

Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Theory and Practice

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Fall 1994

Course Description

This interdisciplinary course will examine conflict analysis and resolution as a field of theoretical inquiry, research and practice and provide students with a broad overview of the field. In addition to exploring the history of the field and contemporary debates, the course will introduce a number of frameworks for interpreting conflict, emphasizing major areas of theoretical interest and contention and stressing the importance of integrating theory, research and practice. Particular attention will be devoted to exploring the role of crucial factors such as culture, power asymmetries, ethnicity, race, gender, class, religion, and ideology in the analysis and resolution of different types of conflict.

The primary objective of the course is to assist students in clarifying their perspectives on conflict resolution by posing unsettling questions in a setting conducive to dialogue. By the end of the term, it is hoped that students will have developed their own approach to conflict resolution and peacemaking based on the analysis and interpretation of work by various scholars in the field and on the recognition of their own social location, life experiences and values. A case study approach will be utilized to examine the applicability of various theoretical frameworks and intervention models to different types of "real-world" conflicts at all social levels, from the interpersonal to the international.

Course Requirements

1. *Response Cards & Class Participation -- 15%* At the beginning of the first class of each week, you should come with 2 copies of a completed 5 x 8 card on which they have recorded *at least two* questions that the readings raised for you and some brief reactions to the readings, such as what you gained from the readings, which readings did you like best, and what did you agree and disagree with in the readings. One copy of these response cards will be collected at the beginning of each class. These cards which will form the basis of our class discussions will be ungraded, but you will receive credit for turning them in and for class participation.

2. *A Case Study Analysis & 2 Reflective Essays -- 30% (2 x 15%)* . Follow the development of a contemporary conflict and keep a day-by-day journal of that conflict. It is recommended that you choose a conflict that is covered quite regularly by The Washington Post or The New York Times. You do not to cover both newspapers, although it is recommended to pay attention to the different representations of that particular conflict. For this purpose, students may want to follow weekly magazines such as The Nation, In This Times and The Village Voice. The journal will provide the primary empirical material for 2 reflective essays that should reflect your ability to explore the connections between the readings and the particular "real world" conflict they chose to analyze. Essays should consist of 5-8 typed and double-spaced pages. The first essay, which should integrate the reading and class discussions concerning *conflict analysis* is due on *October 20*. The second essay should focus on attempts to resolve the conflict and is due on *November 17*.

3. *Group Project & Class Presentation -- 25%* Students (in groups of 3-5) will be required to study a particular conflict, prepare 2 class presentations of no more than 20 minutes each and submit 2 written reports (8-10 typed and double spaced pages). The first round of group presentations and reports (due October 22) will focus on *conflict analysis* and the second round (due November 18) on *conflict resolution*. It is recommended that students divide into groups based on their personal case studies. Class presentations should reflect your ability to work as part of a team and your and your group's ability to integrate and apply theoretical frameworks and models to particular cases. There will be two sessions designed to enable groups to meet and prepare for class presentations, out-of-class group meetings may

be necessary to complete this project. If you may not be able to fully participate in the group project please contact me ASAP for an alternative assignment.

4. *Final Exam or Paper--30%* You will have a choice between a take-home final exam and a comprehensive research paper. 6 Exam questions will be distributed during the last week of classes. Students will have to answer 3 questions (10-15 typed and double spaced pages). Since it is a take-home exam, you should use some bibliographic references to substantiate your arguments. The research paper, which should not exceed 20-25 typed double-spaced pages, may be an extension of the reflective essays, grounding the analysis of the particular conflict and the prospects for its resolution in substantive library research. Exams and papers are due a week from the date of the last class (December 8).

Required Texts:

Burton, John & Frank Dukes, *Conflict: Practices in Management. Settlement, Resolution*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Fisher, Roger & William Ury, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. New York, Penguin Books, 1988.

Recommended Texts:

Sandole, Dennis & Hugo van der Merwe, eds., *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application*, Manchester & New York: Manchester University Press, 1993.

Montville, Joseph, ed. *Conflict and Peacemaking in Multiethnic Societies*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1990.

Rubin, Jeffrey, Dean G. Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, eds., *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement*, Second Edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.

Selected articles.

Course Schedule

September 1 Introductory Class

--Introduction to the course and to one another, review of the syllabus, discussion of course requirements, readings, and students' expectations for the class.

September 15 Conflict Analysis & Resolution in Context: History, Contemporary Debates and Future Directions

--Introductory lecture: "Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Perspectives, Contexts, Questions."

--Life History Exercise

Haus, Charles. "The End of the Cold War: Challenges for Peace Education. " *Peace & Change*, 15, No. 3 (July 1990): 223-239.

Boulding, Kenneth. "Future Directions in Conflict and Peace Studies." In *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 35-50. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Scimecca, Joseph. "Conflict Resolution in the United States: The Emergence of a Profession?" In *Conflict Resolution: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Kevin Avruch, Peter W. Black and Joseph A. Scimecca, 19-40. New York: Greenwood Press.

September 22 Framing the Issues, Defining the Terms

Kriesberg, Louis. "Conflict Resolution Applications to Peace Studies." *Peace & Change*, 16, No. 4 (October 1991): 400-417.

Chernus, Ira. "Order and Disorder in the Definition of Peace. " *Peace & Change*, 18, No. 2 (April 1993): 99-125.

Rupesinghe, Kumar. "The Disappearing Boundaries between Internal and External Conflicts." In *New Agendas for Peace Research: Conflict and Security Reexamined*, edited by Elise Boulding, 43-66. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1992.

Wahlstrom, Riitta. "The Challenge of Peace Education: Replacing Cultures of Militarism." In *New Agendas for Peace Research: Conflict and Security Reexamined*, edited by Elise Boulding, 171 - 183. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1992.

Note: By the end of this session you should have a topic for your personal case study

September 29 Contending Frameworks for Interpreting Conflict I

Burton, John. *Conflict Resolution and Provention*, 1-48. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Azar, Edward E. "Protracted International Conflicts: Ten Propositions," in *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 145-155. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

A.J.R. Groom. "Paradigms in Conflict: The Strategist, the Conflict Researcher and the Peace Researcher." In *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 71-98. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Kent, George. "Analyzing Conflict and Violence." *Peace & Change*, 18, No 4 (October 1993): 373-398.

October 6 Contending Frameworks for Interpreting Conflict II

Pruitt, Dean & Jeffrey Rubin. *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, Entrapment!* 1-61. New York: Random House.

Galtung Johan. "The Emerging Conflict Formations." In *Restructuring for World Peace on the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Katharine Tehranian and Majid Tehranian, 23-44. New Jersey: Hampton Press, INC, 1992.

Volkan, Vamik D. "Psychoanalytic Aspects of Ethnic Conflicts." In *Conflict and Peacemaking in Multiethnic Societies*, edited by Volkan, Vamik, et al., 83-91. Lexington Books, 1989.

Simona Sharoni. "Toward Feminist Theorizing in Conflict Resolution."

Note: The last part of this session will be devoted to forming small groups for case study presentations.

October 13 No regular class: Students meet in small groups to prepare class presentations

October 20 Conflict Dynamics: Key Processes and Crucial Factors

Avruch, Kevin and Peter W. Black. "The Culture Question and Conflict Resolution." *Peace & Change*, 16, No. 1 (January 1991): 22-45.

Said, Abdul Aziz & Abdul Karim Bangura. "Ethnicity's Threat to Peace." In *Rethinking Peace*, edited by Robert Elias and Jennifer Turpin, 98-103. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1994.

Northrup A. Terrell. "The Dynamics of Identity in Personal and Social Conflict," in *Intractable Conflicts and Their Transformation*, edited by Louis Kriesberg, Terrell Northrup and Stuart Thorson, 55-82. New York: Syracuse University Press, 1989.

Rubenstein Richard. "The Analysis and Resolution of Class Conflict," in *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application*, edited by Dennis Sandole J.D. Hugo van der Merwe. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993.

Hacker, Andrew. *Two Nations: Black White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*, 31-46. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992.

Saturday, October 22 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Small Group Case Study Presentations -- Analysis (A Double Session in lieu of classes regularly scheduled for October 13 and November 3)

October 27 Approaches to Conflict Resolution I: Management, Settlement and Transformation

Burton, John and Frank Dukes. *Conflict: Practices in Management, Settlement & Resolution*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Fisher, Roger and William Ury. *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. Boston: HoughtonMifflin, 1981.

Louis Kriesberg. "Transforming Conflicts in the Middle East and Central Europe." In *Intractable Conflicts and Their Transformation*, edited by Louis Kriesberg, Terrell Northrup and Stuart Thorson, 109-131. New York: Syracuse University Press, 1989.

Laue, James H. "The Emergence and Institutionalization of Third-Party Roles in Conflict." In *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 256-272. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Kelman, Herbert C. "Interactive Problem-Solving: A Social-Psychological Approach to Conflict Resolution." In *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 199-215. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

November 10 Approaches to Conflict Resolution II: Crucial Factors and New Models

Kolb Deborah and Gloria Coolidge. "Her Place at the Table: A Consideration of Gender Issues in Negotiation." In *Negotiation: Theory and Practice*, edited by William Breslin and Jeffrey Rubin. Cambridge: Harvard Program on Negotiation, 1991.

Warfield, Wallace. "Factors of Race, Culture and Ethnicity in Dispute Resolution." R.B.J. Walker. *One World, Many Worlds: Struggles for a Just World Peace*, 115-170. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1988.

Byanyima, Winifred. "How Guerrillas Became Peace Builders." In *New Agendas for Peace Research: Conflict and Security Reexamined*, edited by Elise Boulding, 129-144. Boulder: Lynne Reinner Publishers, 1992.

November 17 From Theory to Practice: Conflict Resolution Strategies and Practices

Dedring, Juergan. "Silently: How UN Good Offices Work," in *New Agendas for Peace Research: Conflict and Security Reexamined*, edited by Elise Boulding, 155-169. Boulder: Lynne Reinner Publishers, 1992.

Kolb, Deborah. "Women's Work: Peacemaking in Organization," in *Hidden Conflicts in Organizations: Uncovering Behind the Scenes Disputes*, edited by Deborah Kolb and Jean Bartunek, 64-93. CA: Sage Publications, 1992.

Van der Merwe, Hendrik, Johann Maree, Andre Zaiman, Cathy Philip and A.D. Muller. "Principles of Communication Between Adversaries in South Africa," in *Conflict: Readings in Management & Resolution*, edited by John Burton and Frank Dukes, 216-240. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Rubenstein, Richard. "The Los Angeles Riots: Causes and Cures," *Journal of Intergroup Relations*, (Winter 1992-1993):

Senghaas-Knobloch, Eva. "Social Learning and Conflict Resolution in a Changing Europe," in *Agendas for Peace Research: Conflict and Security Reexamined*, edited by Elise Boulding, 13-21. Boulder: Lynne Reinner Publishers, 1992.

November 18, Friday 6:00 PM-10:00 PM: Small Group Case Study Presentations -- Resolution (A session in lieu of class regularly scheduled for November 22)

December 1 The Future of Conflict Resolution: Critical Explorations

Paul E. Salem. "A Critique of Western Conflict Resolution from a Non-Western Perspective." *Negotiation Journal*, (October 1993): 289-97.

Terrell A. Northrup. "Getting to Maybe: The Uneasy Partnership between Conflict Theory and Feminist Theory." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Washington, D.C., March 1994.

Simona Sharoni. "Conflict Resolution and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Critical Explorations."

Bradley S. Klein. "After Strategy: The Search for a Post-Modern Politics of Peace." *Alternatives*, 13 (1988): 239-318.

Rubenstein, Richard. "Dispute Resolution on the Eastern Frontier: some Questions for Modern Missionaries." *Negotiation Journal*, (July 1992): 205-213.

Note: *Pick-up take-home exam.*