

Conflict 690/890 Syllabus
Domestic Applied Practice and Theory (APT)
Fall/Spring 2004-5

Instructor: Dr. Linda M. Johnston

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Course Description:

Conflict 690/890, Domestic Applied Practice and Theory, is a six credit, year-long course taught over two semesters. Students register for both semesters in Fall and then Spring. The students work in teams to complete a project within the US. The instructor provides overview, guidance, and consulting for the team project. The course builds on other practice and theory courses and provides knowledge, skills, and abilities for the students' further work in the field either for research for a thesis or dissertation, independent study, or upon graduation.

The purpose of the course is to build conflict intervention skills. Students learn field research techniques, conflict analysis, intervention design, intervention processes, evaluation, consulting, contracting, reflective practice, team work, entry, and exit.

Course Structure:

APT is a fieldwork course in which most of the time is spent in the field investigating conflicts and interrelating with those in conflict situations. Each team designs their own project in cooperation with the parties in the conflict situation and the instructor. Teams meet with the instructor on a regular basis to reflect on the experience, work toward the of integration of theory and practice, and to discuss ethical considerations. Teams work with the conflict parties to help in the achievement of the party's goals in the conflict situation.

As part of the team learning experience, each team takes on different leadership roles, divides up tasks, conducts archival research the conflict situation outside of the immediate conflict, structures its goals both individually and collectively, sets their own rules for interacting with each other, structures their own time, and defines their criteria for success.

Course Requirements:

Participation: All students must participate in and support all the activities of their team. This includes work on theory, practice, research, service, and ethics. All students must visibly contribute to team projects and products. While in the field, all team members must conduct themselves in ways that promote and honor the field of conflict resolution, ICAR, and their fellow team members. This includes:

- a) honestly represent their qualifications and status as students
- b) maintain confidentiality
- c) build trust and cooperation
- d) respect and empower others

Required Readings: There are no fixed readings for this course. Each team decides what readings are relevant to their project. Readings may be divided up among the team members, with individual members reporting to the group on what they have read. Each team should construct a bibliography of readings relevant to their project. Students may also choose to keep minutes of their meetings, journals, logs, etc. to add to the final product or portfolio of work.

Exams: There are no midterm or final exams in this course. Self and team evaluations are encouraged in order to benchmark both personal and team progress.

Course Grading: Each APT team develops its own criteria for grading in collaboration with the faculty advisor. Teams may decide to receive one grade for the entire team or opt for individual grades for each member of the team. Criteria for grading may include some of the following: teamwork, integration, service, personal growth, contribution to the project, or contribution to the field. At the end of the first semester, all students receive an “IP” (In Progress) grade. At the end of Spring semester, the students receive the same grade for both semesters (all six credits).

Course Schedule: Each team project and schedule is unique. A general course pattern has emerged: identify a conflict issue, identify background material for a specific project, develop the team process, develop the team project, negotiate the work of the team, begin substantive work, determine goals, conduct formative evaluation, link theory to practice, complete reading and research as necessitates, complete field work, reflection on practice, complete final reports, conduct summative evaluation, report back to the conflict parties as required, and manage the transition to a new team as needed.