

**AECO 4980.091 and AECO 5050.091
Fall 2008 Course Syllabus**

Foundations of Conflict Resolution

Dave Renfro, Instructor

Class Location

UNT Dallas Campus
7300 Houston School Road
Room 244

Office Hours

Saturdays at 5:00
by Appointment

Class Meeting Times

Friday (5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.): 10/17

Saturdays (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.): 10/18, 10/25, 11/8, and 11/15

Course Objectives

This course examines the foundation of conflict itself as a dynamic of life and of conflict resolution processes, methodologies and disciplines as means to deal with such conflict. Students will study archetypal models of conflict and conflict resolution from the humanities, arts, politics, education, science, and law. Such study will expose students to the history of alternative dispute resolution while providing insights into key figures known for diplomatic confrontation rather than aggressive engagement; creating models of acceptance rather than replicating models of indifference; seeking to understand rather than blame; asserting peace rather than waging war; and forgiving rather than revenging. Students will gain understanding of conflict resolution origins, archetypes, and models enabling them to more competently function within a world of constantly changing dynamics.

Students will specifically learn the historic origins of mediation and arbitration as universally evolved alternatives to litigation and war. Successful completion of this course will provide greater understanding of the history of ADR, its multiple dynamics and diverse applications, and prepare students to more appropriately and healthily address both interpersonal and intrapersonal conflict.

Course Requirements

Texts for the course are:

1. MEDIATING DANGEROUSLY: The Frontiers of Conflict Resolution by Kenneth Cloke (Jossey-Bass Publishing, 2001, ISBN 07879-5356-3)

Readings for the course in addition to the texts will include articles as provided in class.

Lectures during the course presented by the instructor and/or selected guest speakers will provide theoretical and practical information regarding the use and/or history of ADR methods and models. Students are expected to interact with the instructor, other students, and guest presenters regarding experiences or content being discussed.

Grading Procedure

Grades will be determined according to the following weights:

Classroom participation*	20%
Classroom assignments / term project	40%
Final exam	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

Classroom Expectations

By its design, this class provides significant opportunity for students to engage one another in class discussion and assignments. Students are expected to follow the topics being discussed and assignments being made in order to demonstrate respect and competent engagement in all class sessions, as well as to further the educational experiences of all concerned.

A few common courtesies will make our class time more pleasant:

- No beepers or cellular phone interruptions
- No sleeping
- No talking while others have the floor
- No reading or writing pertaining to other endeavors or courses

ADA Accommodation

If you require accommodation for a special need, you must notify the instructor prior to the second weekend class meeting. If you have questions about an accommodation, please see the ADA advisor for the Institute of Applied Economics.

Topics

- Conflict as human condition
- Conflict resolution as cultural evolution
- Conflict archetypes and models
- Conflict resolution archetypes and models
- The future of conflict and conflict resolution

Professional Certificate

In conjunction with successful completion of AECO 4000 (previously 2120), 4120, and 4420, this course can be used as the elective to receive the Professional ADR Certificate offered by the Institute of Applied Economics. Requests for the certificate **must be made in writing** and after grades for the semester have been issued. Request forms are available from the Institute of Applied Economics office in Chilton Hall, Room 263, or via the Internet at <http://www.unt.edu/aeco/adrstudies.htm>

Schedule of textbook reading assignments: To be announced in class

This syllabus is subject to minor change due to possible scheduling conflicts or special needs and considerations of the class.

APPROVED READING LIST

1. A HISTORY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION: The Story of a Political, Cultural, and Social Movement by Jerome T. Barrett with Joseph P. Barrett (Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2004) ISBN 0-7879-6796-3
2. THE MORAL IMAGINATION: The Art of Building Peace by John Pal Lederach (Oxford University Press, 2005) ISBN 13-978-0-517454-0
3. NARRATIVE MEDIATION: A New Approach to Conflict Resolution by John Winslade and Gerald Monk (Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2001) ISBN 0-7879-4192-1
4. THE TAO OF PEACE: Lessons from Ancient China on the Dynamics of Conflict by Wang Chen, translator Ralph D. Sawyer (Shambhala Press, 1999) ISBN 1-57062-511-5
5. THE POWER OF LOSING CONTROL: Finding Strength, Meaning, and Happiness in an Out-of-Control World by Joe Caruso (Gotham Books, 2003) ISBN 1-592-40003-5
6. PEOPLE STYLES AT WORK: Making Bad Relations Good and Good Relations Better by Robert and Dorothy Grover Bolton (AMACON American Management Association Press, 1996) ISBN 0-8144-7723-2
7. FORGETTING OURSELVES ON PURPOSE: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition by Brian J. Mahan (Jossey-Bass Publishing, 2002) ISBN 0-7879-5633-3
8. LEADING THROUGH CONFLICT: How Successful Leaders Transform Differences into Opportunities by Mark Gerzon (Harvard Business School Press, 2006) ISBN 1-59139-919
9. THE I OF THE STORM: Embracing Conflict, Creating Peace by Gary Simmons (Unity House Press, 2001) ISBN 0-87159-270-3
10. THE THIRD SIDE: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop by William Ury (Penguin Books, 2000) ISBN 0-670-88758-7 or 0-14-02.9634-4
11. THE CULTURE OF FEAR: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things by Barry Glassner (Basic Books, 1999) ISBN 0-465-0148905
12. DEALING WITH AN ANGRY PUBLIC: The Mutual Gains Approach To Resolving Conflict by Lawrence Susskind and Patrick Field (The Free Press, 1996) ISBN 0-684-82302
13. THE FOUR AGREEMENTS by Don Miguel Ruiz (Amber-Allen Publishing, 1997) ISBN 1-878424-51-3

14. JUST HOW STUPID ARE WE? Facing the Truth about the American Voter by Rick Shenkman (Basic Books, 2008) ISBN: 978-0-465-07771-7
15. THE AGE OF AMERICAN UNREASON by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon Books, 2008) ISBN: 978-0-375-42374-1