



CONFLICT ANALYSIS & PEACE MEDIATION

CONTACT DETAILS:

Dr. Christian Hochmuth
Institute for Conflict Management
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
hochmuth@europa-uni.de
office hours: by appointment

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

In this seminar, you start by acquiring essential insights and hands-on skills for analyzing international political conflicts. The second part of the course then focuses on the consensual and peaceful intervention into such conflicts. Here you have the chance to gain an overview of the multiple facets of peace mediation, familiarize yourself with typical challenges mediators active in the international arena face, and practice essential mediation skills.

The first part of the course is devoted to conflict analysis. Conflict analysis is vital for both scholars and practitioners working in the fields of peace and conflict studies and conflict resolution. For mediators (and other practitioners) working in conflict zones, conflict analysis is necessary for acting responsibly; because the degree of mediators' understanding of the conflict will inevitably shape the strategies they choose. Thus, conflict analysis is an essential basis for a suitable, comprehensive, and tailor-made mediation process design.

In the second part of the course, the focus will shift from understanding conflicts to conflict intervention. Peace mediation is a particular form of conflict intervention, demanding the consent of the conflict parties. It requires certain (e.g., communicative) micro-skills, a high level of self-reflexivity and role awareness, and the ability to develop, structure, and moderate complex processes. The seminar provides opportunities to (further) develop those skills and better understand some of the typical challenges faced by actors dealing with international political conflicts.

GRADING

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Active participation | 50 % |
| Final test | 50 % |

TERMS

To participate, you need to possess English language skills on the level of B2 at a minimum.

Presence

Students are requested to attend to classes in order to get graded. App. 50% of the course will be taught synchronous via online videoconferencing, the remaining time asynchronous. **More than 33% absences from the synchronous course time will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated**, unless you can *document* that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a B becomes a B-, etc.).

SCHEDULE

| Day | Topic | Recommended Literature |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1&2 | Conflict Analysis | See below |
| 3&4 | Peace Mediation | See below |

COURSE READINGS

Recommended Books (not on electronic reserve):

Conflict Analysis

Jeong, H. W. (2008). *Understanding conflict and conflict analysis*. Sage.

Levinger, M., & Levinger, M. B. (2013). *Conflict analysis: Understanding causes, unlocking solutions* (Vol. 2). United States Institute of Peace Academy Guides.

Schirch, L. (2013). *Conflict Assessment and Peacebuilding Planning: A Strategic Participatory Systems-Based Handbook on Human Security*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Peace Mediation

Beardsley, K. (2011). *The mediation dilemma*. Cornell University Press.

Greig, J. M., & Diehl, P. F. (2012). *International mediation*. Polity.

Bercovitch, J. (Ed.). (1996). *Resolving international conflicts: The theory and practice of mediation*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Articles (most on electronic reserve):

Conflict Analysis

Anderlini, S.N. (2006). Mainstreaming Gender in Conflict Analysis. Issues and Recommendations. *Social development papers. Conflict prevention and reconstruction. Paper No. 33*, p. 1-9.

Mason, Simon, and Sandra Rychard (2005). "Conflict Analysis Tools Tip Sheet." *ISN-ETH Zurich*

Moore, Christopher (2014). *The Mediation Process*. Jossey-Bass; chapter 4: "Conflict Analysis".

Van Brabant, K. (2010). Peacebuilding How? Good Practices in Conflict Analysis. *Learning Portal for Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation*.

<https://www.dmeformpeace.org/resource/peacebuilding-how-good-practices-in-conflict-analysis/>

Peace Mediation

Alvarez, M., Avasiloe, S., Cristescu, R., Dziatkowiec, P., Hellmueller, S., Kirchhoff, L., ... & Unger, B. (2013). Translating Mediation Guidance into Practice: commentary on the UN guidance for effective mediation by the mediation support network. *MSN Discussion Points, 2*.

Bercovitch (2009). "Mediation and Conflict Resolution," in *The Sage Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, ed. Jacob Bercovitch, Victor Kremenyuk, and I. William Zartman. London: Sage.

Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (2001). "Is More Better? The Pros and Cons of Multiparty Mediation," in Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall, editors, *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.

Duursma, A. (2014). A current literature review of international mediation. *International Journal of Conflict Management*.

Lanz, D. (2017). Ten recent developments in peace mediation. *Perspektive Mediation, 14*(3), 146-152.

Kriesberg, L. (2012). Mediation in conflict systems. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science, 29*(2), 149-162.

Touval, Saadia and I. William Zartman (2001). "International Mediation in the Post- Cold War Era," in C.A. Crocker, F.O. Hampson, and P. Aall, editors, *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.

United Nations. (2012). *UN Guidance for Effective Mediation*.