

Managing Community Conflict Spring, 2016

SOC 4640/5640 (3 credits, CI)

Instructor:

Dr. Steve Daniels

7-1255

Steve.Daniels@usu.edu

OM 216C

(Home)

787-0166 before 10 p.m.

(Cell)

770-0946

Location and time:

OM 301 (Unless otherwise announced) 6-9 p.m, Monday Evenings

Course overview:

This is a three-credit upper division/graduate course providing an introduction into the techniques used to manage the conflict that often seems to accompany decisions in the public arena.

Contacting me:

I believe that fixed office hours (where you have to wait days for my office hours to reach me, and I sit in my office during office hours waiting to see if someone will come by) are outdated and obsolete. We can always schedule a time to meet at our mutual convenience. You may contact me by phone at any time prior to 10:00 PM; you may email me, or if you really want to play technology roulette, you can text me. I am very interested to talk with you about your issues with or interest in the course material. Please be aware that my 20-something sons regard me as the worst cell phone user in the western world, and feel free to send duplicate messages through multiple channels. But do not mistake a slow response with a lack of interest in talking with you.

Technology policy:

Whether the use of “screens”—laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc.—contributes to the learning environment in a college classroom is subject to considerable debate. I find the research on the ability of the current generation of students to effectively multi-task compelling. I am experimenting with a new technology policy this year.

- 1) You may use a screened device at any time EXCEPT when we are doing a simulation of some time.
- 2) If you are visibly using a screened device, I have right to call on you by name to get your reaction to what I have just said, or ask you to extend the line of inquiry in some way. (I need to ensure that you are paying adequate attention, even as part of your bandwidth is occupied elsewhere.)
- 3) Anyone who can see your screen can ask you to discontinue use of the device if they find it disruptive to their attention on course material.

Textbooks:

1) Daniels, S.E. and G.B. Walker. 2001. *Working through environmental conflict: The Collaborative Learning approach*. Praeger: Westport CT. The book is available through Amazon.com for \$110.

2) Fisher, Ury, and Patton. 1991 *Getting to Yes*, 2nd ed. or 2011 3rd ed. Amazon.com has this book for \$9.60, Kindle for \$12.99, and used copies starting at \$6.63.

Course Schedule:

1/11 Overview and orientation. Fundamentals of two-party conflict and negotiation I

1/18 No class- MLK day

1/25 Personal communication style as a foundation for negotiation competence (D&W, ch 3 & 4)

2/01 Fundamentals of two-party conflict and negotiation III
Communication and conflict self-assessment due

2/08 Multi-party/public policy conflict (D& W, ch. 2)

2/15 No Class—Presidents' Day

2/16 **Tuesday coverage of Monday classes;** Introduction to natural resource conflict—complexity and controversy (D&W ch 4)

2/22 Phases of a Collaborative Learning process (D&W, ch 2, 6)

2/29 Conflict assessment (D&W ch 8)

3/07 No Class—spring break

3/14 Understanding conflict situations systemically (D&W, Ch 6)

Rewrite of Communication and conflict self-assessment due

3/21 Situation Mapping II

4/04 Handling complex technical information

4/11 Techniques for effective events (D&W ch 8&9)

Conflict situation assessment due

4/18 Managing debate and its energy

4/21 TBA

Course Requirements:

1) Communication/conflict self-assessment paper. 30% of grade; approx. 5-8 double spaced pages. DUE First Draft Due 2/01; Final Due 3/14.

2) Conflict situation assessment. 60% of grade; approx 10-15 double spaced pages. DUE 4/11.

All papers are due *before* 5:00 PM one the day they are due, or they incur an immediate 10% late penalty (another 10% is levied each week at the same 5:00 deadline.) They are to be submitted via email to steve.daniels@usu.edu. Responsibility to master all technology issues rests with the student (there is no lenience in the deadline penalty re technology failures.)

3) Active attendance and participation. 10% of grade.

A re-write is required for the first paper unless an A grade is earned on the initial submission.

After the second absence, the instructor has the prerogative to deduct up to 5% of overall course grade for *each* additional absence.

Topical schedule:

- 1) Fundamentals of conflict management and negotiation
- 2) Understand one's communication style, and its relationship to conflict and conflict management
- 3) Defining characteristics of natural resource conflict complexity and controversy
- 4) Applying traditional negotiation approaches to natural resource conflict
- 5) Techniques for conflict assessment
 - Progress Triangle
 - Situation Mapping
- 6) The emerging multi-party collaborative paradigm
- 7) The Collaborative Learning Approach
- 8) Critiques and Limitations to Collaborative Approaches

Nondiscrimination Policy:

All aspects of this class are conducted without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or sexual orientation. The Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office at Utah State University is responsible for overseeing compliance with a wide variety of federal/state laws, executive orders, and University policies that address equal opportunity in employment and education. Ultimately, it seeds to institutionalize affirmative action and equal opportunity concepts in everyday operations and activities.

USU POLICY NUMBER 303 ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
Utah State University ensures equal opportunity in all aspects of employment, programs, and activities, and prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or sexual orientation. In addition USU Policy # 339 specifically prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace and Policy #305 provides discrimination complaint procedures. For further information, contact the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity office in Old Main 161, 797-1266.

Accommodation:

Any student with a disability who requires accommodation must contact the instructor. The disability must be documented by the Disability Resource Center, UINN 101, 797-2444. Course materials may be requested in alternative formats.