

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIVERSITY OF OREGON</b> <b>CONFLICT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION MASTER'S PROGRAM</b></p>
--

**CRES 612: PHILOSOPHY OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**Winter 2018**

Class Meetings:	Mon & Wed 12:00-1:50
Class Location:	282 Knight
CRN:	22392
Instructor:	Edgar Temam
Office Hours:	By appointment (see Course Policies)
Office Location:	TBD
E-mail:	etemam@uoregon.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class community offers us the opportunity to practice reflecting critically about conflict resolution by examining some theoretical frameworks within the context of various philosophical perspectives. It is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on and examine our own views, not to try to persuade others. This is not the proper forum for persuading, at least not primarily or directly, and, furthermore, persuading, at a minimum, might hinder our examination of our own views by giving us the illusion that we already know them and know why we hold them and that, therefore, we no longer need to examine them.

There might be at least as many apparently different views in our class community as there are members and authors. This is good. This plurality and this diversity offer us an opportunity to compare and contrast our views with those of others and thereby to achieve a deeper awareness of where we stand and why we stand there. Moreover, if in order to examine critically one's views and reasoning, one needs the help of others--who ask for clarifications, but also who challenge and object to one's views or reasoning--these others, far from being one's opponents or adversaries, are thus, rather, as *objectors* potentially one's *helpers*.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to practice and thereby develop the habit of critically:

- Examining the theoretical frameworks in play in the field of conflict resolution, which includes analyzing the language and terms in which these frameworks are expressed, reflecting on the underlying concepts at work, evaluating the reasoning, and inquiring into these frameworks' unexamined or unstated fundamental assumptions and implications;
- Reflecting on their own views regarding both these frameworks and the worldviews that these rely upon;

- Reflecting on the need to conceptualize or re-conceptualize appropriate phenomena, to re-define terms or to coin new ones, to revise assumptions and hypotheses and theories or to introduce new ones, and to practice reflectively as critical members of the field.

## **COURSE TEXTS**

### **Required**

- Lewis Coser, *The Functions of Social Conflict*
- Betty A. Reardon, *Sexism and the War System*
- John W. Burton, *Conflict Resolution: Its Language and Processes*
- William Ury, *The Third Side*
- COURSE READINGS (on Canvas) from Thucydides, Hobbes, Rousseau, & Kant, under their name, as well as from others in "Quotes, Etc."; and online through the UO Libraries. (See "Schedule" on Canvas.)

The required books are available for purchase at the Duck Store.

### **Recommended**

- See "Recommended" on Canvas

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Contributions:** Here are some ways for you to make positive contributions:

- Preparing by reading critically our assigned readings as well as noting questions and comments to be addressed in class discussions;
- Engaging in class discussions, which includes active listening and offering interpretations, insights, and responsible feedback;
- Engaging in class activities, which includes in-class writings;
- Completing assignments as scheduled; and
- Cooperating in group-work.

**Critical Reflections:** There are two such compositions (about 600 words each). You may choose which two to compose out of the eight possible assignments: Critical Reflections I-VIII (see schedule). The form is argumentative, at least a partial one (see prompt).

The content needs to be within the field of conflict resolution.

These assignments and the detailed prompt will be on Canvas. Note that once an assignment is closed, submissions will not be permitted.

These responses are credited as complete (100%) or incomplete (0%). Completing the assignment means, at least, meeting all the requirements specified in the

prompt. Incomplete assignments may be revised and resubmitted as long as the assignment is open.

**Term Paper:** There is one essay for the term (about 3000 words). It too is a critical reflection in the argumentative form, just less partial and more comprehensive (see prompt).

The content needs to be within the field of conflict resolution.

I recommend that you discuss with me at least your topic as well as your essay's thesis, main line of reasoning, and primary objection.

This assignment and the detailed prompt will be on Canvas. Note that once the assignment is closed, submissions will not be permitted.

**Discussion Facilitation:** You will be responsible for facilitating a class discussion on an issue of your choice. (The issue may be from your term paper.) This assignment will be on Canvas.

## **GRADING**

Grades in this course will be calculated as follows:

Contributions	20%
Critical Reflections	20% (2 x 10%)
Term Paper	50%
Discussion Facilitation	10%

**Grading Scale:** A+ = >100, A = 94-100, A- = 90-93, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, F = 0-59.

I reserve the right to increase anyone's overall grade based on such things as one's improving, significantly contributing to our class community, or showing a greater understanding of the material than one's essays seem to reflect.

I recommend that you work with your classmates on all the readings and assignments—discussing and learning together and helping each other.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE** **(subject to change)**

See "Schedule" on Canvas.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Accessible Education for All Students:** The University of Oregon works to ensure inclusive learning environments for all students. We recognize that students bring a variety of learning styles to the course, and that some learning styles may require adjustment to course structure. We are happy to talk with you about such adjustments. Please be in touch with the professor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation as a result of learning style or diagnosed disability. If this course involves anonymous grading, please contact Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Nicole Commissiong, for information on accommodations. For more information, you are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

**Inclusion and Collegiality:** Our community values inclusion. We are committed to equal opportunities for all faculty, staff, and students to develop individually, professionally, and academically regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic standing, cultural beliefs and traditions. We are dedicated to an environment that is inclusive and fosters awareness, understanding, and respect for diversity. If you have concerns around inclusivity issues, please contact Associate Dean of Students Jennifer Espinola at [espinola@uoregon.edu](mailto:espinola@uoregon.edu) or 541-346-1557. The University Bias Response Team is also a resource that can assist you. See <http://bias.uoregon.edu> or call 541-346-2037.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to demonstrate high levels of academic integrity and professionalism, and are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be grounds for automatic failure in the course. If you have questions about conduct please ask your instructor or review the University Student Conduct Code (available at <http://conduct.uoregon.edu>) or the UO policy at [http://www.uoregon.edu/~stl/programs/student\\_judi\\_affairs/conduct-code.htm](http://www.uoregon.edu/~stl/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm)

**Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Reporting:** The instructor in this class is a student-directed employee. For information about the instructor's reporting obligations as an employee, please see [Employee Reporting Obligations](#). Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender based violence, may seek information on [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu), [respect.uoregon.edu](http://respect.uoregon.edu), [titleix.uoregon.edu](http://titleix.uoregon.edu), or [aaeo.uoregon.edu](http://aaeo.uoregon.edu) or contact the non-confidential Title IX office (541-346-8136), AAEO office (541-346-3123), or Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE for help. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

**Attendance:** Your attentive presence constitutes a significant share of your contributions. A poor attendance record may result in course failure.

**Participation:** Your participation constitutes another significant share of your contributions.

**Contributions:** Your contributions matter; they play a role in shaping this class. There are many ways for you to make positive contributions: for some instances, see "Course Requirements" below.

**Office-Hours Meetings:** You are welcome to schedule meetings with me; I encourage you to do so. These meetings can help to clarify the subject matter or the process of our course, my feedback, or anything you wish me to clarify. These meetings can be mutually beneficial.

**Email:** Please feel free to email me.