



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Conflict Transformation & Reconciliation - 54750

Last update 06-03-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Conflict Management & Resolution

Academic year: 2025

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Maya Kahanoff

Coordinator Email: Maya.kahanoff@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday appointment by phone

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Maya Kahanoff

Course/Module description:

The course will focus on transformation processes enabled in social and ethno-national conflicts, involving issues of identity and belonging; Process that aim to rehabilitate damaged relations between conflicting parties and base them on mutual trust, respect, justice and cooperation. We will focus on civil society's role in facilitating such processes, and become acquainted with the challenges facing processes of transformation that are long term, and gradual, and require changes in both structural and psychological structures.

The first part of the course will present theoretical perspectives of conflict transformation, peacebuilding and reconciliation, and discuss major issues involved in the process of reconciliation between Nations and people. Later we will learn about the role of civil society in facilitating processes of such transformation and get to know the different intervention strategies. Meanwhile, we will meet various NGOs working to promote conflict transformation and reconciliation in the Israeli society, and examine the possibilities and the challenges facing these tasks. The course will combine lectures and meetings with civil society organizations.

Course/Module aims:

To expose students to the Conflict Transformation approach; to present them with possibilities of applying the theoretical approaches to the field of groups in conflict in the Israeli society. In addition, to develop a critical appraisal towards different intervention strategies employed by these organizations.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

The students will learn about various intervention strategies to promote conflict transformation and social change that are derived from different theories; They will be able to critically evaluate strategies employed by various civil society organizations - point to their theory of change, as well as assess their advantages and limitations, with regard to the characteristics of the conflict context they aim to transform.

Attendance requirements(%):

80% presence in class

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course combines theoretical study, meetings with guest lecturers and social activists, and if possible we will also conduct a study tour in the field

Course/Module Content:

- 1-2-3 - Conflict Transformation and Peace-building*
- 4 - Civil society and Peace-building*
- 5. - The Role of Civil Society and Peace-building*
- 6. Collective trauma in Prolonged social conflicts.*
- 7-8. Testimony as a strategy for personal and social change*
- 9. Contact hypothesis and intergroup relations*
- 10-11. Dialogue and Transformation of identities/inter-group relations*
- 12. Advocacy, promoting equality and human rights*
- 13. - Students' presentations and summary*

Required Reading:

1-3

Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. & Miall, H. (2005). Contemporary Conflict Resolution, Cambridge: Polity Press ("Introduction to Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Definitions"), pp. 3-31

Lederach, J. P. (2003) "Conflict Transformation", Beyond intractability. Eds. G. Burgess & H. Burgess, Conflict Information Consortium, university of Colorado, Boulder. <http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-essay/transformation>

Galtung, J (2006) "Peace by peaceful conflict Transformation - The Transcend approach", Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies, ch.2

4.
Gawerc, M. I. (2006) "Peace-Building: Theoretical and Concrete Perspectives", Peace & Change, Vol.31, No.4 October 435-478

Gawerc, M.I. (2013) "Organizational adaptation and survival in a hostile and unfavorable environment: Peacebuilding organizations in Israel and Palestine", Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change, vo. 36, 167-202

5.
Bar-Tal, D. (2014) Intractable Conflicts: Socio-Psychological Foundations and Dynamics. New York: Cambridge University Press (147-212; 247-262).

6.
Volkan , V. D. (2001) "Transgenerational transmissions and chosen traumas: an aspect of large-group identity", Group Analysis, 34 (1), 79-97

7-8.

אולמן, ח. (2012) "לראות את המחסומים: על תהליך העדות בחברה ובטיפול", בתוך: י. אליצור (עורך) כתם של עננה קלה. חיילים, צבא וחברה באינתיפאדה, אדום, הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, עמ' 140-155

9.

Pettigrew, T.F (1998) "Intergroup contact theory", *Annual Review of Psychology*, 49:65-85

10-11.

Hewstone, M. Lolliot, S. et al (2014), "Intergroup contact and intergroup conflict", *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, vol. 20, No.1, 39-53

10-11.

Buber, M. (1970) *I and Thou*. Translated by Walter Kaufman, New York: Charles Scribner's sons

Saunders, H.H. (2011) *Sustained Dialogue in Conflicts. Transformation and Change*, NY: Palgrave Macmillan

Kahanoff, M. (2016) *Jews and Arabs in Israel Encountering their Identities: Transformations in Dialogue*. USA: Lexington Books.

Maddison Sara (2014) "Relational transformation and agonistic dialogue in divided societies", *Political Studies*, pp. 1-17

Kahanoff, M. (2018) "Collective Trauma, Recognition and Reconciliation: Reflections on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," in: Paula Rayman & Yoram Meital (Eds.), *Recognition as Key for Reconciliation: Israel/Palestine and Beyond*", Brill Press, USA

Ben David, Y., Hameiri, B., Benheim, S., Leshem, B., Sarid, A., Sternberg, M., Nadler, A., & Sagy, S. (2017). *Exploring Ourselves Within Intergroup Conflict: The Role of Intragroup Dialogue in Promoting Acceptance of Collective Narratives and Willingness Toward Reconciliation*. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pac0000205>

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 20 %

Additional information:

The program is flexible and some adaptations may be done according to students' interests