

**Conflict and Peace Research: A Historical Analysis.**

Christopher Mitchell

Spring Semester 2013,

March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**1. Course objectives.**

The main aim of this short, 2 day course is to introduce graduate students to the origins and history of the field of study which is currently known as “conflict analysis and resolution” but elsewhere takes the title of “conflict and peace studies”.

The course will focus on the intellectual origins of the field, how it has been shaped by the practical requirements of a dynamic environment in which lethal conflicts are a common occurrence, and who are the key historical figures in the development of thinking about conflict and any necessary remedies.

**2. Course requirements.**

Full attendance at the classes over the weekend, a willingness to participate in class discussions and a subsequent 10 page paper on **either** the history of a selected theme that has been present for much of the history of the field – for example, non-violence, unarmed civilian peacekeeping, the search for a world state – **or** the contribution of a historical major figure in the field – for example, Georg Simmel, Elise Boulding or M.K.Gandhi – and the influence of his/her major ideas. The paper to be completed and delivered electronically by Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**3. Course reading.**

As this is a weekend course, there won't be much time for reading while it is going on but students should try to read some of the following beforehand:

F.H.Hinsley *Power and the Pursuit of Peace*. Try the Chapters in Part 3.

Ramsbottom, Oliver et al *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* Chapter 2 in the second edition.

Carolyn Stephenson's Chapter on *Peace Studies; An Overview* in L.Kurtz [ed.] "An Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict" [Academic Press; 1999]

Relevant entries in Guy and Heidi Burgess's on line resource *Beyond Intractability* – for example the summary of Louis Kriesberg's article "The Development of the Conflict Resolution Field".

#### 4. **Course topics.**

The following will be the subjects of short talks, related Q & A and subsequent discussions over the weekend.

Topic 1. "The Ancient World" . Ideas and practice prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Topic 2. The "Peaceful" 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Topic 3. World War I and the Inter-War years

Topic 4. Genesis Post-1945

Topic 5. The Americas and Western Europe.

Topic 6. Scandanavians, Asians, Africans and others

Topic 7. Parents and Contemporaries.

Topic 8. Futures.

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