DESCRIPTION

The goals of this class are to provide students with a broad overview of the interdisciplinary field of conflict analysis and resolution, to introduce them to faculty and the work they are doing in this field, and to help them to develop a framework for diagnosing and responding to conflicts within their own area of interest. The majority of the semester will be devoted to exploring the diverse range of (sometimes contradictory) theories of social/political conflict found across the social science disciplines. We will also devote some attention to the applied side of conflict studies; that is, the techniques and tools used by practitioners in the field to manage conflicts across different settings and contexts. Of particular interest throughout the course will be uncovering how our theories about the nature of social conflicts result in our making particular choices about which conflict resolution activities make sense under which conditions. Relying on a number of guest speakers, documentaries, and group projects, we will consider how conflict manifests across multiple levels of analysis (interpersonal, organizational, and international) as well as within specific topical areas (ethnic/racial, environmental, foreign policy, labor/management, etc.). Students are encouraged to use this course as a “gateway” to conflict studies and to take advantage of the one-to-three credit seminars on applied conflict management offered by the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts throughout the year. We wish to acknowledge Professor Bruce Dayton who created the basic design for this course.

READING MATERIALS

Most of the reading material listed in the syllabus is available on the class website. In addition, a few books are required, including the main textbook for the course. These books will be located at the Follette Bookstore on the Marshall Street Mall. Good news: The 4 “Little Books” should only be in the range of $5 each!

Conflict Resolved? by Alan C. Tidwell (Continuum Publ. Or Pinter Publ. 1998) Each student should have a copy of this book as we will refer to it often throughout the course.


To access the class website go to http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/nkatz/
Remember when accessing class readings via the blue colored hyperlinks below you will be asked to enter the log in and password which was emailed to you

We will work with you individually to identify additional reading materials related to a particular domain of conflict studies that you are interested in.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Reports on Two External Activities: 40% of final grade

The field of conflict studies is impossibly large to cover in one short semester. Accordingly, each student is required to attend 2 events at the Maxwell School, SU, or the community related to conflict and/or conflict management. These may include Maxwell or SU lectures, trainings, or seminars, meetings on community concerns, or another conflict-related activity that you become aware of. After attending the event you will write-up a 4-5 page overview that: 1) briefly describes the event (topic, goal, content), 2) concretely relates the event to the course content (readings [with appropriate citations] and discussion), and 3) comments on new insights you gained as a result of the activity. Due dates for the two reports are listed on the syllabus.

External Activity Report, Example 1
External Activity Report, Example 2

2. Research Paper: 40% of final grade

Each student will write a 16-18 page (use 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced) case-study research paper in the form of a major proposal for foundation funding. The paper will: 1) analyze a conflict of your choice (in consultation with me); 2) develop a set of goals for a project to transform that conflict from a negative to a more positive state; 3) outline a specific conflict management plan that flows from your expressed project goals, 4) describe how you will evaluate the impact of your project. The paper is due in two parts. A full description of this project is available at the back of this syllabus.

Research Paper, Example 1
Research Paper, Example 2

3. Group Facilitation and Individual Participation: 20% of final grade

Each student will be placed in a small group of 3 or 4 students. Each group will work together outside of class to prepare some opening remarks to extend the learning by initiating dialogue with the lecturer and by facilitating class discussion on the assigned readings and lecture. Your small group should highlight:
A. **Significant insights** from the readings (you might want to have a brief PowerPoint presentation and/or handout for this)

B. Observations on how the readings and the lecture connect with one another and with the central framework of the course.

You need to check in with me or my assistant at least 2 days prior to your presentation on your plans for the group facilitation.

**Conflict Mapping Guide**

**Group Processing Exercises**

The **class participation** portion of your grade will be based on: 1) my evaluation on whether or not you have read the assigned material and prepared for class, 2) the degree to which you are an active and constructive participant in the class, 3) the degree to which you regularly attend all class sessions.
**August 29, 2008**

**General Class Overview, Introductions, and Personal Time-line.**

**Readings:**


**PowerPoint**

**September 5, 2008**

**Historical Overview of Peace and Conflict Studies and Issues of Timing**

Guest Speaker: Louis Kriesberg, Professor Emeritus, Social Conflict Studies

**READINGS:** (readings will always be due on the following class date)


Explore CRINFO.org website and read at least 2 summaries of articles/books on issues of Timing and Ripeness for Conflict Intervention.

**September 12**

**A Framework for Understanding Conflict Theory and Practice**

**PowerPoint for the lecture**
DUE: Conflict Style Survey

GUEST SPEAKER: Bruce Dayton, Associate Director, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs

READINGS:


**September 19**

Social Identity Theory and Framing

*PowerPoint for the lecture*

GUEST SPEAKER: Bruce Dayton, Associate Director, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs

**Eight Assertions About Identity** (prepared by Prof. Bruce Dayton)

Group 1 Presentation PowerPoint

READINGS:


**September 26**

**Social Movements and Relationship to Conflict Management**

GUEST SPEAKER: John Burdick, Professor of Anthropology

**READINGS:**


The Little Book of Strategic Peacemaking by Lisa Schirch. Good Books Press, 2004

**October 3**

**The Importance of Cultural Variables in the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts**

GUEST SPEAKER: Peter Castro, Associate Professor of Anthropology

*Lecture PowerPoint*

*Group Presentation PowerPoint*

**READINGS:**


Castro, Alfonso Peter and Engel, Antonia. *Negotiation and Mediation Techniques for Natural Resource Management: Case Studies and Lessons Learned*. Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations. "Introduction" (pp. 1-11) and "Findings & Lessons Learned" (pp. 53-63).

**October 10**

**Peace Agreement and Conflict Resolution in Guatemala Crises**

GUEST SPEAKER: Ambassador Donald Planty, Chair of IR Program

READINGS:

*PowerPoint for the lecture*


**October 17**

**US-North Korea Relationship**

GUEST SPEAKER: Stuart Thorson, Professor of Political Science and International Science

*Group Presentation PowerPoint*

READINGS:


**October 24**

**Issues of Identity in Social Conflicts**

GUEST SPEAKER: Terrell Northrup, Assistant Professor of International Relations

*Lecture PowerPoint*

**READINGS:**


Lindner, Evelin Gerda (2002). *Healing the cycles of humiliation: How to attend to the emotional aspects of "unsolvable" conflicts and the use of "humiliation entrepreneurship."* *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 8*(2), 125-139


**October 31**

**Role of Protest in Conflict Resolution**

GUEST SPEAKER: Don Mitchell, Professor of Geography

**READINGS:**

Mitchell, Don. "Property Rights, the First Amendment, and Judicial Anti-Urbanism: the Strange Case of Virginia V. Hicks." Urban Geography, pp556-586, 2005

Mitchell, Don. "The S.U.V. model of citizenship: floating bubbles, buffer zones, and the rise of 'purely atomic' individual." Political Geography, 2005

November 7

Interest based Negotiation and interactive Conflict Resolution

GUEST SPEAKER: Neil Katz, Emeritus Associate Professor, Public Affairs

READINGS:


November 14

Dialogue Groups and Restorative Justice

GUEST SPEAKERS: Beth Broadway, Syracuse Interreligious Council;

READINGS:


Baruch Bush, Robert A.; Folger, Joseph P. Introduction and Chap. 1 in The Promise of
### November 21

**Dispute Resolution and System Design**

GUEST SPEAKER: Christina Merchant, Professor of Practice, Public Administration  
Tina Nabatchi, Assistant Professor of Public Administration

- Tina's [Lecture PPT](#)
- Chris's [Lecture PPT](#)
- [Lecture document](#)

**READINGS:**


### December 5

**Putting It All Together: A Case Study Using Our 4-Frame Model**

GUEST SPEAKER: Neil Katz, Emeritus Associate Professor, Public Affairs

[ Lecture PPT](#)

**READINGS:**
SCENERIO: You are applying to a major foundation in support of a conflict management proj that your organization (imaginary) will carry out. This research paper should be presented as a formal proposal to that foundation. It should consist of the following elements:

1. COVER LETTER

Research and select an actual foundation/agency that you think would consider supporting your project. When you turn in your final paper on December 10, attach a cover letter which introduces your organization, very briefly outlines the project, and discusses why you have chosen the foundation you selected.

2. CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Conduct a comprehensive conflict analysis that includes the following (along with any additional information that you deem to be important):

- An analysis of the origins, bases, roots of the conflict you are addressing.
- Conflict history: Important political and historical milestones that have shaped the course of the conflict
- Stakeholder analysis: a) Who are the current stakeholder groups involved in the conflict? B) What are their positions and the interests, motivations, beliefs, conflict frames, etc. that lie ‘behind’ these? c) How have these variables impacted the course of the conflict and its prospects for constructive management?
3. PROJECT GOALS

- What aspect of the problem/conflict will you try to address?
- Why focus on this/these problem and not others?
- What are your ultimate project goals; that is, what are you trying to transform (attitudes, conditions, quality of justice, ability to communicate, access to decision making, separation)?

4. PROJECT METHODOLOGY AND EXPECTED RESULTS

- Detailed description of a proposed conflict management / intervention strategy (activities, participants, tools and methods, duration, location, etc.)
- Detailed schedule of activities
- Explicit description of expected results of the activity that links back to your stated goals

5. EVALUATION DESIGN

- What do you intend to evaluate as evidence of the success of your project?
- How will you evaluate it?
- What barriers might you face as you carry out your evaluation and how will you overcome these barriers?

GRADING will be based on:

- Your ability to integrate significant aspects of the literature we have reviewed in this class into your paper
- The breadth and depth of your conflict analysis
- The creativity of your proposed management strategy & evaluation design
- Your ability to connect each section of the paper with the previous section
- Clarity / writing style

ON-LINE RESOURCES

For ideas of topics to study, approaches to conflict management, etc. you can link to the following organizations:

- European Center for Conflict Prevention [www.euconflict.org](http://www.euconflict.org)
- Colorado Conflict Research Consortium [www.colorado.edu/conflict](http://www.colorado.edu/conflict)
- INCORE [www.incore.ulst.ac.uk](http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk)
- Environmental Protection Agency [http://www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)
- Minority Rights Group International [www.minorityrights.org](http://www.minorityrights.org)
- One World Online [www.oneworld.org](http://www.oneworld.org)
- Association for Conflict Resolution [http://www.acrnet.org/](http://www.acrnet.org/)
- US Institute of Peace [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)
Carter Center www.cartercenter.org
Study Circles Resource Center www.studycircles.org
Heidelberg Institute of International Conflict Research www.hiik.de
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute www.sipri.se
National Association for Community Mediation http://www.nafcm.org/
Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org
US State Department www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/
Conflict Prevention Center www.osce.org
International Crisis Group www.intl-crisis-group.org
Saferworld www.saferworld.co.uk/conflict/