

ADR: Theoretical Perspectives

ADRN6281

Course Outline

Description: You will explore the theoretical basis for various conflict resolution processes, as well as the practical application of these concepts in the private and public sector. Weekly topics will be chosen to address the particular interests of participants. These topics will be selected from a wide range of issues that are emerging as the use of ADR processes rapidly expands throughout organizations and institutions. Participants require access to the internet.

Course Goals: The course is designed to complement the skills and process oriented courses in the rest of the Conflict Management certificate program with theory and reflection. The course covers conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation theory and introduces students to conflict resolution systems design, and other topics in the field of alternative dispute resolution raised by students. It is organized as a seminar course with students participating each week and acting as a discussion leader in one week. This is a required course for anyone wishing to receive the Professional Certificate in Conflict Management. It is taught completely on-line. Students' learning will come from their conversation and interaction with each other and the instructor as well as through readings from a text and writing a paper.

Pre-Requisites: At least one of Mediation Skills and Processes, Negotiation Skills and Processes and Non-Neutral Mediation Skills and Processes.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, students will:

- Identify ways in which the skills and approaches they have encountered in this and other courses in the Conflict Management Certificate Program have been or can be incorporated in their lives
- Be familiar, in general terms, with the various schools of thought within the ADR scholarly community, and begin to integrate the issues raised with other knowledge and life experience.
- Develop a deep understanding of one or more issues in ADR, through their work leading a seminar and writing a paper:

Course Discussion Topic and Reading Schedule:

Students are expected to prepare for each of the weekly on-line discussions by reading the pages of the text noted below, and to post replies to each seminar leader's question(s) and well as replies to their fellow students. Each student will act as a seminar leader during one of these weeks. As much as possible, the student's choice of which week they prefer will be accommodated. However, to ensure that this role is distributed over all five weeks, students may be assigned a week that is not their first choice. Topics and Readings are set out below.

Week One: Conflict Analysis

Week Two: Negotiation

Week Three: Negotiation and Mediation

Week Four: Mediation

Western Continuing Studies

Week Five: Online Dispute Resolution

Grading:

- Participation in weekly on-line discussions, inclusive of two very brief reflections on your participation, submitted at the course mid-point and at the last day of the course. (30%)
- Acting as seminar leader for a topic during one week of the course, inclusive of very brief reflection on this experience (20%) Due the Monday following your week as a seminar leader.
- Reflection on the Impact of Conflict Management courses on your life and work (10%). Due at 11:00 pm on Monday of week two.
- Final paper (40%). Due at 11:00 pm on the Monday following the end of the course.

Notes on assignments (papers):

- Must be academic in style and content
- Must have a clear focus
- Must present ideas in a logical and well thought-out flow
- Arguments, analysis and conclusions must be based on clearly identified research and sources
- Must cite all references from other sources
- Must be in paragraph format
- Must be double-spaced, and typewritten

Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of conduct at Western University. We cannot have freedom of expression without integrity. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences; please refer to the section on "Scholastic Offences" in the current University Academic Calendar, or on the web at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in this University or elsewhere (without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom the work is submitted). Students enrolled in non-degree courses are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct.

Code of Student Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

Plagiarism

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).