

CONF 642: Integration
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
George Mason University
Spring 2006
Thursdays, 4:30- 7:10 PM
Original Building Room 317

Instructor: Susan Allen Nan
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Course Description

This course should be taken in the last semester of course work for the M.S. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. The course assists participants in developing their own "generic" theory of conflict by reviewing and integrating their prior course work. Participants are expected to demonstrate a broad holistic comprehension of the field by writing a "mapping the field" essay. In addition, participants will demonstrate their deep expertise in an area of Conflict Analysis and Resolution by writing an essay of publishable quality tailored to a publication outlet of their choice.

Introduction

In this course, we will integrate learning from all previous coursework in the Masters curriculum at ICAR. Participants will reflect on their previous coursework together and individually in class and in written work outside of class. As a capstone course for the masters program, this class will also provide some consideration of ways of integrating ICAR learnings into post-graduation plans. Topics include:

- Overview
- Conflict Analysis, Diagnosing Conflict
- Integration Examples, Presenting the Field to Others
- Influences and Contexts
- Conflict Resolution Approaches
- Connecting Analysis to Intervention, Evaluation
- Careers in the Field
- Mapping the Field
- Connecting to other Fields, "Mainstreaming"
- Integrating Theory, Practice, and Research

Requirements

Students will create their own unique integration of their masters program learnings, and present these in several ways:

- A resume and cover letter, highlighting the significance of knowledge of Conflict Analysis and Resolution
- a portfolio of skills and expertise
- a publishable quality essay, of clarity and focus to make it suitable for posting on a site such as the Intractable Conflict Knowledge Base
- a “field mapping” essay which outlines the key things we (in this field) know

Publishable Quality Essay (25%) Due March 9. Write a publishable quality essay on a topic in our field for an audience of your choice. Consider writing a module for the Intractable Conflict Knowledge Base (www.beyondintractability.org see specifically http://www.beyondintractability.org/call/call_for_contributions.jsp) or other accessible outlet in the field. Scholarly journals are also appropriate audiences to consider for this assignment. Build on an area of expertise you have developed (or wish to quickly develop!) in your studies, and convey the state of knowledge of the field in that one particular area of expertise. In addition to your publishable quality essay, please also turn in the guidelines for the appropriate outlet where your essay might be submitted. Essays should conform to the standards of the audience you select. (In other words, ICKB essays should be written in clear language easily accessible internationally. An article intended for a particular scholarly journal should be written according to the citation standards and length requirements of that particular journal.) Articles will be evaluated on the basis of their quality and their appropriateness for their chosen audiences. Shorter or longer pieces are appropriate, depending on the guidelines provided by the intended place of publication. Participants are encouraged to submit their articles for publication after considering any instructor feedback.

Resume and Cover letter (5%) Due March 23. In preparation for the March 23 session on careers in the field, prepare a resume and cover letter in response to any job posting of your choice.

Mapping the Field (30%) Due April 20. This major paper should succinctly summarize the key things you know about conflict analysis and resolution. It is intended to be a paper that puts forth the key wisdom of our field in a clear and understandable way. What are the basic areas of consensus in our field about conflict analysis and resolution? Where are there areas of disagreement, and why are these present? What core bodies of knowledge characterize our field as you have come to know it in the last few years? Summarize your map of the field in 17-20 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.

Portfolio (25%) Due April 27. Students will prepare portfolio binders which present their integrated work from their masters coursework and other extracurricular related experiences. Students should include all papers, reports, etc of which they are proud. This is one assignment for which submitting work that was submitted for another course IS ok. You are encouraged to revise your work for inclusion in your portfolio. Also, your portfolio should be organized and introduced with clear and succinct outlines of your skills and expertise. Consider including extracurricular applications of conflict analysis and resolution, as well.

Portfolio and Mapping Presentation (5%) April 27 and May 4. All participants will briefly (6 minutes) present the highlights of their portfolio and field mapping. Prepare an “elevator speech” on the key insights of the field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Class participation (10%) All students are expected to participate actively in discussion in this seminar-style class. Absences will be excused only in exceptional circumstances.

Book (on order at GMU Bookstore):

Cheldelin, Druckman, and Fast, eds. *Conflict*. New York: Continuum, 2003.

Students are expected to regularly augment this one core text by reading or re-reading other texts mentioned in class discussions or covered in other ICAR courses.

Weekly Class Plans and Assignments

Week 1 Integration Overview

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Week 2 Conflict Analysis, Diagnosing Conflict

Thursday, February 2, 2006

Preparation:

Cheldelin et al, chapters 1-5.

Week 3 Integration Examples, Presenting the Field to Others.

Thursday, February 9, 2006

Guest Speakers present their integration of aspects of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Preparation:

- start working on portfolio
- start working on publishable quality essay

Week 4 Integration Examples, cont'd., and Influences and Contexts

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Part I: Class considers Influences and Contexts

Part II: Guest speaker presents integration of aspects of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Preparation:

Cheldelin et al, chapters 6-10

Week 5 Conflict Resolution Approaches, part I

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Preparation:

Chedelin et al, chapters 11-15

Week 6 Conflict Resolution Approaches, Part II

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Preparation:

Cheldelin, et al chapters 16-17

Week 7 Connecting Analysis to Intervention, Evaluation

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Preparation:

PUBLISHABLE QUALITY ESSAY DUE.

NO CLASS MARCH 16—SPRING BREAK

Week 8 Careers in The Field

ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKERS

Thursday, March 23, 2006

Preparation:

RESUME AND COVER LETTER DUE.

Week 9 Mapping the Field

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Preparation:

Bring draft outline of your Mapping the Field paper.

Week 10 Connecting to Other Fields, “Mainstreaming”

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Preparation:

Peruse materials from organizations that utilize conflict analysis and resolution in some way.

Week 11 Integrating Theory, Practice, and Research

Thursday, April 13, 2006

Preparation:

Cheldelin, et al chapter 18

Week 12 Integration, cont’d.

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Preparation:

MAPPING THE FIELD PAPERS DUE.

Week 13 Portfolio and Mapping Presentations

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Preparation:

PORTFOLIOS DUE.

Half the class presents.

Week 14 Portfolio and Mapping Presentations, Part II

LAST CLASS

Thursday, May 6, 2006

Preparation:

Half the class presents.

Final Exam Period—for Paper Return and Concluding Discussion

Thursday, May 13, 2006

Preparation:

Bring concluding synthesis reflections on the course.