

Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

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Haverford College
Fall 1994

Course Description

This course will provide a broad and interdisciplinary overview of the study and practice of conflict management. Areas to be introduced will include interpersonal conflict and conflict management, public policy and legal disputes and alternative dispute resolution (ADR), community conflict and mediation, organizational, ethnic and international conflict and conflict management. It will also serve as a foundation course for students in or j considering the peace studies concentration.

The course will be divided into three parts:

- I. Conflict and conflict management at various levels of analysis from intrapersonal to international.
- II. Research methods in conflict analysis and management.
- III. Various Methods of Conflict intervention

Course Requirements

Class attendance: Faithful.

Reflexive journal: Students will keep a very well written (and typed) journal recording their analyses and personal reflections on course readings, class sessions, and their role and experience in the group project (see below). The journals will be turned in three times during the semester (September 18, October 20, December 6).

Group project (midterm): Students will work in small groups to select and present a specific conflict case study (e.g. the baseball conflict, the conflict in Bosnia, a roommate conflict, a racial dispute etc) to further explore one of the six levels of conflict analysis examined during the first part of the course. They will work together to define their group and individual tasks select background descriptive or analytical readings for their peers and present their case study. Presentations, for which each group will have approximately 30 minutes, may be frontal or interactive. They may be made by a group representative or all group members. Individual group members will use their journals as a vehicle for "self-study" to document and analyze their own role in the group, and the processes used by the group to make decisions, manage conflicts and complete its task. In addition to maintaining a running record of this experience in their journal, students are to turn in a single summary analysis of their group project and presentation to serve as their mid-term.

Final paper and presentation: Beginning in the second half of the semester students will select a topic in peace and conflict studies that is personally and intellectually compelling to them, in which to conduct research. They will be responsible for conducting original field research and writing a research paper of approximately 10 pages (maximum 15), or employing an alternative format to be agreed to by professor including, for example, prose, poetry, drama, film, dance, etc. Additionally, students will summarize their main research questions and discoveries to their peers during the final class sessions. Initial paper topics and outlines will be due on November 1. Final papers will be due on December 16.

Course Readings

Texts:

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

Hocker, Joyce, and Wilmot, William (1994) (4th Ed.). *Interpersonal Conflict* Dubuque, Iowa: Brown & Benchmark Publishers.

Fisher, Roger and Ury, William (1991) (2nd. ed.). *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. New York: Penguin.

Kottler, Jeffrey (1994). *Beyond Blame: A New Way of Resolving conflicts in Relationships* , San Francisco, Ca: Jossey-Bass.

Essays (on reserve as listed in syllabus and to be announced)

Course Schedule

Part I: Levels of Conflict Analysis

August 30 - Introduction and Overview

September 1 - Conflict from the inside out

Buber ("The Way..." on reserve),
Kottler (Introduction),
Freud/Einstein (correspondence - on reserve)

September 6 - No class (Rosh Hashanah)

September 8 - Beyond Blame

Kottler (through chapter 8)
Hocker and Wilmot (chapter 7)

September 13 - Interpersonal Conflict

Hocker and Wilmot (Intro. thru chapter 3)

September 15 - No class (Yom Kippur)

September 18 - (Sunday make up class TBA) - Interpersonal Conflict

Hocker and Wilmot (Chapters 4-5)

(Turn in Journals)

September 20 - No class (Sukkot)

September 22 - Intergroup conflict

TBA

September 27 - Organizational Conflict

Fisher/Ury (all)

Hocker and Wilmot (chapter 8)

Kottler (chapter 9)

September 29 - Legal and Public Policy Disputes

Susskind and Cruikshank (*Breaking the Impasse*, intro.- p.80 - on reserve)

William Burger ("Isn't There a Better Way?" - on reserve)

Additions TBA

October 4 - International and Ethnic Conflict

Rothman ("The Human Dimension" on reserve)

Morgenthaw ("Negotiation..." on reserve)

Additions TBA

October 6 - Intransigent Conflict across levels

Rothman/Klein ("The Role of Prenegotiation..." on reserve)

Kottler (chapter 10)

October 11 - No class (fall break)

October 13 Guest Speaker

Part II: Conflict Management Analysis and Research Methods

October 18- Group presentations

Readings TBA by presenters

October 20 - Group presentations

Readings TBA by presenters

(turn in journals)

October 25 - Research methods in conflict management

October 27 - Research methods in conflict management

TBA

Part III: Conflict Intervention

November 1 - Intervention methods - Management

Burton/Dukes (intro. and part 1)

Davis (Mediation - on reserve)

Susskind/Cruikshank (further reading optional on reserve)

Moore, (*The Mediation Process*, ch 1-3 on reserve)

November 3 - Practicum

Haverford Honor Code (Charlie, Sabrina, Kelly, and Jill case on reserve)

November 8 - Intervention methods- Settlement

Burton/Dukes (part 2)

TBA

November 10 - Practicum

TBA

November 15 - Intervention methods - Resolution

Burton/Dukes (part 3)

Davis ("An Interview..." on reserve)

November 17 - Practicum

Israeli-Palestinian mini-simulation

Rothman (Application C - on reserve)

November 22 - Intervention methods compared and contrasted

Hocker/Wilmot (chap. 9)

November 24 - No class (Thanksgiving)

November 29 - Research project presentations

December 1 - Research project presentations

December 6 - Evaluation and Wrap-Up (last class).

(turn in journals)

December 16 (final papers due)