

**CONF 101**  
**Conflict and Our World:**  
**Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution**  
**Spring 2010: January 19—May 12, 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Stella Ford  
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Across all human societies, conflict is part of daily life. Sometimes it may be an annoyance, such as arguing with a sibling over the last cookie; sometimes it is more serious, such as the debate over human cloning; and sometimes it is tragic, as in the events in the Middle East in recent years. Conflict can be destructive, for example when it damages relationships among neighbors or relatives or destroys homes and livelihoods. Conflict can also be constructive, as shown by the effects of civil rights demonstrations in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s. Our increased interconnections as a global society, as well as the upsurge in certain forms of violence, have heightened the need for more attention in determining how humanity can deal with conflict productively.

This course introduces the interdisciplinary study of conflict analysis and resolution. We will examine how and why conflict occurs in human society, and what we can do to mitigate its destructive aspects. The course includes an overview of the field including the central approaches to analyzing conflict, an extended case study of a conflict, an examination of several forms of intervention, and finally a consideration of new directions in conflict studies. We will highlight the societal, structural, and cultural factors that influence conflict, to know the major conflict resolution techniques, and to understand the complexities of the most pressing contemporary conflicts.

**Attendance in class is not only mandatory but also crucial** if you would like to succeed in this course. Some of the materials will be discussed only in class and not in the readings. **You should plan to complete the assigned readings prior to each class and be ready to discuss what you have studied in class.** Be sure to look up words that are unfamiliar to you but realize that some terms have specialized meanings in the field of conflict resolution. Ask in class if you have not understood a term or an idea.

**Classroom etiquette:** Come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones, pages, beeper, etc. Do not leave the room during class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by talking, passing notes, playing video games, etc. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals.

Conflict 101 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Class work and examinations, due dates and grades for the Semester

Assignments,	Due Dates:	% of Grade,
Attendance and Participation	Assessed throughout the semester	5%
2 Short essays 25% total		
Essay one 3 pages	(Due in class Feb 19)	10%
Essay two 6 pages	(Due in class March 26)	15%
Three Exams (50% total)		
Exam One- 10%	(Taken in class Feb 26)	10%
Exam Two- 15%	(Taken in class April 2)	15%
Exam Three- 25%	(Taken in class April 23)	25%
One (1) Group Case Study Assignment 20% total		20%
Presentation 10%; final group paper 10%		
Group papers are presented in the form of Negotiation & Mediation role plays. (Each group must submit preliminary copy before presentation day and must submit a Final copy on presentation day) 15%		
Presentation Dates	(April 9 and April 16)	

Make up exams and extensions of time for assignments will be arranged ONLY for documented personal illness or family emergency. **Students with documented disabilities should make arrangements early in the term by contacting Professor Simmons.**

Guidelines for preparing the short essays will be provided in class. The short essays will focus on real conflicts that you have analyzed on your own.

You are expected to abide by George Mason University's Honor Code in preparing all work for this class. If you have any questions about Honor Code issues (e.g., whether you are permitted to discuss an assignment with a fellow student) or are uncertain about how to cite a source, or if you have observed Honor Code violations, please contact Professor Simmons.

### Required Readings

- (1) Pruitt, D.G. & S. Kim, (2004) *Social Conflict: Escalation Stalemate, and Settlement*. New York: McGraw-Hill
- (2) Assefa, H. and Wahrhaftig, P. (1990), *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution*. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburg Press.
- (3) Schellenberg, A James (1996) *Conflict Resolution: Theory, Research and Practice*. State University of New York Press, Albany
- (4) Mayer, Bernard, (2000) *The Dynamics of Conflict Resolution: A Practitioner's guide*. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco.
- (5) Introductory Reader in Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Contents listed below and available on GMU Library electronic reserve.

It is highly recommended for this course, and for your undergraduate career, that you seek out information about current events in your community and in the world generally. This may be achieved by reading daily---either in had copy or online---*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or by listening to the BBC or National Public Radio News among others. Please make your readings a central part of our discussions in class and do not be afraid to bring in views that stir up conversation, but keep in mind that real respect for the other is a prized ideal that is recommended and encouraged at all times.

Guidelines for preparing course assignments, such as the final paper will be provided in class. Students are expected to work in teams in all group assignments. Consideration will be given to exceptionally well researched individual topics in the group paper. *If you are having difficulties coordinating as a team, you should seek assistance from the instructor.*

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

#### **Jan. 22; Introduction to the Course;**

Defining Conflict: What is conflict?

Schellenberg, 7-36

Mayer, 3-25

Pruitt 3-14,

#### **Jan. 29; Nature and Sources of Conflict I**

(Individual Characteristics Vs Culture)

Schellenberg, 39-57

Mayer; 26-49

Avruch, 3-21; 23-55

Barna, 322-328

Augsburger, 11-41

#### **Feb. 5; Nature and Sources of Conflict II (Focus on local conflict—MOVE)**

(Social Process)

Schellenberg, 59-78

Pruitt, 15-36

Vamik, 36-49.

Asefa and Wahrhaftig, 3-61

Video

#### **Feb. 12; Nature and Sources of Conflict III**

(Social Process)

Pruitt, 37-84

Mayer, 71-93

Gurr, 53-75

Asefa and Wahrhaftig, 63-117

**Feb. 19; First Short Paper Due**

**Feb. 19; Nature and Sources of Conflict IV**

(Social Structural)

Schellengberg, 79-102;

Burton 32-40;

Dugan; 9-19

Galtung 39-53;

Pruitt, 87-168

**Feb. 26; First Exam in Class**

**Feb. 26; Nature and Sources of Conflict V**

(Social Structural and Formal Theories)

Schellengberg, 112-116

Mayer; 50-70

**March 5; Conflict Escalation and De-escalation (Strategies and Tactics)**

[Focus on International Conflict--- (Global Terrorism)]

Martha Crenshaw, 67-81

Asefa and Wahrhaftig; 119-151

**Zones of Peace Workshop (Guest Speaker)**

**March 8 to March 14----Spring Break---**

**March 19; Conflict Stalemate and Conflict Resolution**

Pruitt, 171-225

Asefa and Wahrhaftig; 45-92

**March 26; Second Essay due**

**March 26; Conflict Resolution; Third Parties and Conflict Resolution;**

(Global Problems and Global Solutions)

Pruitt, 227-256

Ekwuachi-Ford 112-169

**Gender, Social Mobilization and Conflict – Guest Speaker**

**April 2 Second Exam in Class;**

**April 2 Conflict Resolution; Conflict Prevention, Peace and Reconciliation**

Lederach, 841-854

**April 9;**

**Case Study Class Presentations and Submission of Group Paper begins; Case Study:**

**Conflict over Resources, Nigeria—Niger Delta and Global Terrorism (Group Paper)**

(Group Papers are on the Niger Delta Conflict and global Terrorism).

This topic and issues relating to terrorism will be discussed in class.

Students are required to research the cases on their own as part of their group assignment. Each group is expected to thoroughly research the aspect of the case they are presenting. If you have any questions or encounter any difficulty feel free to ask the instructor. All individually well researched and presented articles on this topic will reflect in the grading of this assignment

**April 9;** Group Presentation (G1 & G2); **April 16;** Group Presentation (G3 & G4)

**April 9;** Group Presentations (G1 & G2)

**April 16;** Group Presentation (G3 & G4)

**April 23 Exam Three in Class**

**April 30;** Wrap up

Last Day of Class May 3;

### **Introductory Reader**

1. White, T.H. 1987, (247-252) "The Passing of Camelot" Extract in: *Philosophical Perspectives on Peace*. H. Kainz, Ed. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.
2. Avruch .K Culture and Conflict Resolution 1998. United State Institute of Peace, Washington DC.
3. Augsburger, D.W. 1992, *Conflict Mediation across Cultures: Pathways and Patterns*; Westminster/John Knox Press Louisville, Kentucky
4. Barna, Laray, M. 1994, (322-330) "Stumbling Blocks in Intercultural Communication", in *Intercultural Communications: A Reader*, Ed., L. Samovar, Belmont: Wadsworth.
5. Burton, John. 1997. Needs Theory. In: *Violence Explained*. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 32-40.
6. Crenshaw, Martha. 2007 (67-82) "Terrorism and Global Security" in *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*, ed. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall, (Washington D.C: United States Institute of Peace Press.
7. Mennonite Conciliation Service (MCS). 2000. *Mediation and facilitation training manual*. 4th Ed. Akron, PA: Mennonite Conciliation Service.
8. Galtung, Johan 1999, (Pp. 39-53), "Cultural Violence". In: *Violence and its Alternatives: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. Steger and Lind, Ed. New York: St. Martin's.
9. Gurr, Ted Robert, 1996 (53-75), "Minorities, Nationalists, and Ethnopolitical Conflict" *Managing Global Chaos: Sources of and responses to International Conflict*, Ed. Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela R. Aall. Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.
10. Kriesberg, Louis. 1997. The Development of the Conflict Resolution Field. In: *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. I. William Zartman and J Rasmussen, Eds. Washington, DC: USIP Press. Pp. 51-77.

11. Kriesberg, L. 1998, *Constructive Conflicts, From Escalation to Resolution*; Rowman & Littlefield Inc. England
12. Lederach, John Paul, 2001, (841-855) "Civil Society and Reconciliation" in *Turbulent Peace* Washington D.C.; United States Institute of Peace Press.
13. Bush, Robert A. Baruch and Joseph P. Folger. 2005. A Transformative View of Conflict and Mediation. In *The Promise of Mediation: A Transformative Approach to Conflict*. San Francisco: Jossey- Bass
14. Abramson, Lauren and Donald Moore. 2002. The Psychology of Community Conferencing." In: *Repairing Communities through Restorative Justice*. J. Perry, ed. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association. Pp. 123-139.
15. Schlegel, Alice. 2004. Contentious But Not Violent: The Hopi of Northern Arizona. In *Keeping the Peace: Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Societies Around the World*. G. Kemp and D. Fry, eds. Pp. 19-34. New York: Rutledge.
16. Miall, Hugh, et al. 1999. Preventing Violent Conflict. In: *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. New York: Polity Press. Pp. 95-121.
17. Volkan, Vamik. 1997. Chosen Trauma: Unresolved Mourning. In: *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*. Boulder: West view Press. Pp. 36-49.
18. Lederach, John Paul. 2001. Civil Society and Reconciliation. In *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Crocker, Hampson, and Aall, ed. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press. Pp. 841-854.
19. Lipset, Seymour Martin, 1960. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. New York: Doubleday& Company. Pp 77-99
20. Meldrum, A. 2004. *Where we have Hope: A Memoir of Zimbabwe*, New York: Atlantic Monthly Press
21. Kolb et al. 1994. When Talk Works: Profiles of Mediators, Jossey-Bass; Pp 17-60; 395-426
18. Schellenberg J.A. 1996. *Conflict Resolution; Theory, Research and Practice*; State University of New York Press, Albany NY.
22. Zartman, W, I., 2000. Introduction: African Traditional Conflict Medicine. In: I. William Zartman (ed). *Traditional Cures for Modern Conflicts, African Conflict "Medicine."* Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000, 1-11
23. <http://www.usip.org/resources/bringing-peace-niger-delta>