

Syllabus Conf 642 - 003
Integration of Theory and Practice
Spring 2010

Meeting times: Mondays, 7:20-10:00 PM

Meeting place: Arlington: Truland Building, Room 400R

Instructor: Rob Ericson, PhD

Phone: 301-713-1373 x162

Email: rericson@gmu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Primary Texts:

Cheldelin, Sandra, Daniel Druckman and Larissa Fast, eds. (2008), *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. 2nd ed. London: Continuum.

Jeong, Ho-Won (2008), *Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*. Los Angeles: SAGE

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Mall. (2005), *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Polity Press.

Recommended Reading:

McDonald, John W. with Noa Zanolli (2009), *The Shifting Grounds of Conflict and Peacebuilding: Stories and Lessons*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Purpose: *Taken in the last semester of master's students course work, this course assists students in developing their own "generic" theory of conflict by reviewing and integrating their prior course work. Students are expected to demonstrate a holistic comprehension of the field by writing a major essay of publishable quality about the causes, events, and resolution of a particular conflict of their own choosing.*

Students with special needs: Students with documented disabilities or special needs should let me know during the first class period so that I can accommodate their needs throughout the course. We will accommodate religious practices as appropriate; please let me know if there are any conflicts, so we can address any concerns equitably.

Student resources:

Academic advising center – 703-993-2470
993-2380

Campus counseling center – 703-

Office of Disability Services – 703-993-2474

Writing center – 703-993-4491

Classroom conduct: This course will be run as a seminar with an emphasis on discussion and student presentations. We value critical thinking and therefore, it is

imperative that students read the assigned books and articles prior to the class with a critical eye. Active thought and participation in class discussions will be expected. If circumstances make it impossible to attend the class discussion, students should post a 1-page summary of the day's readings, and respond to tailored discussion questions on Blackboard.

Work Ethic: CONF642 is designed as a collaborative learning experience. It is important that students participate in every class and that they contribute actively to groups and class discussions. You are expected to participate enthusiastically in group activities while respecting the opinions and valuing the work of other group members. You cannot succeed in this class with your individual effort alone. However, any individual work should be strictly your own. Presenting another's work as your own (plagiarism) will result in a zero grade for the assignment. While a powerful tool, please use the internet with caution. Reference your sources, resist the temptation to cut and paste material into your own work, and use independent validation of the information where appropriate.

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. 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.

Grading Policy: We will follow all George Mason University polices and use the following deliverables to assign your particular grade points for this class.

Group and individual grade weighting.			
10%	Group discussions and exercises. (written summaries as assigned)	Full participation in each meeting.	Group effort.
15%	Reflective integration paper.	Due February 1, 2010	Individual effort.
25%	Resume and portfolio.	Due February 15, 2010 and February 22, 2010	Individual effort.
10%	Discussion of an intervention method.	Due March 15, 2010	Group effort.
15%	Integrated theory	Due April 12, 2010	Individual effort.

	presentation.	or April 19, 2010	
25%	Final paper	Due May 3, 2010	Individual effort.
100%	<i>Total Individual and Group Effort</i>		

Please ensure that you have access to Blackboard--additional guidance on individual assignments and discussion questions will be posted there. Normally, responding to the discussion question on Blackboard will be optional; however, we will conduct up to one class remotely using discussion questions as a contingency, in case of an unusual event affecting attendance, such as widespread sickness or weather-related road conditions. Please visit our Blackboard site and check your George Mason email regularly.

Reading and Testing Schedule:

Week	Date	Primary Topic	Assignments. Please read any assigned material prior to the class meeting.
1	Monday 1/25/10	Conflict Theory	<i>Contemporary Conflict Resolution</i> Chapter 1
2	Monday 2/1/10	Conflict Concepts	<i>Contemporary Conflict Resolution</i> Chapters 2-4 - Reflective paper due.
3	Monday 2/8/10	Understanding Conflict	<i>Contemporary Conflict Resolution</i> Chapters 5-7
4	Monday 2/15/10	Conflict Resolution Guest: Julie Shedd	<i>Contemporary Conflict Resolution</i> Chapter 8-10 - Resume due
5	Monday 2/22/10	Conflict Ethics	<i>Contemporary Conflict Resolution</i> Chapters 11-16 – Portfolio due
6	Monday 3/1/10	Diagnosing Conflict	<i>Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention</i> Chapters 1-6
7	Monday 3/15/10	Conflict Intervention	<i>Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention</i>

			Chapters 7-21 Select one chapter.
8	Monday 3/22/10	Conflict Analysis	<i>Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis</i> Chapters 1-4
9	Monday 3/29/10	Conflict Processes	<i>Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis</i> Chapters 5-8
10	Monday 4/5/10	Ending Conflict	<i>Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis</i> Chapters 9-11
11	Monday 4/12/10	Individual Presentations	Individual integrated theory proposals.
12	Monday 4/19/10	Individual Presentations	Individual integrated theory proposals.
13	Monday 4/26/10	Conflict Context Guest: Ambassador McDonald	Recommended reading: <i>The Shifting Grounds of Conflict and Peacebuilding: Stories and Lessons</i>
14	Monday 5/3/10	Future of Conflict	No readings. Group exercise - Final paper due.

English Language Institute:

The English Language Institute offers free English language tutoring to non-native English speaking students who are referred by a member of the GMU faculty or staff.

For more information contact 703-993-3642 or malle2@gmu.edu.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center is a free writing resource that offers individual, group, and online tutoring. For general questions and comments please contact us at wcenter@gmu.edu or call: 703-993-4491.