

CONF 101
Conflict and Our World:
Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Section 004
Spring 2010 --Tuesdays 4:30-7:10PM
Venue: ENT 274

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Office hours: Tues. 2:30-3:30

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 ongoing events in Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo and Middle East. 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 interconnection as a global society, as well as the upsurge in certain forms of violence, have heightened the need for more attention to 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 play a part in conflict and its resolution. At the end of the course, you should be able to analyze a conflict, to appreciate the contextual factors that influence conflict, to know the major conflict resolution techniques, and to understand the complexities of the most pressing contemporary conflicts. Conflict 101 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Attending class is expected and is crucial if you would like to succeed in this course. Some of the material will be discussed only in class and not available through the readings. You should plan to complete the assigned readings prior to each 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 idea.

Classroom etiquette: Come to class on time and prepared. Turn off cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. Do not leave the room during class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by talking, passing notes, playing video games, checking email, etc.

In a conflict analysis and resolution class, topics of discussion are often controversial. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals.

Assignments, Percentages of Grade, Due Dates

Participation	Assessed throughout the semester	15%
1st Test	Held in class Mar. 30	15%
2nd Test	Held in Class, Oct. 27	15%
Final paper	Due in class Apr.20 th	20%
Final Exam	Due in class Apr 27 th	20%
Conflict Map presentation	Held in Class, Apr 27 th	15%

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 through Disability Services and notify the Professor officially.

Guidelines for preparing course assignments, such as the final paper will be provided in both this class and on the course Blackboard page. For the conflict map presentation, students will work in teams to present a map of a conflict of their choice. Team members will all receive the same grade for the presentation. *If you are having difficulties coordinating as a team, you should seek assistance from the Professor, Martha Mutisi.*

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 the Professor immediately.

Required Readings

- (1) Pruitt, D.G. & S. Kim. 2004. *Social Conflict: Escalation Stalemate, and Settlement*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- (2) Assefa, H. and P. Wahrhaftig. 1990. *The MOVE Crisis in Philadelphia: Extremist Groups and Conflict Resolution*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- (3) Introductory Reader in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Contents listed below and available on GMU Library electronic reserve. Password is "world."

Please, make your readings a central part of our discussion in class. 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 hard copy or online newspapers such as--*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or by listening to the BBC news or National Public Radio News, among others. The news outlets you consult should adhere to high standards of relatively non-partisan journalism. Bring especially interesting examples to class for discussion.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

General Introduction

Week 1: Jan. 19 Introduction to the Course
What is conflict?
Pruitt 3-14;

Defining and Understanding Conflict

Week 2: Jan. 26 Nature and Sources of Conflict I
Pruitt 15-36;

Week 3: Feb. 2 Nature and Sources of Conflict II
Pruitt 37-62;
Nature and Sources of Conflict III
Mennonite Conciliation Services 78-83
Nature and Sources of Conflict IV
Burton 32-40

Analyzing Conflict

Week 4: Feb 9 Structural and Cultural Violence:
Galtung 39-53
Collier, 197-216

Week 5: Feb. 16 Approaches to Conflict
Tactics
Pruitt 63-84

Week 6: Feb. 23 Conflict Analysis and Mapping
EXAM ONE HELD IN CLASS

Conflict in Process

Week 7: Mar. 2 Escalation
Pruitt 87-120, Asefa and Wahrhaftig, 3-44
Contributions to Escalation
Pruitt 121-150, Asefa and Wahrhaftig, 45-62
The Persistence of Escalation
Pruitt 151-168; Asefa and Wahrhaftig, 63-96

Week 8: Mar. 9 No class this Tuesday (Spring Break Mar. 8th-14th)

Week 9: Mar. 16 Stalemate and De-escalation
Pruitt 171-188;
Problem Solving and Reconciliation
Pruitt 189-225
Movie: Sarafina

Resolving Conflict
Week 10:Mar. 23

Third Party Roles in Conflict
Pruitt 189-225
Pruitt 226-258
Film: The Move

Week 11: Mar. 30

Community and Organizational Conflict
Public Conflict over Resources
Abramson and Moore 123-139
Schelgel, 19-34
EXAM TWO HELD IN CLASS

Week 12: Apr. 6

Protracted Social Conflict
Case Studies: Zimbabwe
(Desktop Research on the case)

Week 13: Apr.13

Transforming Ethnopolitical Conflict
Volkan 36-49
Transitional Justice, Peace and Reconciliation
Lederach 841-854
Film: Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Week 14:Apr. 20

Case study of Transitional Justice Processes-
Gacaca in Rwanda
The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa
(Desktop research on the two case studies)
TERM PAPERS DUE IN CLASS

Week 15: Apr.27

Global Problems/ Global Solutions (Wrap up)
FINAL EXAM DUE IN CLASS
Group Conflict Mapping Presentations in Class

Introductory Reader/ E-reserve Readings

1. 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.
2. Avruch, Kevin. 2002. Cross-Cultural Conflict.” In *The Encyclopedia of LifeSupport Systems (EOLSS)*, Oxford, UK: UNESCO, Eolss Publishers. Access at:[Http://www.eolss.net](http://www.eolss.net)
3. Burton, John. 1997. Needs Theory. In: *Violence Explained*. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 32-40.
4. Galtung, Johan. 1999. Cultural Violence. In: *Violence and its Alternatives: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. Steger and Lind, ed. New York: St. Martin’s. Pp. 39-53.
5. 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.
6. Mennonite Conciliation Service (MCS). 2000. *Mediation and facilitation training manual*. 4th Ed. Akron, PA: Mennonite Conciliation Service.
7. 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: Routledge.
8. Volkan, Vamik. 1997. Chosen Trauma: Unresolved Mourning. In: *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 36-49.