

**Theory and Practice of  
Mediation and Conflict Transformation  
in Northern Ireland  
LAWS 2262 (1 Credit)  
SYLLABUS  
Fall 2018  
Professor Paul Hutchinson**

**Email Communication with Students:**

Emails sent to students will use their [dal.ca](mailto:dal.ca) email address and will have the re line: Mediation and Conflict Transformation. Please read these! Students will be deemed to have received course information sent by email.

**Class Time/**

Thursday, Oct 11: 7 to 9 pm  
Friday, Oct. 12: 3 to 7 pm  
Saturday, Oct. 13: 9 am to noon AND 1 to 5 pm

**All classes will be in the Glube Room**

**Course Materials:**

Online AND via links provided in the syllabus

**Focus of the Course**

This course will

- introduce theoretical, philosophical, practical and experiential learning in the field of conflict resolution, with a particular emphasis on the practice of mediation and conflict transformation,
- examine the personal, interpersonal and structural aspects of mediation, and
- provide an emphasis on both personal awareness and practical skills.

The focus of the course is on gaining an understanding of conflict, and ways of responding it. As noted in the course description, this is not a history or political science course on Northern Ireland; Northern Ireland will be used as a backdrop against which to examine conflict more generally and to consider ways of responding to conflict that will be transferrable to other contexts.

**Teaching Method:**

This course will proceed primarily by class discussion and role-playing. Students are expected to come to class having read the materials and must be prepared to engage actively in class discussion, role-playing, etc

## Evaluation:

- **Note that this course does NOT fulfill the law school's major paper requirement**
- The course is **pass/fail**
- Evaluation is based on:
  - 20% class participation and
  - 70% take-home assignment and
  - 10% in-class presentation on Saturday
- Attendance at every class is mandatory for this course.
- Please read the note below regarding accommodation.

### Take-home assignment (70%)

- 2500 words, double-spaced
- You are NOT required to do further research for this assignment; instead you are to draw on course readings and class room discussion.
- You are expected to provide your analysis of the topic; do NOT simply summarize the readings or class discussions.
- A bibliography is not required; for citations, please use the McGill Guide.
- **Due: Friday October 27, at 4 p.m.**
- You must submit the paper in both electronic format and in hard copy. [Email address for electronic submission will be provided in class; hard copy to be submitted to Reception and date/time stamped].
- Please refer to the Dalhousie Law School website for faculty regulations on late penalties.
- Please read the note below regarding plagiarism.

### TOPICS for take-home assignment - You must choose ONE of the topics below:

1. Using the material and experience from the course, reflect on **your understanding of conflict**:
  - at a personal level,
  - in relation to Northern Ireland, and
  - with possible applications to Canadian Society

OR

2. Explore **the role of story-telling** in mediation and conflict transformation, with particular reference to the theoretical models and case studies from the course.

OR

3. What are **the presenting conflicts within Canadian Society**?

What are the underlying issues, sources of this conflict?

How might you apply the theory/practice from the course to address these issues? (ie conflict transformation, reconciliation and story-telling)

## **Please note the following policies:**

### **1. Student Requests for Accommodation**

Requests for special accommodation for reasons such as illness, injury or family emergency will require an application to the Law School Studies Committee. Such requests (for example, for assignment extensions) must be made to Associate Dean, Academic Michael Deturbide or the Director of Student Services and Engagement Dana-Lyn Mackenzie as soon as possible, before a scheduled exam or a deadline for an assignment, and will generally require documentation. Retroactive accommodation will not be provided. Please note that individual professors cannot entertain accommodation requests.

Students may request accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams due to barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*. Students who require such accommodation must make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A. Students may also contact the Advising and Access Services Centre directly at (902) 494-2836.

### **2. Submission of Major Papers and Assignments**

Major papers and assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Students should hand papers in to the place stipulated by the instructor and ensure they are date and time stamped. Please read the law school policy on late penalties: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/jd-students/academic-regulations.html> Please note students may also be required to provide an identical electronic copy of their paper to the instructor by the due date. Papers may be submitted by the instructor to a text-matching software service to check for originality. Students wishing to choose an alternative method of checking the authenticity of their work must indicate to the instructor, by no later than the add/drop date of the course, which one of the following alternative methods they choose:

- a) submit copies of multiple drafts demonstrating development of their work
- b) submit copies of sources
- c) submit an annotated bibliography

### **3. Plagiarism**

All students must read the University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/> and the Law School policy on plagiarism <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/jd-students/academic-regulations.html>. Any paper or assignment submitted by a student at the Schulich School of Law may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the law school, or even revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. Prior to submitting any paper or other assignment, students should read and familiarize themselves with the policies referred to above and should consult with the instructor if they have any questions. **Ignorance of the policies on plagiarism will not excuse any violation of those policies.**

### **4. General Academic Support**

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

### **5. Fair Dealing Guidelines**

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>

# CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic(s) and Readings
<p><b>CLASS 1</b></p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 11 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p><b><u>Introduction to course</u></b></p> <p>Aim, content and process of course Northern Ireland: Context</p> <p><b><u>Reading material</u></b></p> <p>1. A briefing Paper on Northern Ireland: David Stevens (Do not get mired in memorizing detail; read for overview and background)</p> <p>2. Corrymeela website- to give context to my background <a href="http://www.corrymeela.org/">http://www.corrymeela.org/</a></p>
<p><b>CLASS 2</b></p> <p>Friday Oct. 12 3 to 7 pm</p>	<p><b><u>Topic</u></b></p> <p><b>What is conflict?</b> Models for dealing with conflict</p> <p><b>Story-telling as a foundation for Practice</b> Theoretical input and experiential learning</p> <p><b><u>Readings</u></b></p> <p>1. <a href="http://www.tricycle.com/reviews/am-i-storyteller-or-story-or-both">http://www.tricycle.com/reviews/am-i-storyteller-or-story-or-both</a> - David R Loy</p> <p>2. <a href="https://exchangingnarratives.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/where-do-stories-come-from.pdf">https://exchangingnarratives.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/where-do-stories-come-from.pdf</a> - Richard Kearney on stories</p> <p>3. <a href="https://exchangingnarratives.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/narrative-matters.pdf">https://exchangingnarratives.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/narrative-matters.pdf</a></p> <p>4. <a href="http://www.beyondintractability.org/bksum/lederach-imagination">http://www.beyondintractability.org/bksum/lederach-imagination</a> - essay by John Paul Lederach</p> <p><u>[continued on next page]</u></p>

	<p>5. <a href="http://www.beyondintractability.org/">http://www.beyondintractability.org/</a> Beyond intractability website: look up and read one short article on each of arbitration, mediation, negotiation, reconciliation</p> <p>6 <a href="http://www.restorativejustice.org/RJOB/howard-zehrs-restorative-justice-threes">http://www.restorativejustice.org/RJOB/howard-zehrs-restorative-justice-threes</a> - article by Howard Zehr on Restorative Justice</p> <p>7 <a href="http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/transformation">http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/transformation</a> - essay by John Paul Lederach</p>
<p><b>CLASS 3</b></p> <p>Saturday Oct. 13 9 am to noon</p>	<p><b><u>Topic</u></b></p> <p><b>Policing in Northern Ireland</b> Principles from practice Theoretical input and experiential learning</p> <p><b>Reconciliation – Theory and Practice</b></p> <p><b><u>Reading Material</u></b></p> <p>1. NI Policing board website – a quick scan to familiarize <a href="http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk">http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk</a></p> <p>2 Corrymeela website- to give context to reconciliation in community <a href="http://www.corrymeela.org/">http://www.corrymeela.org/</a></p>
<p><b>CLASS 4</b></p> <p>Saturday Oct. 13 1 to 5 pm</p>	<p><b><u>Topic</u></b></p> <p><b>Reconciliation – Theory and Practice</b></p> <p><b>Reflections/Questions/Feedback/Essay information</b></p> <p><b>In-Class Presentations</b></p>