

Miyazaki International University
Course Syllabus
Fall 2023

Course Title (Credits)	IDS307 Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution	
Course Designation for TC	N/A	
Content Teacher		
Instructor	Rui Saraiva, Ph.D.	
E-mail address	rsaraiva@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp	
Office/Ext	MIC2-202 / Ext 3771	
Office hours	Wednesdays 14:00~17:00	
Course Description:		
<p>“Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution” offers a comprehensive introduction to peacemaking and peacebuilding approaches to sustaining peace in today's complex and volatile world. The course delves deep into both the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of mediation and peacebuilding, with a particular emphasis on adaptive approaches. From understanding the nature of peace and conflict to hands-on workshops in mediation and peacebuilding, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to navigate and address conflicts in diverse settings. The course also emphasizes the importance of cultural and contextual sensitivity, post-conflict reconstruction, and effectiveness and pragmatism in the field of conflict resolution.</p>		
Course Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip students with a foundational understanding of conflict resolution and its significance in today's world. • Introduce students to standard and adaptive approaches to mediation and peacebuilding in diverse conflict scenarios. • Enhance practical skills through hands-on workshops, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in simulated conflict resolution scenarios. • Foster an understanding of the role of culture and context in conflict resolution, emphasizing the need for cultural sensitivity and adaptiveness. • Encourage reflection on the principles of reconciliation and the importance of self-organization and context-specificity in sustaining peace. • By the end of the course, students should be able to design and present both mediation and peacebuilding initiatives, drawing on the adaptive tools and techniques learned throughout the course. 		
Course Schedule:		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	Introduction to Conflict Resolution	Foundations of conflict resolution.
2		Overview of conflict resolution: definitions and significance. Brief history and evolution of conflict resolution practices.
3	The Nature of Peace and Conflict	Typology of conflict and peace.
4		Complexity theory. The causes and dynamics of armed conflicts in the 21 st century.
5	Standard Mediation Approaches	Introduction to mediation approaches.
6		Principles and stages of mediation. The role of the mediator.
7		Beyond Standard Mediation. Principles of

8	Introduction to Adaptive Mediation	adaptive mediation. Differences between standard and adaptive mediation.
9	Tools and Techniques in Adaptive Mediation	Practical Aspects of Adaptive Mediation. Adaptive strategies and interventions. Case studies in adaptive mediation.
10		
11	Standard Peacebuilding Approaches	Introduction to peacebuilding approaches. Principles and stages of peacebuilding. The role of the peacebuilder.
12		
13	Review and Assessment	Midterm evaluation preparation: Overview and key Points.
14		
15	Introduction to Adaptive Peacebuilding	The 'Adaptive Peace' paradigm. Principles of adaptive peacebuilding. The role of local communities and stakeholders.
16		
17	Tools and Techniques in Adaptive Peacebuilding	The practice of adaptive peacebuilding. Strategies for institutional learning and community engagement. Case studies in adaptive peacebuilding.
18		
19	The Role of Context and Culture in Conflict Resolution	Cultural and context sensitivity in mediation and peacebuilding. Understanding cultural dynamics in conflicts. Techniques for fostering self-organization in conflict resolution.
20		
21	Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Reconciliation	Healing and building after conflict. Principles of reconciliation. Strategies for post-conflict community building.
22		
23	Peacebuilding Dimensions	Human security, socio-economic-development, human rights, coordination.
24		
25	Peacebuilding Actors	Local and external Actors. International organizations. Security, humanitarian, development, and peace actors.
26		
27	Preventing Violent Extremism	Conceptual framework and policy trends. Analyzing and engaging with non-state armed groups.
28		
29	Final Review	Course recap and reflection. Review of major themes and practices. Preparing for final assessment and future application of skills.
30		

Materials:

Book chapters, short articles or relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor. Suggested readings:

De Coning, Cedric, Ako Muto, and Rui Saraiva. 2022. *Adaptive Mediation and Conflict Resolution: Peace-Making in Colombia Mozambique the Philippines and Syria*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

De Coning, Cedric, Rui Saraiva, and Ako Muto. 2023. *Adaptive Peacebuilding: A New Approach to Sustaining Peace in the 21st Century*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

- To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing readings and homework before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class.
- Your withdrawal from the course will be recommended after five unexcused absences. Make sure you arrive on time. Absences will be recorded if you are more than 20 minutes late.
- It is crucial to take plagiarism seriously. Please consider “MIU Academic Honesty Guidelines” when preparing for you assignments, presentations, and written exams.

Class Preparation and Review

Students should spend at least one hour reviewing and one more hour doing homework to prepare for each lesson.

Grades and Grading Standards

- In-Class participation: 20%
- Assignments and presentations: 20%
- Mid-term examination: 30%
- Final examination: 30%

Methods of Feedback:

Feedback will be given after written assignments, group presentations, and exams. All assignments will be graded within one to two weeks of submission, depending on class size.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology

Notes:

Throughout the semester, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as necessary.