

## **Conflict 740**

### **Third Party Roles in Conflict**

Semester: Spring 2005

Class Time: Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10 p.m.

Location: Room 666A, Truland Building

Professor: Dr. Linda M. Johnston; office: 703.993.3653; email: ljohnst3@gmu.edu

Prerequisites: Conflict 501 or 801, and 713

#### **Course Description:**

The focus of this course is to examine the theory behind the nature of third party roles. We will be looking at the continuum of “individuals as intervenors” all the way to more “complex systems of intervention.”

We will look first at the different roles and functions of intervenors and then proceed to the characteristics needed for various types of work. We will study the assumptions that underlie types of intervention.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Evaluation for grading purposes will be based on three areas:

1) Class Participation: 20%

This will be based on a demonstrated understanding of reading assignments and attendance.

2) Oral Report: 40%

This first assignment is an oral report on an interview with a third party. If you are currently working as a third party, this should be someone whose third party practice is very different from your own. I will approve your selection of an interviewee in advance. The aim of this assignment is to figure out the assumptions behind why this person does the kind of work he or she does. I will provide you with a list of possible questions to be addressed as part of the interview. You will report on this interview in class. This should be a 20-30 minute presentation. One paragraph explanation of who you will interview and why you chose this person due on February 9, 2005.

3) Written Report: 40%

This second assignment is a written one. It is the analysis of a third party or parties in a particular conflict. This should be a case study approach, using library research and the readings for class as the basis for understanding the conflict. This paper should include a description of the conflict, as it existed at the time of the chosen intervention. Secondly, this paper should include a thorough description of the third party's role in the conflict: characteristics, theoretical assumptions behind his or her work, intervention strategies, timing, methods of entry, and intervention tactics. Lastly, the paper should include any problems that arose or ethical issues that were encountered during the intervention. This should be a 20-25 page paper. Final Papers due May 13, 2005.

**Course Reading:**

1) There are readings available in the Burton Library. You can copy these on your own.

2) There are five required books for the class:

Bush, R.A., Folger, J.P., *The Promise of Mediation: Responding to Conflict Through Empowerment and Recognition*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA, 1994.

Dukes, E.F., Pischolish, M.A., Stephens, J.B., *Reaching for Higher Ground in Conflict Resolution: Tools for Powerful Groups and Communities*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA, 2000. (This book is out of print, but I will have copies available for sale the first day of class.)

Kolb, D.M. and Associates, *When Talk Works: Profiles of Mediators*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA, 1994.

Lederach, J.P., *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*, US Institute of Peace, Washington, DC, 1997.

Moore, C.W., *The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA, 2003.

3) There are three working papers for the class:

A) Working Paper #4, *A Willingness to Talk*, by Christopher Mitchell. (I will have copies of this available for sale the first day of class.)

B) Working Paper #9, *Cutting Losses: Reflection on Appropriate Timing*, by Christopher Mitchell. (I will have copies of this available for sale the first day of class.)

C) Program on Conflict Resolution Working Paper: 1987-1, *The Ideologies of Mediation: The Movement's Own Story*, by Peter Adler, Karen Lovaas, and Neal Milner. (I am negotiating with University of Hawaii to get you free copies of this.)

**Weekly Schedule:****Week 1: January 26, 2005**

**Topics:** Introduction, review of syllabus, and expectations for class.  
What are third party roles? What determines third party activity?

Choose days for presentations.

**Week 2: February 2, 2005**

**Topics:** Defining our terms. What are third parties and what do they do for themselves and others? And what do they get out of it?

Reading:

Readings in reader

Moore: Chapters 1-7

**Week 3: February 9, 2005**

**Topics:** Theories of appropriate timing. How do third parties decide when to act? Contingency planning.

Interviewees determined.

Reading:

Two working papers from ICAR: Willingness to Talk and Cutting Losses

Readings in reader

Moore: Chapters 8-16, Conclusions

**Week 4: February 16, 2005**

**Topics:** What do third parties do? Context and types of intervention.

Reading:

Readings in reader

Kolb, et al: Chapters 1-5

**Week 5: February 23, 2005**

**Topics:** What else do third parties do? Forms of mediation.

Reading:

Readings in reader

Kolb, et al: Chapters 6-8

**Week 6: March 2, 2005**

**Topics:** A framework for third party roles and functions: Conciliation and power moves.

Class presentations

Reading:

Readings in reader

Kolb, et al: Chapters 9-12, Conclusions

**Week 7: March 9, 2005**

**Topics:** Values and goals of third party work. Consultation.

Class presentations

Mid-course evaluation

Reading:

Readings in reader

One reading from University of Hawaii: The Ideologies of Mediation.

**March 16, 2005 Spring Break-No Class**

**Week 8: March 23, 2005**

**Topics:** Myths about third party work. What don't third parties do? Evaluating work.

Class presentations

Reading:

Readings in reader

Lederach: entire book

**Week 9: March 30, 2005**

**Topics:** The ethics of intervention.

Reading:

Readings in reader

Bush and Folger: Chapters 1-6

**Week 10: April 6, 2005**

**Topics:** Power, empowerment, and coercion. Other third party roles.

Reading:

Readings in reader

Bush and Folger: Chapters 7-10

**Week 11: April 13, 2005**

**Topics:** Issues of neutrality

Reading:

Readings in reader

Dukes, et al: Chapters 1-5

**Week 12: April 20, 2005**

**Topics:** Issues of accountability. Competencies of practice.

Reading:

Readings in reader

Dukes, et al: Chapters 5-10

**Week 13: April 27, 2005**

**Topics:** Qualifications, assessment, evaluation, and self-reflection

Reading:

Readings in reader

**Week 14: May 4, 2005**

**Topics:** Wrap up discussion

Reading:  
Readings in reader

**Final Papers due May 13<sup>th</sup>, by 5 p.m. at ICAR**