

**CONFLICT 642: INTEGRATION**  
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution  
George Mason University  
Spring 2007  
Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10  
Original Building Room 269

Instructor: Adina Friedman  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Phone: 703-725-2926  
Email: [afriedm1@gmu.edu](mailto:afriedm1@gmu.edu)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended for students in their last semester of M.S coursework. Students will be expected to integrate material they have learned throughout the entire course of their studies, to demonstrate a holistic approach to and understanding of the field of conflict analysis and resolution, to be able to view the field in the context of other related fields, and to connect research, theory and practice.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will create their own unique integration of their masters program, and present these in several ways:

**Integration Exercise (20%).** Topics/questions will be given out February 28 and essays will be due March 7. Students will be asked to write one or two essay-style responses, reflecting upon specific questions and exemplifying their understanding and application of the concept of integration.

**Resume and Cover letter (5%)** Due March 28. In preparation for the sessions on careers in the field, prepare a resume and cover letter in response to any job posting of your choice.

**Portfolio (30%)** Due April 18. Students will prepare portfolio binders which present their integrated work from their masters coursework and other extracurricular related experiences. Students should include all papers, reports, etc of which they are proud. This is one assignment for which submitting work that was submitted for another course IS ok. You are encouraged to revise your work for inclusion in your portfolio. Also, your portfolio should be organized and introduced with clear and succinct outlines of your skills and expertise. Consider including extracurricular applications of conflict analysis and resolution, as well.

**Portfolio and Mapping Presentation (5%)** April 18 & 25. All participants will briefly (6-7 minutes) present the highlights of their portfolio and field mapping. Prepare short presentation on the key insights of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

**Mapping the Field (30%)** Due April 20. This major paper should succinctly summarize the key things you know about conflict analysis and resolution. It is intended to be a paper that puts forth the key wisdom of our field in a clear and understandable way. What are the basic areas of consensus in our field about conflict analysis and resolution? Where are there areas of disagreement, and why are these present? What core bodies of knowledge characterize our field as you have come to know it in the last few years? 10-15 pages, double spaced, 12 point font.

**Class participation (10%)** All students are expected to participate actively in discussion in this seminar style class. Absences will be excused only in exceptional circumstances.

## **COURSE READINGS**

Ramsbotham et al will be used as one of the main reference books for this course. It should be in the GMU bookstore by the second week of classes, and many of you may have it from previous courses. You are expected to regularly augment this text by reading or rereading other texts mentioned in class discussions or covered in other ICAR courses. Some additional readings will be posted on e-reserves.

### **Main Reference Book:**

Ramsbotham, Oliver, et al. 2005. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

### **Additional Suggested Books:**

Cheldelin, Sandra, et al. 2003. *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. London and New York: Continuum.

Schellenberg J. A. 1996. *Conflict Resolution: Theory, Research and Practice*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

\* Other texts and readings covered throughout the MS program.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week 1: Integration Overview**

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Introductions, discussion and in-class integration exercise

### **Week 2: Contextualizing the Field**

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Re-examining the origins of the field and contextualizing it within the broader realm of related fields, looking at the ways in which these fields complement and mutually influence one another.

### **Week 3: Approaches to Conflict**

Wednesday, February 7

Discussion of the underlying assumptions of the field of conflict analysis and resolution and the questions it attempts to answer. Relating the field of conflict resolution to other fields and approaches, such as conflict management, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, etc.

**Week 4: Integrating Theories**

Wednesday, February 14

Integrating different theories from within the field of CR and from different fields.

**Week 5: Connecting Analysis to Intervention**

Wednesday, February 21

Integration of the knowledge we can obtain from conflict analysis and our choices of intervention approaches (types, timing, etc).

**Week 6: More on Connecting Analysis to Intervention; Evaluation**

Wednesday, February 28

Continue discussion from previous week. How do we define and measure success?

**Week 7: Connecting Research, Theory and Practice**

Wednesday, March 7

Discuss the ways in which research, theory and practice inform one another. Integrate different research and evaluation methods. Integrate different approaches to practice.

Review of what it means to be a reflective practitioner.

\*\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*\*

**Week 8: More on Contextualizing the Field, Connecting it to Other Fields and “Mainstreaming”**

Wednesday, March 21

**Week 9: Careers in the Field I**

Wednesday, March 28

**Week 10: Careers in the Field II**

Wednesday, April 4

**Week 11 More on Integrating Academia & Practice**

Wednesday, April 11

**Week 12: Portfolio Presentations**

Wednesday, April 18

**Week 13: Portfolio Presentations**

Wednesday, April 25

**Week 14: Tying it all together**

Wednesday, May 2