assisting students in building their ability to develop independent thinking and practice, CONF 642 relies on interactive class dynamics based on weekly contributions, informed by appropriate preparation, and reciprocal feedback. At the end of the semester, we will have opportunities to bring all the lessons together to integrate them into a coherent whole: conflict resolution theory and practice, supported by research methods. In facilitating the application of theory to practice and the feedback from practice to theory, we will develop the methods of evaluation.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students will be asked to make class presentations (10% of the final grade) and write a few short essays on practice, career development, etc. (15%). For their mid term paper, students will be asked to integrate the first half of the semester's class learning (35%). The final class project will focus on the comparison and integration of various theoretical components into a coherent whole along with the assessment of their applicability in 10 single spaced pages (40% of final grade). Specific due dates of the above assignments will be announced if they are not mentioned in the syllabus. Excessive absence (more than three times) can result in either a failure or lower grade (with the exceptions of family illness or unforeseen accidents). The late submission of assignments will be

subject to a reduced grade. Students are required to pay full attention to the university honor code.

#### REQUIRED READINGS

Jeong, Howon (2008) *Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, London: Sage

Jeong, Howon (2009) *Conflict Management and Resolution*, London: Routledge

Jeong, Howon (2005) *Peacebuilding in Post-conflict societies*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner

#### Course Schedule

Week 1 (1/25): Introduction: Course Overview

Week 2 (2/1): The Status of the Field: Conflict Mapping

*Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, Chapters 1-4

Presentation: Mapping of the field, locating the areas of an individual student's future and current interest

Week 3 (2/8): Conflict Process

*Conflict Management and Resolution*, Chapters 1-2

*Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, Chapters 5, 8-11

Week 4 (2/15): Conflict Transformation: Power, Identity and Structure

*Conflict Management and Resolution*, Chapters 3-6

*Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, Chapters 6-7

Week 5 (2/22): Negotiation, Mediation and Facilitation: Theory and Practice

*Conflict Management and Resolution*, Chapter 7-11

Week 6 (3/1): Peace Building: Concepts and Applications

*Peacebuilding in Post-conflict Societies*

Week 7 (3/8): Spring break

Week 8 (3/15): Mid-term Essay

Week 9 (3/22): Practice

Advocacy Roles and Ethics: Intervention in asymmetric conflict

Week 10 (3/29): Simulations and Role Plays

Development of Scenarios: Exercises

Week 11 (4/5): Career Development

Week 12 (4/12): Linking theory to research and practice

Identification of research methods suitable for conflict resolution

Week 13 (4/19): Group Presentations

Week 14 (4/26): Group Presentations

Week 15 (5/3): Class Project Due

## Honor Code and Plagiarism:

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at [academicintegrity.gmu.edu](http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor.

ICAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. ICAR's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.