

CONF 101
Conflict and Our World:
Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Spring 2006

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:45am, ENT 276

Instructor: Ms. Dena Hawes, Ph.D. candidate
Office: Robinson B365

Email: dhawes@gmu.edu
Office hours: Tues. 12:15-1:45

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 events of the London subway bombing. Conflict can be destructive, for example, when it damages relationships among neighbors or relatives. 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.

Attendance in class is not only mandatory but also crucial if you would like to succeed in this course. Some of the material will be discussed only in class and not in 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 class unless you have an emergency. Do not disturb others by talking, passing notes, etc. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open dialogue is our goal.

Conflict 101 fulfills the University General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Assignments, Percentages of Grade, Due Dates

Class participation	Assessed throughout the semester	10%
Web discussion participation	Assessed throughout the semester	10%
Short essay (2 pages)	Due September 28	5%
Three tests	Held in class	60%
Final take-home exam	Due Date TBA	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 by contacting Professor Hirsch.

Guidelines for preparing the short essay and the final paper will be provided in class and on the course WebCT page (version 4.1). The short essay will focus on a conflict on George Mason campus. The final take-home exam will include mapping a specific conflict, either interpersonal, organizational/community, or international.

Students are required to participate in a web discussion group monitored by the course assistants. You must post to the discussion two times prior to each exam.

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 Professor Hirsch or one of the course assistants 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. Directions to access e-reserve: <http://oscr.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/ers/OSCRgen.cgi>
select course: Conf 101 001
select instructor: Hawes, Dena
click on icon to the left
password will be given in class. Do not use caps or spaces.

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 (online)--*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or by listening to the BBC news or National Public Radio News. The news outlets you consult should adhere to high standards of journalism. Bring especially interesting examples to class for discussion or refer to them on the discussion board.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

January 24 Introduction to the course

Defining Conflict

January 26 What is conflict?
Pruitt 3-14, White 247-252

January 31 Nature and Sources of Conflict I
Pruitt 15-36; Barna 322-330

February 2 Nature and Sources of Conflict II
Pruitt 56-62; Avruch

February 7 Nature and Sources of Conflict III
Burton 32-40; Mennonite Conciliation Services 78-83

Analyzing Conflict

February 9 Strategies
Pruitt 37-56

February 14 Tactics
Pruitt 63-84
SHORT ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

February 16 Approaches to analyzing and resolving conflict
Kriesberg 51-77

February 21 **EXAM ONE**

Conflict in Process

February 23 Pruitt 87-120; Assefa and Wahrhaftig 3-44

February 28 Pruitt 121-150; Assefa and Wahrhaftig 45-62

March 2 Pruitt 151-168; Assefa and Wahrhaftig 63-96

March 6 ****Pruitt 171-188; Assefa and Wahrhaftig 97-118**
Video: *The Bombing of West Philly*

March 9 Assefa and Wahrhaftig 119-152

March 14 Spring Break: Classes do not meet

- March 16 Spring Break: Classes do not meet
- March 21 Alternatives to Violence: Historical Perspectives
Ackerman and Duvall 305-333
Video: Civil Rights/Non-Violent Movement in Nashville, TN

Resolving Conflict

- March 23 **EXAM TWO**
- March 28 Mediation Workshop
Pruitt 189-225
Guest speaker: TBA
Interactive mediation of simulated conflict
- March 30 Interpersonal Conflict
Pruitt 226-258
- April 4 Transforming Interpersonal Conflict
Bush and Folger 41-84
- April 6 Transforming Community, Los Angeles Riots, 1992
1992 Los Angeles Riots, article, pp 1-7
- April 11 Transforming Community, L.A. Riots, 1992
Video: Anna Deveare Smith performance “Twilight Los Angeles, 1992”
T.R. Gurr 22-58 (Relative Deprivation)
- April 13 International Conflict
Miall 95-127
- April 18 Interactive problem-solving workshop
Guest speakers TBA
Sauders, 251-292
- April 20 Transforming Ethnopolitical Conflict (Armenian/Azerbaijani conflict)
Tracey German 1-8, Volkan 36-49

The Future of Conflict

- April 25 Peace, Reconciliation
Lederach 841-854, Jeong 7-17
- April 27 Belief, Ritual, and Peacebuilding
Schirch 145-161, Irani and Funk 53-74

May 2 **EXAM THREE**

May 4 Wrap-up

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE DATE TBA

Introductory Reader

1. White, T.H. 1987. The Passing of Camelot. Extract in: *Philosophical Perspectives on Peace*. H. Kainz, ed. Pp. 247-252. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.
2. Barna, LaRay. N. 1988. "Stumbling Blocks in Intercultural Communication." In: *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*. L. Samovar and R. Porter. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. 322-30.
3. Avruch, Kevin. 2002. Cross-Cultural Conflict." In *The Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*, Oxford, UK: UNESCO, Eolss Publishers. Access at: [Http://www.eolss.net](http://www.eolss.net)
4. Burton, John. 1997. Needs Theory. In: *Violence Explained*. Manchester University Press. Pp 32-40
5. Mennonite Conciliation Service (MCS). 2000. *Mediation and facilitation training manual*. 4th Ed. Akron, PA: Mennonite Conciliation Service.
6. Kriesberg, Louis. 1997. The Development of the Conflict Resolution Field. In: *Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques*. I. William Zartman and J Rasmussen, eds. Washington, DC: USIP Press. Pp. 51-77.
7. Ackerman, Peter and Jack Duvall. 2000. The American South: Campaign for Civil Rights. In: *A Force More Powerful*. New York: Palgrave. Pp. 305-333.
8. Bush, Robert A. Baruch and Joseph P. Folger. 2005. A Transformative View of Conflict and Mediation. In: *The Promise of Mediation: The Transformative Approach to Conflict*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. Pp 41-83
9. 1992 Los Angeles Riots, internet article, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, pp 1-7
10. Gurr, Ted Robert. 1970. Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence. In: *Why Men Rebel*. Princeton University Press. Pp 22-58
11. Miall, Hugh, Ramsbotham, Oliver, Woodhouse, Tom. 1999. Preventing Violent Conflict In: *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Polity Press. Pp 95-127
12. Saunders, Harold H. In: book edited by Stern, Paul C. and Druckman, Daniel (editors). 2000. Interactive Conflict Resolution: A View for Policy Makers on Making and Building Peace. In: *International Conflict Resolution After the Cold War*. National Academic Press. Pp 251-293.
13. German, Tracy. 2005. "Untangling the Karabakh Knot", Conflict Studies Research Center, Caucasus Series 05/28.
14. Volkan, Vamik. 1997. Chosen Trauma: Unresolved Mourning. In: *Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 36-49.

15. 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.
16. Jeong, Ho-Won. 2000. Challenges for Peace. In: *Peace and Conflict Studies: an Introduction*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate. Pp 7-17
17. Schirch, Lisa. 2001. Ritual Reconciliation: Transforming Identity/Reframing Conflict. In *Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence: Theory and Practice*. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, ed. New York: Lexington. Pp. 145-161.
18. Irani, George and Nathan Funk. 1998. Rituals of Reconciliation: Arab-Islamic Perspectives. *Arab Studies Quarterly*. 20.4:53-74.