Mediating Violent Conflict

May 11-15, 2015

United States Institute of Peace
2301 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037

Instructors and Staff

Pamela Aall, Senior Advisor, U.S. Institute of Peace
Amun Nadeem, U.S. Institute of Peace
Mary Kate Battle, U.S. Institute of Peace

Learning Objectives

This course will focus on the objectives and methods of third-party engagement in peacemaking in interstate or intrastate conflicts. It will provide an overview of mediation in contemporary international conflict, focus on building competences for practicing mediation, and situate mediation in the larger peacebuilding context.

During the course, participants will examine: motivations and objectives in an intervention; assessing and promoting ripeness; assessing and strengthening their own institutional readiness to undertake mediation; developing leverage for mediation; coordination among the different third parties engaged in mediation; engaging reluctant parties; mediating in protracted conflicts; attributes and techniques of effective third parties; and best practices in support of successful third-party engagement.

Participants in the course will enhance their knowledge and skills through a series of interactive exercises, oral presentations, and a final group simulation.
Reading List

Each morning will start with a brief discussion of the previous day’s readings, as a way to re-enforce the learning and to surface issues that participants would like to clarify or examine in a deeper way than we can do in limited classroom time. The readings are largely taken from the following:


Other Resources


Isak Svensson and Peter Wallensteen, *The Go-Between: Jan Eliasson and the Styles of Mediation* (USIP, 2010).

USIP Peacemaker Toolkits Series, available online through [http://www.usip.org/publications_all](http://www.usip.org/publications_all)


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Course Outline

Monday, May 11  Introduction to Mediation

8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am – 9:45 am Session 1: Introductions and Course Overview

9:45 am – 10:45 am Session 2: Introduction to Mediation

10:45 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Introductory Exercise: Bellipax

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm - 3:45 pm Session 3: Guest Presentation: Negotiation for Mediation

Dr. Anthony Wanis–St. John, American University

(with break)

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm Discussion of Skills and Tasks

Readings:


Optional:


**Tuesday, May 12  **  *Conflict Analysis, Ripeness and Readiness*

9:00 am – 9:45 am Recap and Discussion of Previous Day’s Themes.

9:45 am – 10:45 am **Session 4: Conflict Analysis for Mediation**  
*Fundamentals of Conflict Analysis: who, what, where, why, when and how*

10:45 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Session 5: Introduction to Ripeness and Readiness**  
*When to Do Mediation and Who Should Do It*

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm– 2:45 pm  *Exercise on Insulae*

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm **Session 6: Guest Presentation:**  
*Mediating for the U.S., the UN and Private Groups: A Practitioner’s Reflections*  
Dr. Chester A. Crocker, Georgetown University

**Readings:**


**Optional:**


**Wednesday, May 13 Mediation Skills**

9:00 am – 9:30 am  Recap and Discussion of Previous Day’s Themes

9:30 am – 11:00 am  **Session 7: Facilitation**
Dr. Alison Milofsky  
Director of Curriculum, Academy  
U.S. Institute of Peace

11:00 am – 11:15 am  Break

11:15 am – 12:45 pm  **Session 8: Getting Parties to the Table**

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm  Lunch

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm  *Mediation and Skills Practice*

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm  Break

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm  **Session 9: Lessons on Leverage**
Dr. George Lopez  
Vice President, USIP Academy

Readings:


*Taming Intractable Conflicts* (6): “Hanging On, Hunkering Down, and Bailing Out,”  
119-147.

Optional:


Thursday, May 14  *Constructing a Strategy for Mediation*

9:00 am – 9:45 am  Recap and Discussion of Previous Day’s Themes

9:45 am – 11:00 am  **Session 10: Developing a Strategy, Engaging with the Parties and Reaching Agreement**

11:00 am – 11:15 am  Break

11:15 am – 12:30 pm  **Session 11: Strategic Peacemaking**  
Ambassador William Taylor  
Vice President for Middle East and Africa  
U.S. Institute of Peace

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  **Session 12: Developing a Strategy, Engaging with the Parties and Reaching Agreement** (cont’d)

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm  Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm  *Conflict Analysis for Exercise*

Readings:


Optional:


Friday, May 15  Capstone Exercise

9:00 am – 11:00 am  Capstone Exercise

11:00 am – 12:00 pm  Debrief of Capstone Exercise

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Debrief and Evaluation of Course

Reference material:

Amy L. Smith and David R. Smock, *Managing a Mediation Process*