PACS 626 Conflict Resolution Skills

Course Syllabus and Procedures

PACS 626 Supervising Faculty
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Course Description

This course provides a framework for students to do academic work related to specific conflict resolution skills training they have received through workshops sponsored by the Centre for Extended Learning or the Certificate Program in Conflict Management or other credible training organizations. Students will complete this additional academic work as a Directed Study supervised by Peace and Conflict Studies faculty. This course is offered on a credit/no credit basis. The course may be repeated once.

Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop practical competencies necessary for effective peace work. Topics will vary and may include workshops such as Understanding Conflict, Narrative Mediation, Family Mediation or Organizational Conflict Approaches, offered by the Certificate Program in Conflict Management (grebel.uwaterloo.ca/certificate); workshops such as Effective Communication, Facilitation Skills or Leadership through Courageous Conversations, offered by the Centre for Extended Learning (dce.uwaterloo.ca/); or other workshops offered by credible training organizations.

Taught by professional trainers with practical experience, students will join a cohort of co-learners, most of whom are engaged in employment relevant to the issue discussed. The theory presented will be balanced by the practical experience of the learning community. Practical role plays and exercises will be used to solidify and illustrate principles taught.

Course Objectives

By the end of a Conflict Resolution Skills workshop a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the theory and principles underlying the workshop skill through the selection of readings and research paper.
- Summarize and integrate research findings with workshop content in the research paper.
- Demonstrate critical reflection and analysis of the theory and principles as they relate to the workshop content in the research paper.
Course Requirements

To complete the requirements for PACS 626, a student must:

- Select an appropriate skills training workshop:
  - If planning to enroll in a workshop offered through the Certificate Program in Conflict Management, consult with the Certificate Program in Conflict Management Manager to determine an appropriate workshop and pay the fee.
  - If planning to enroll in a workshop offered by another trainer, consult with the Supervising Faculty member to ensure that the proposed training is credible.
- Obtain the written permission of the Director of the PACS Graduate program to enroll in PACS 626 and register for the course.
- Develop a suggested bibliography per the guidelines below.
- Review the suggested bibliography with the Supervising Faculty member and agree on a final list of readings or other work to be completed.
- Complete the agreed readings.
- Attend the workshop and actively participate. Once enrolled in a workshop a student must attend all hours of the workshop. A student must arrange their schedule so that full-time workshop attendance is completed.
- Submit a research paper and bibliography to the Supervising Faculty member as per the agreement above to be graded as a CR/NC.

Reading and Bibliography

Additional reading on the workshop topic is required to support and deepen the workshop training. Some workshops already have recommended reading associated with the workshop which might serve as a starting point for your bibliography and research.

The amount of reading and the number of resources required for the bibliography varies according to the duration of the workshop:

- A two-day workshop will require 600 pages of reading.
- A three-day workshop will require 500 pages of reading.
- A four-day workshop will require 400 pages of reading.

You are encouraged to use a mix of resources including books, scholarly journal articles, related articles in professional publications and/or reputable online resources as sources for your bibliography and research paper.

Research Paper

You are required to write a research paper on a topic related to the skills workshop undertaken for credit as agreed with the Supervising Faculty member. This is an opportunity for you to explore the body of research (theory, underlying principles and practices) written about the skill addressed in the
workshop and to analyze how this research relates to the content of the workshop. You are welcome to include a reflective component on your experience in the workshop or your previous experience with this skill. A general guideline in terms of the length of the research paper is 10-15 pages (2,500 to 3,750 words) per 0.25 credit hour. Length and specific focus of assignments can be negotiated by the student with the Supervising Faculty member.

**Workshop Scheduling, PACS 626 Enrollment, and Assignment Due Dates**

Skills workshops are offered on a schedule that does not always dovetail with the academic schedule. Normally, you will enroll in PACS 626 in the term you take the workshop or in the following term. Due dates for the academic work will be the last day of the term in which you are enrolled in PACS 626.

Student spaces in workshops are not guaranteed.

Enrollment in PACS 626 is with Department consent only.

Students may receive academic credit for up to two workshops (0.25 CR each), therefore you can enroll in PACS 626 two times.

Upon completion and submission of the academic work, the student will receive a grade of CR/NCR from the Supervising Faculty member.