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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Spring 2010

International Mediation

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**John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University, Spring 2010
DIPL 4117 International Mediation, Mondays 5:45 - 8:15pm
Moody Hall – room 10**

The course will cover the paradigm shift in the conflict arena and identify the role and function of the principal actors working to prevent international armed struggle through mediation in theory and practice. Particular focus will be on the organizations, processes, and tools of methods and analysis used in conflict mediation. The course is interdisciplinary drawing on the areas of political economy, international relations, social movements, and security. 3 credits

Title of seminar: International Mediation

Class meetings: Mondays, 5:45 pm – 8:15 pm

Office hours: 4:30 – 5:30 P.M. – Office 101-A

Instructor: Jack Jarmon
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Methodology and objectives

Objectives

1. To develop an understanding of the strategies and tactics of mediation efforts of past disputes and to assess their usefulness in the present arena of conflict
2. To identify and analyze the actors, issues, and theory that are relevant to global conflict and its mediation.
3. Through the students' individual research and/or interest in a specific region, or functional area, identify and discuss the issues concerning the basilar societal, economic, political and cultural elements, which beget tension, and trigger violence. As well, present recommendations and prospects for the control of conflict in the case study of choice.

Basis for grade

- Participation and attendance in classroom discussions and exercises 40%
- Written research paper (8-10 pages) 30%
- Midterm examination 30%

Mediation Simulation Exercise:

Details of the simulation exercise are forthcoming. The exercise will center on the question of independent rule for a current micro-state seeking a path to self-determination and recognition. Within the context of the post-Cold War arena and the pressures of globalization, class participants will represent the interests of the opposing sides in the dispute. The larger international community will also have their interests present through separate delegations of students. In the class following the case study exercise, each "delegation" will present a position paper and class presentation on the outcome of the simulation reflecting their group's position and policy.

Also drawn into the examination will be discussions of conventional Vs transitional norms and their impact on possible, viable solutions. Global governance and authority, the basis for determining legitimate statehood, and the threat/potential for instability and further conflict are some of the issues that will have an influence on our analysis.

Required readings

In addition a standard text, some materials will be provided in class. Depending upon the interests of the class and the direction and content of the discourse, alternative reading material may be introduced in order to accompany and enrich discussions.

Core text:

Resolving International Conflicts; The Theory and Practice of Mediation, ed., Bercovitch, Jacob, Lynne Rienner, Publishers, 1996

Class Schedule:

August 30

Overview of class and introduction

"War as an Instrument of Policy," Carl von Clausewitz, reading provided in class or available at http://www.qantara.de/uploads/496/fwf77_6clausewitz.pdf

September 13

Film: *The Battle of Algiers*

September 20

Kaldor, Mary, "Beyond Militarism, Arms Races, and Arms Control," see <http://www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/kaldor.htm>

Bercovitch, *The Yugoslavian Conflict, European Mediation, and the Contingency Model: A Critical Perspective*, p. 171-189

September 27

Bercovitch, *Introduction* and Chapter 1: *The Study of International Mediation: Theoretical Issues and Empirical Evidence* & Chapter 2: *Bias and Impartiality in International Mediation*, p. 1-53

October 4

Bercovitch, Chapter 5: *Cultural Aspects of International Mediation*, p. 107-128 and Chapter 9: *Environmental Mediation in International Relations*, p. 191-215

October 18

Bercovitch, Chapter 10: *Varieties of Mediating Activities and Mediators in International Relations*, p. 219-233

October 25

Midterm exam

November 1

Assignment of groups in case study, Term paper topic due

November 8

Case Study

November 15

Case Study

November 22

Presentations of case study and position papers

December 6

Research day & in-class office hours

December 13

Final paper due & course wrap up