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Spring 2007

International Mediation

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INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION

DIPL 6117 AA

Semester:	Spring 2007
Class Time:	Thursday 04:00 – 06:10 PM
Location:	JH 118
Professor:	Dr. Zheng Wang
Office Hours:	Tuesday 2:00 – 5:00 (Room 101-A, McQuaid Hall)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the analytical, methodological and practical tools of conflict mediation and resolution with an emphasis on conflict prevention, management and resolution. We will examine: the causes and sources of international conflict; the dynamics of third party intervention; and mediation skills. The course will include a blend of lectures, class discussions, individual and group exercises, and mediation role plays in class.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. To introduce and explore the role of international mediation in the current international system in preventing, managing, or resolving conflicts.
2. To become acquainted with the perspective of a mediator, and to see how it differs from that of a negotiator or disputant in a conflict.
3. To understand the strategies and tactics that have been adopted in previous mediation efforts, in order to assess their usefulness in the future.
4. Help students to think systematically and analytically about international conflict.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation: (15%) Attendance is extremely important because the course will be interactive in nature. Participation in the class discussions is critical to student learning and to exhibit that the required material is being read. Students should read and reflect on the readings ahead of time in order for class sessions to have the most value. Students can also participate by asking questions, circulating emails, organizing study groups, exchanging writing or introducing new ideas and resources. Excessive absences may result in a failing grade.

Critical Reading Assignment: Panel discussion (30%)

While all students will be expected to complete the reading assignments prior to each class, you will also be provided an opportunity to lead a class discussion on a weekly reading assignment. During the semester, we will have five sessions of panel discussions and presentations. Panels will be composed of 2-3 class members. For the panel discussion, each panelist should prepare to start with a 10-minute presentation on the subject. Five minutes per student will be allotted to Q&A and discussion with the class. Below are the topics from which you can choose.

1. Sources of international conflict
2. Conflict dynamics and structure
3. Planning a mediation
4. Mediation process
5. Cultural factors in international mediation

Each panelist should also write an encyclopedia article on the topic/theme of your presentation. This article, after being reviewed and edited by the editors, will be published at the newly established website for global negotiation and conflict resolution. Panelists of the same session may work together to complete this project.

Mediation Simulation Exercises: (15%)

We will do three classroom simulation exercises during the semester. Some of the information/instructions for the role plays will be handed out in class, others will be available at our course blackboard. Generally, background information is in the case packet and the roles are handed out in the class prior to the one where it takes place. In preparing for class, pay careful attention to what role you have been assigned. When you prepare, you can do so with others who have the same role, but not with a person who has a different role. We do the actual mediations in class. It is important to come to class having prepared your role. It slows down the class if somebody or a group is not prepared to negotiate.

Critical-thinking and Problem-solving Research Project: (40%)

Small groups for case study (1-3 people per group) will be formed in the beginning of the semester. Each group will conduct a research project and will present the group's findings in writing to the instructor and through an oral presentation to the class during the last two weeks of the semester. Detailed information/instruction about this project is available at course Blackboard. **Final paper due April 30.**

Volunteer positions:

Simulations Exercises Coordinator (3 slots)

We will do three simulation exercises during the semester. During one of the four exercises, if you would like to take this position, you will work with the instructor as facilitators of the chosen exercise. You are also responsible to lead a discussion to evaluate the completed exercise.

Website/Journal Editor (2 slots)

Your encyclopedia articles and group research reports will be published at a newly established website for negotiation and conflict resolution. As editors of the website, you will work with the instructor to review article submissions to this website journal. The Editor will revise and develop the website as necessary.

For all written assignments it is expected that you will cite your class texts, supplemental readings, and other sources. Papers should be double-spaced, spell-checked, and legible. It should be in 12 point characters in the 'Times' font. Please choose Chicago, MLA or APA citation styles. They should be your own work and must not be copied or otherwise plagiarized from another source whether it be an internet site or another student. In the case of plagiarism students will receive 0% for the whole research work component of the grade. They may also, depending on the severity of the case and its legal implications, be referred to the university administration.

Grading scale

A \geq 94% A- \geq 90% B+ \geq 87% B \geq 83% B- \geq 80% C+ \geq 77%

C \geq 73% C- \geq 70% D+ \geq 67% D \geq 63% D- \geq 60% F \leq 59%

CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- You are responsible for completing individual and group assignments on time.
- If an emergency prevents you from attending class, you should let the instructor know ahead of time when possible and contact a group member to find out what you missed. You are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and date changes made in class and for all material covered in class even if you are not there.
- Incomplete grades will not be granted except in cases of personal or immediate family illness or emergency.
- Students are expected to understand their responsibilities regarding academic integrity and the university's policies regarding academic standards of acceptable behavior.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Christopher W. Moore, 1996. *The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

David W. Augsburger, 1992. *Conflict Mediation Across Cultures: Pathways and Patterns*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox Press.

Jacob Bercovitch, ed. 1996. *Resolving International Conflicts: The Theory and Practice of Mediation*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers,

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Cheldelin, Sandra, Daniel Druckman, and Larissa Fast, eds. 2003. *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. Continuum Publishers: London, UK.

Fisher, Ury & Patton. 1991. *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without Giving In*. New York: Penguin Books.

* You can go to the **Blackboard** site for the course to get this syllabus, teaching notes, the teams site (panel discussion sign-up form) and all the readings that aren't in the textbooks.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 1: (1-11)** **Introduction and Overview**
- Themes:** Welcome, administrative matters; Introduction to the field of mediation and conflict resolution.
- Assignment:** In class, begin to form small groups for case study (3-4 people per group) and sign up for individual exercise.
- Reading:** Moore, Chapter 1 & 2.
- Week 2: (1-18)** **International Conflict: Sources**
- Themes:** Sources of international conflict
- Reading:** Richard E. Rubenstein, 2003. "Sources" in Cheldelin, Druckman, and Fast, eds. *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. Continuum Publishers: London, UK. (available at blackboard)
- Augsburger, Introduction, Chapter 1, 5
- Week 3: (1-25)** **International Conflict: Dynamics**
- Themes:** Conflict dynamics and structure
- Reading:** Augsburger, Introduction, Chapter 2, 8.
- Sandra Cheldelin, 2003. "Mediation and Arbitration" in Cheldelin, Druckman, and Fast, eds. *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. Continuum Publishers: London, UK. (available at blackboard)
- Panel Discussion (1):** Conflict dynamics and structure
- Week 4: (2-1)** **Intervening in Conflict**
- Themes:** Conflict intervention, the development of Mediation
- Reading:** Jacob Bercovitch, ed. Forward, Introduction, Chapter 1 & Chapter 11
- Augsburger, Chapter 7
- Mediation Simulation Exercises (1)**

Week 5: (2-8) Mediation: Strategies, Techniques and Processes I

Themes: Planning a mediation

Reading: Moore, Chapter 3-6

Assignment: Finalize case study groups

Panel Discussion (2): Planning a mediation

Week 6: (2-15) Mediation: Strategies, Techniques and Processes II

Themes: Conducting a mediation

Reading: Moore, Chapter 10-14

Panel Discussion (3): Mediation process

Week 7: (2-22) Group Study

Reading: Moore, Chapter 15-18

Sri Lanka simulation packet

Week 8: (3-1) Case Study: Sri Lanka Conflicts

Reading: Jacob Bercovitch, ed. 7

Sri Lanka simulation packet

Mediation Simulation Exercises (2)

Week 9: (3-8) Spring Recess - No Classes

Week 10: (3-15) Mediation Simulation Exercises (3)

Week 11: (3-22) Mediators

Themes: Mediators, Official and Unofficial Mediation

Reading: Jacob Bercovitch, ed. Chapter 2, 4, 10

Panel Discussion (4): Cultural factors in international mediation

Week 12 (3-29) Mediation Case Study: The Oslo Accord

Themes: The Oslo Accord

Reading: Pruitt, DG. 2000. "The tactics of third-party intervention." *Orbis: A Journal of World Affairs*, Vol. 44, 245-254.

Jan Egeland, 1999 "The Oslo Accord: Multiparty Facilitation Through the Norwegian Channel." In Chester A. Crocker, et.al., *Herding Cats: Multiparty Mediation in a Complex World*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace.

Week 13: (4-5) Conflict Mediation Across Cultures

Themes: Cultural factors in international mediation

Reading: Augsburger, Chapter 3- 6 (Textbook)

Jacob Bercovitch, ed. Chapter 5

Panel Discussion (5): Cultural factors in international mediation

Week 14: (4-12) Research Project Presentations and Discussion

Week 15: (4-19) Research Project Presentations and Discussion

Week 16: (4-26) Research paper due April 30