DPLS 778 Conflict Transformation

Lazarina Topuzova, PhD
Virtual office hours: via Skype
topuzova@gonzaga.edu
phone: (509) 313 3620
Friday 10 am - 4 pm PST and by appointment
Tuesdays, 6-10 PM June 19,26, July 3,6,10,17,24

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an overview of conflict on different levels, from micro through mezzo, macro to violent international conflict. The course will use real-life situations and case studies that will help students practice skills and strategies for dialogue, decision-making and ultimately conflict transformation and system change.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of the course, students will:
• have an increased understanding of the nature of conflict - as both creative and destructive force; as well as increased comfort level with conflict
• have an increased awareness and understanding of their own attitudes and values to violence and nonviolence
• become familiar with frameworks/ tools for analysis, intervention and evaluation of conflict situations
• acquire skills for critical analysis of situations of conflict/ interpersonal, organizational, and macro-/international
• develop skills to lead system change, empower self and others
• develop and practice their ability to think critically and strategically
• gain a deeper understanding of social relationships of interdependence and accountability
• reflect on the concepts of justice and reconciliation and how they are applied locally and internationally
• be able to use listening, facilitation, decision-making skills in interpersonal, group and organizational conflict
• assess the impact of (violent) conflict on society

Course Format
This is an eight-week summer course that includes weekly seminars, presentations by the instructor and supporting written and audio-visual content that aim at provoking class discussion. Students are expected to work in small groups on various activities that show understanding and integration of the concepts and theories presented in the course.

Many of the topics we will discuss in the classroom will be sensitive. Therefore, there are two main ground rules - first of all, be respectful, and second, be mindful that what is revealed in the classroom is confidential. At times we may not agree with another person’s point of view, but I expect you to treat both people and their viewpoint with respect. Please make sure you do not
share what your colleagues reveal about themselves and their conflicts with people outside of class. This is key to building trust and will enhance our ability to learn from our lives.

**Course Materials**


In addition to the two main required texts, the instructor has selected a few other required readings, all of which are available electronically on the Blackboard site.

**GRADING POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Students are expected to uphold Gonzaga University’s high standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Academic Honesty Policy [http://www.gonzaga.edu/Campus-Resources/Offices-and-Services-A-Z/Academic-Vice-President/AcademicHonestyPolicy2002.pdf](http://www.gonzaga.edu/Campus-Resources/Offices-and-Services-A-Z/Academic-Vice-President/AcademicHonestyPolicy2002.pdf).

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and in cases where it is confirmed, students will lose all credit for the respective assignment. Please note that ALL written work in this class must clearly and carefully acknowledge any sources of information consulted. This includes, but is not limited to course readings, news articles/stories, and any information from online sources. As this is an upper-level course, I expect that you are familiar with proper citation procedures and formatting. Further, all written submissions for this course must be double spaced, and in APA style (APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition Revised). Guidance can also be found at the following web site: [http://www.apastyle.org/](http://www.apastyle.org/). In addition, students may wish to use the resources available through Gonzaga University's Writing Center.

**Gonzaga University MAOL Grading Scale**

- 94-100% = A  = sustained creative and critical inquiry of subject
- 90-93% = A-  = usually creative and critical inquiry of subject
- 87-89% = B+  = substantial understanding and integration of material
- 84-86% = B   = adequate general understanding of material
- 80-83% = B-  = below what is expected of a graduate student

**Assignments and Grading**

There are a number of individual and group assignments that students are required to complete for this class. The final grade for this class will be calculated as follows:

- Self-assessment instrument (beginning and end of class) 10 points
- Conflict Map (group work) 25 points
- Facilitated Discussion (group work) 25 points
- Final paper 40 points

Detailed descriptions of each assignment will be provided on the first day of class.
## Course Schedule/ Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/ Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings/ Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, June 19</td>
<td>Introduction to the class</td>
<td>Read: Rosenblum, <em>Copper crucible</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the field of conflict resolution</td>
<td>Kingslover, <em>Holding the line</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict: nature, definitions, sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obtain: Required texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2, June 26</td>
<td>Conflict and violence</td>
<td>Galtung (1996) excerpt from <em>Peace by peaceful means</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1:</td>
<td>Direct and indirect violence;</td>
<td>Brand-Jacobsen (2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Theory</td>
<td>Cycles of violence</td>
<td>The Seville statement on violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict dynamics</td>
<td><em>Little book</em>, Chapters 1-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict and change</td>
<td><em>Conflict</em>, Chapter 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3, July 3</td>
<td>Frameworks: Overview</td>
<td><em>Little book</em>, Chapters 4-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2:</td>
<td>Negotiation</td>
<td><em>Conflict</em>, Chapters 14-16; 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4, July 10</td>
<td>Conflict transformation: Individuals, small groups, organizations</td>
<td>Rosenblum, J. (1998). <em>Copper crucible</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5, July 17</td>
<td>Conflict transformation: Macro conflicts</td>
<td>Kingslover, B. (1989). <em>Holding the line</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3:</td>
<td>From cultures of violence to cultures of peace</td>
<td><em>Conflict</em>, Chapters 9, 20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6, July 24</td>
<td>Engaging the moral imagination</td>
<td>Cases from <em>Reporting the world</em> [Macedonia and Iraq]. Lynch, J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Ethical practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## References


