



Short Syllabus



Course Title	Credits
A SEMINAR IN POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OF CONFLICTS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS	4
Lecturer	
Dr. Rony Berger	
Contact details	
bergerrony@gmail.com Office hours by appointment	
Semester	
Spring 2022	
Short Description	
<p>What causes conflicts such as those in Bosnia, Rwanda, North Ireland Ukraine and the Middle East to erupt? How come people who live harmoniously for years, can one day commit heinous acts of barbaric violence against their neighbors? Why did 9/11 happen? Could Al Qaida survive without Bin Laden? Why are so many European Moslems are joining the notorious Islamic State of Iraq and Syria- (ISIS) organization? How does the COVID-19 pandemic influence international relationship, particularly between the USA and China? These are some of the questions we will be grappling with in this seminar which combines political and social psychology perspectives regarding conflicts and their resolutions. The premise of this seminar is that understanding the psychological causes of political conflicts is essential if we are to affect patterns of behaviors that are harmful for humanity and promote patterns of behavior beneficial for humanity. We will start by introducing the major concepts and theories of political psychology focusing on the role of personality, cognition, emotions, social identity, attitudes and intergroup relationships in the political arena. Thereafter, the seminar will be divided into two parts. The first part will focus on the underlying reasons for political conflicts with particular emphasis on violent conflicts. The second part will focus on theories and practices to resolve conflicts including understanding barriers and strategies for conflict resolution as well as issues regarding reconciliation and peace-building efforts. The seminar will not only introduce the students to theoretical and conceptual dilemmas in the field but will also attempt to address real life current political conflicts. The seminar will be comprised of didactic lectures, class discussions, and most importantly, analysis of case-studies regarding past of current political conflicts. Each student will be required to present a topic from the textbook or other readings and to be responsible for facilitating a discussion or an experiential exercise regarding the topic.</p>	
Final grade components	
<p>Midterm: Class presentation (15%) – The class presentation can be the same as the seminar paper or different. The grade will be based on the instructor's evaluation regarding the depth and ingenuity of the presentation as well as the participation of the students in the experiential part and the class discussion.</p> <p>Final requirement: Final paper (70%) – The topic of the paper will be approved by the instructor in advance and will be graded for the logicity, originality, creativity of the implementation of the topic to real life political conflict.</p> <p>Participation:</p>	



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Class participation (15%)

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.