

Macro Theories of Conflict Resolution  
CONF 803

Instructor: Ho-Won Jeong  
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Wed. 7:20-10:00pm

Course Outline

This course will help students understand the nature of social conflict and conditions for its resolution. The dynamics of conflict are examined in terms of their relationship to patterns of social change. The course offers a review and critique of various approaches to conflict analysis and resolution. Topics to be discussed include power relations, social psychology, institutional structures, social systems, gender and politics, cultural interpretations of violence and its alternatives, identity and ethnicity, etc. The class will be based on the conceptualization of specific terms, application of theories to specific cases and discussion of theoretical issues from comparative perspectives. Class discussion and lectures are geared toward developing the critical skills necessary to examine the strengths and weaknesses of theories. Students will be asked to explore their own theoretical framework for looking at conflict.

Requirements

There will be one mid-term essay and final exam as well as a research paper. Reading course materials before each class session is essential for participation in discussion. Class oral presentations include reviews of some of the course materials.

The term paper (12 pages, single spaced) requires research on specific theoretical themes, including but not limited to identity, power, gender, etc. The range of topics to be chosen will be given out before one third of the way through the semester. The final exam will be conducted in a take home format.

Grading

The research paper contributes to 45 percent of the course grade. The final exam essay will count for 30 percent of the final grade. The late submission of a paper will be subject to a penalty (5-20 percent of the grade depending on how late it is). 15 percent of the grade comes from the mid-term essay. Class participation (including two class presentations based on the summaries of reading materials) constitutes 10 percent of the grade. Incomplete grades will not be permitted without personal illness.

Reading Assignments

Jeong, Ho-Won, ed., Conflict Resolution: Dynamics, Process and Structure, Ashgate, 1999

Lukes, Steven, ed., *Power*, New York University Press, New York, 1986

Foucault, M., *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison* (translated by A. Sheridan, Penguin, London, 1977

Ashmore, Richard, et al., eds., *Social Identity, Intergroup Conflict and Conflict Resolution*, Oxford University Press, 2001

### Schedule

Week 1 (1/26)

Introduction, Overview, Administrative Matters

Week 2 (2/2)

Conflict Transformation

Week 3 (2/9)

Social Dimensions of Conflict Resolution

Lumsden, 'Breaking the Cycle of Violence', in Jeong, *Conflict Resolution*, pp. 131-152.

Dukes, 'Structural Forces', in Jeong, *Conflict Resolution*, pp. 155-172.

Jeong and Vayrynen, 'Identity Formation and Transformation,' in Jeong, *Conflict Resolution*, pp. 59-79.

Suggested Readings

Kriesberg, 'Paths to Varieties of Intercommunal Reconciliation', in Jeong, *Conflict Resolution*, pp. 105-30

Jeong, 'Research on Conflict Resolution', in Jeong, *Conflict Resolution*, pp. 3-34.

Week 4 (2/16)

Social Justice

Black and Avruch, 'Cultural Relativism', in *Peace and Conflict Studies*, November 1999, pp. 21-36.

Kriesberg, 'Truth and Morality', in *Peace and Conflict Studies*, November 1999, pp. 7-20.

Rubenstein, 'Conflict Resolution and Distributive Justice', *Peace and Conflict Studies*, November 1999

Week 5 (2/23)

Basic Needs

A special theme issue of International Journal of Peace Studies

John W. Burton, 'Conflict Prevention as a Political System'

David Dunn, 'John Burton and the Study of International Relations'

John W. Burton, 'Introducing the Person into Thinking about Social Problems'

Christopher Mitchell, 'From Controlled Communication to Problem Solving'

John W. Burton, 'Where Do We Go from Here?'

Suggested Readings:

John W. Burton, Conflict: Basic Human Needs, St. Martins, 1990, pp. 89-112, pp. 235-256.

John W. Burton, Deviance, Terrorism & War, St. Martin's Press, pp. 55-84.

Week 6 (3/2)

Basic Needs Conference

Week 7 (3/16)

Hegemony and Consensus: Legitimacy and Civil Society

Simon, Roger, Gramsci's Political Thought: An Introduction, Lawrence & Wishart, 1991, pp. 1-46; 47-107

Suggested Readings: Gramsci, A. Selections from the Prison Notebooks, London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1971

Antonio Gramsci, The Modern Prince & Other Writings, New York: International Publishers Inc., 1959

McLellan, David (ed.), Karl Marx: Selected Writings, Second edition, Oxford University Press, 2000

Outhwaite, William, Habermas: A Critical Introduction, Stanford University Press, Stanford, 1994.

Week 8 (3/23)

Foucault: Modernity and Politics

Foucault, M., Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison (translated by A. Sheridan, Penguin, London, 1977

Suggested readings:

Kritzman, Lawrence, ed., Michelle Foucault: Politics, Philosophy, Culture, New York: Routledge, 1984.

Kelly, Michael, Critique and Power: Recasting Foucault/Habermas Debate, The MIT Press, 1994

Mid-Term Essay Due

Week 9 (3/30)

Structure and Agency

Giddens, Anthony, *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*, University of California Press, 1986, pp. 1-40; pp. 162-206

Gardiner, *Provoking Agents*, pp. 23-51

Week 10 (4/6)

Identity

Ashmore, *Social Identity, Intergroup Conflict and Conflict Resolution*, pp. 3-130

Week 11 (4/13)

Identity

Ashmore, *Social Identity, Intergroup Conflict and Conflict Resolution*, pp. 133-250

Suggested Readings

Jenkins, Richard, *Rethinking Ethnicity*, 1997, pp. 1-88

Week 12 (4/20)

Power, Process and System

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 1-155

Week 13 (4/27)

Power, Control and Domination

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 156-277

Week 14 (5/4)

Theory Building: Social Change and Conflict Resolution

Week 15 (5/11)

Final Exam