

# Environmental Mediation and Conflict Resolution

**Lecturer:** Dr. Yael Teff-Seker – [aryeal@technion.ac.il](mailto:aryeal@technion.ac.il)

3 credits . undergraduate

## Course description

The course explores the subject of environmental conflicts and conflict mediation. The course looks at both the theory and the practice of environmental mediation in cases of conflict – whether the conflict is by nature political or environmental. It requires the students to think: How do environmental features effect conflict mediation? And - what environmental aspects should we take into consideration when we wish to mediate conflict?

The course provides a general overview of conflict and mediation theory. It examines why conflicts ignite between groups and why they persist, asking students to deduce from the literature what influences the nature of a conflict. It also teaches the different approaches to conflict management, mediation and resolution. These will be examined both pertaining to conflicts in general, as well as to environmental conflicts in particular. Several regional environmental conflicts will be used to examine the mediation process. Students will gain some practical tools and attempt to implement them to simulated instances of mediation. As part of their learning process, students will be asked to present real-life case studies of environmental conflicts and suggest ways in which they can be mediated, managed or resolved.

## Course Requirements

This course consists of seminars and workshops, and as such participation and knowledge of the readings is a vital aspect of the class. Students will be asked to submit a short summary or answer a few (simple) questions regarding each text as they prepare for the class, in order to ensure their understanding of the reading material. The final presentation will be on a topic of student's choice made in consultation with the lecturer. Students will be asked to present their research findings to the class. The content of their project will make up part of the material for the final exam.

## Grading Components

Attendance	10%
Class Participation (Including Reading Assignments)	30 %
Presentation	30 %
Final Exam	30%

## Course Schedule and readings:

### Lecture 1: - Conflicts and Conflict Resolution – Introduction

1. Realistic Group Conflict Theory (definition)
2. Life and Peace Institute (LPI), *New Routes*, Conflict Transformation. Pp. 3-10.
3. Hizkias Assefa, "Reconciliation", in *Peacebuilding, A Field Guide*, ed Reichler & Paffenholz, p. 336 - 343.
4. Stone, K. (2004). *Alternative dispute resolution. Definition of mediation & arbitration.*

### Lecture 2: - Negotiation of Mediation?

1. Bercovitch, J., & Jackson, R. (2001). Negotiation or Mediation?: An exploration of factors affecting the choice of conflict management in international conflict. *Negotiation Journal*, 17(1), 59-77.
2. Mnookin, R. (1993). Why negotiation fail: An exploration of barriers to the resolution of conflict. *Journal on Dispute Resolution*, 8(2): 235-249.

### Lecture 3: - Types and Stages of Mediation

1. Riskin, L. (1996). Understanding mediators' orientations, strategies, and techniques: A grid for the perplexed. *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*, 1(7): 7-51.
2. Ron Kraybill, "Designing the Mediation Process" ", in *Peacebuilding, A Field Guide*, ed Reichler & Paffenholz, p. 173 – 180
3. Paffenholz, T. (2004). Designing transformation and intervention processes. In *Transforming Ethnopolitical Conflict* (pp. 151-169). VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden.
4. Thania Paffenholz, "Western Approaches to Negotiation and Mediation," in *Peacebuilding, A Field Guide*, ed Reichler & Paffenholz, p. 75 – 80.

### Lecture 4: - Identity and Mediation

1. From Moore, C. W. (2014). *The mediation process: Practical strategies for resolving conflict*. John Wiley & Sons:
  - "Strategies for dealing with special situations".
  - "Uncovering hidden interests of the disputing parties".
2. Main, A., Walle, E. A., Kho, C., & Halpern, J. (2017). The interpersonal functions of empathy: a relational perspective. *Emotion Review*, 9(4), 358-366.

3. Schneider, C. D. What it means to be sorry: The power of apology in mediation. *Mediation Matter*, 265–280.

### **Lecture 5-6: - Environmental Conflicts – Attributes, Considerations and Solutions**

1. Wittmer, H., Rauschmayer, F., & Klauer, B. (2006). How to select instruments for the resolution of environmental conflicts?. *Land use policy*, 23(1), 1-9.
2. Rauschmayer, F., & Wittmer, H. (2006). Evaluating deliberative and analytical methods for the resolution of environmental conflicts. *Land Use Policy*, 23(1), 108-122.
3. Maguire, L. A., & Boiney, L. G. (1994). Resolving environmental disputes: a framework incorporating decision analysis and dispute resolution techniques. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 42(1), 31-48.

### **Lecture 7: - Case Studies: Using Mediation to End Violent Conflict**

1. Curran, Sebernius, & Watkins, "Case Analysis: Two Paths to Peace: Contrasting George Mitchell in Northern Ireland with Richard Holbrooke in Bosnia –Herzegovina", *Negotiation Journal*. Vol. 20. Issue 4, Oct. 2004.
2. Maney, Ibrahim, Higgins, Herzog, The Past's Promise: The Lessons from Peace Processes in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol.43, no. 2, 2006, pp. 181-200.
3. Homer-Dixon, T. F. (1994). Environmental scarcities and violent conflict: evidence from cases. *International security*, 19(1), 5-40.

### **Lecture 8: - Environmental Conflicts in the Middle East**

1. George E. Irani, "Islamic Mediation Techniques for Middle East Conflicts" - ("The Arab Middle East – The Setting"):
2. Amery, H. A. (2002). Water wars in the Middle East: a looming threat. *Geographical Journal*, 168(4), 313-323.
3. Gleick, P. H. (1994). Water, war & peace in the Middle East. *Environment: science and policy for sustainable development*, 36(3), 6-42.

### **Lecture 9: - Case study: Israel-Jordan cooperation in the Gulf of Aqaba**

1. Arieli, T. (2012). Borders of peace in policy and practice: National and local perspectives of Israel-Jordan border management. *Geopolitics*, 17(3), 658–680.
2. Arieli, T. (2015). Municipal cooperation across securitized borders in the post-conflict environment: The Gulf of Aqaba. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 4(3), 1–18.

3. Portman, M. E., & Teff-Seker, Y. (2017). Factors of success and failure for transboundary environmental cooperation: projects in the Gulf of Aqaba. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 19(6), 810-826.

**Lecture 10: - Student Presentations**

**Lecture 11: - Student Presentations**

**Lecture 12: - Conclusions and summary**

**Lecture 13: - Final Exam**