

**PEACEBUILDING:
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, MEDIATION AND
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

PR 235

**Union Theological Seminary
Fall Semester, 1999**

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OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to teach new strategies for responding constructively to conflict in churches, communities of faith and other institutions and communities. Traditional approaches to conflict--and traditional legal and social theories --have been based on an adversarial, retributive model of justice, but this model is inappropriate and often destructive in faith communities. We will seek to develop theoretical and practical foundations for building peace within our communities by exploring new models of conflict transformation, mediation and restorative justice. The readings include theoretical and theological texts on the theme of peacebuilding, and the course will also provide concrete, practical training in skills for conflict transformation.

PROCEDURE

In order to facilitate a concentrated focus and an opportunity for training and reflection, this course is scheduled for four Friday sessions on September 17, October 8, November 5 and December 3. The class will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. (with appropriate breaks during each day, including an hour for lunch). The class will include presentations from the instructors, class discussions of the assigned readings and exercises to develop skills.

GRADING**Full Academic Credit**

Class Participation. Attendance and participation in class discussions will account for 60% of your grade. Because of the importance of class participation in your evaluation, it is absolutely essential that you come to each class prepared to engage actively in our discussions of all of the assigned readings and to participate in various training exercises.

As a component of your class participation grade, before each class meeting you will be required to prepare a response paper of approximately 5-7 typed pages. There will be a written assignment for each of these papers which will specify the particular issues to be addressed, but the primary purpose of each of these papers will be to provide you with an opportunity to assimilate the readings and to reflect on them prior to the class meeting.

Term Paper. At the end of the semester, each student is required to write a term paper of approximately 20 pages which will account for the remaining 40% of your evaluation in this course. These papers are designed to give you an opportunity to explore the concrete application of the strategies and skills developed in the course within your particular communities. In the latter half of the semester, the instructors will arrange individual appointments with each student to discuss the specific topics this paper should cover. The final paper should demonstrate your creative thinking with respect to the issues explored in the class (in standard academic format with appropriate citations, etc.).

Reading Credit or Auditing

Any student taking the course for reading credit or auditing the course must meet with the instructors concerning the requirements for the course. If at any point in the semester your status changes, please confer with the instructors immediately concerning these requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are seven required texts for this course which will be available at Union's bookstore:

Hugh F. Halverstadt, Managing Church Conflict (Louisville, Ken.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991)

Speed B. Leas, Discover Your Conflict Management Style (The Alban Institute, 1997)

W. Barnett Pearce and Stephen W. Littlejohn, Moral Conflict: When Social Worlds Collide (Thousand Oaks, Cal.: Sage Publications, 1997)

Rupert Ross, Returning to the Teachings (Toronto: Penguin Books, 1996)

Carolyn Schrock-Schenk and Jim Stutzman, eds., Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual: Foundations and Skills for Constructive Conflict Transformation, 3rd ed. (Akron, Penn.: Mennonite Conciliation Service, 1995)

Walter Wink, The Powers that Be: Theology for a New Millennium (New York: Galilee/Doubleday, 1999)

Howard Zehr, Changing Lenses (Scottsdale, Penn.: Herald Press, 1995)

In addition to these books, additional required readings will be placed on reserve in the Seminary library.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The following two recommended texts are available at Union's bookstore:

Roger Fisher and William Ury, Getting to Yes, 2nd ed. (New York: Penguin Books, 1991)

John Paul Lederach, Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Friday, September 3

Introductions

Friday, September 17**The Nature of Conflict and Conflict Transformation**Assigned Readings

Halverstadt, Managing Church Conflict, pp. 1-56

Ron Kraybill, "The Bible on Reconciliation" (handout)

Leas, Discover Your Conflict Management Style

Schrock-Schenk and Stutzman, eds., Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual, pp. 1-105, 226-228, 237 (with particular focus on pp. 42-54, 77-88, 93-97, 226-228, 237)

Wink, The Powers That Be, pp. 1-62

Friday, October 8**Methods of Conflict Transformation**Assigned Readings

Fisher and Ury, Getting to Yes (recommended)

Halverstadt, Managing Church Conflict, pp. 59-188

Beverly Harrison, "The Power of Anger in the Work of Love" (on reserve)

Ross, Returning to the Teachings, pp. 1-130, 155-172

Schrock-Schenk and Stutzman, eds., Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual, pp. 107-181

Friday, November 3**Restorative Justice: The Goal of Conflict Transformation**Assigned Readings

Ross, Returning to the Teachings, pp. 131-154, 173-277

Schrock-Schenk and Stutzman, eds., Mediation and Facilitation

Training Manual, pp. 183-249

Desmond Tutu, "Forward," Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (on reserve)

Charles Villa-Vicencio, "Restorative Justice: Dealing with the Past Differently" (on reserve)

Zehr, Changing Lenses

Friday, December 3

Moral Conflict and the Theological Foundations for Peacebuilding

Assigned Readings

Halverstadt, Managing Church Conflict, pp. 189-199

Martin Luther King, Jr., "An Experiment in Love" (on reserve)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Loving Your Enemies" (on reserve)

Lederach, Building Peace (recommended)

Pearce and Littlejohn, Moral Conflict

Wink, The Powers That Be, 63-200

Additional essays to be determined later in the semester

Monday, December 13

TERM PAPER DUE--Please deliver your term paper to Faculty Mailbox #20 by no later than 5:00 p.m.