



## PLS 250—Introduction to Conflict Resolution

### Elite Learning—Spring 2019

Supporting Colleges: WCC VHCC

Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network

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#### **Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Kyle Scanlan

**Office/Office Hours:** Online, Monday and Wednesday from 8:00-8:30; 11:15-12:45, and on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00-8:30, 12:30-1:45.

**Telephone:** 276-523-2400, extension 263

**E-mail:** The best way to reach me is by sending a message within your Moodle course. Students should expect to receive message responses within 24 hours during the week and no more than 48 hours during the weekend. I will post in the Announcements if I will not be available, so be sure to read the Announcements!

If you have a need to reach me by email, my address is [kscanlan@mecc.edu](mailto:kscanlan@mecc.edu). My email should only be used as a last resort.

#### **Course (Catalog) Description**

VCCS Master Course Description: Teaches basic concepts and methods of conflict resolution, which includes the factors that lead to conflict, and how conflicts can be prevented or brought to an end through peaceful means. Focuses on national and international conflict resolution.

Students who are successful in this course will receive three college credits for PLS 250—Introduction to Conflict Resolution.

Prerequisite: Placement tests may be required. Contact your school counselor for more information.

#### **Course Materials**

No textbook is required for this course. Online resources will be used for all course content. All course materials were selected to meet the course goals and objectives. Students should contact their facilitator or guidance counselor if there are problems accessing the sites at your school. If you are unable to receive materials within the first few days of class, contact the instructor.

#### **Time & Location of Class Meeting:**

This course is asynchronous, which means you will be able to access your course material at any time of the day or night. You should have a specific time in the day that you will be assigned to work on your assignments for this course at school. It is critical to log into your course on a daily basis.

#### **Technology Requirement:**

Students will be required to complete and submit assignments by using Moodle, the learning management system for Elite Learning. The course can be accessed at [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org). Students will need use of the Internet for all coursework. Access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are also required.

#### **Technical Support:**

Technical problems are not common but occur from time-to-time. To receive prompt support, students must submit a trouble ticket by going to [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org) and then selecting the Contact tab. The trouble ticket Form will be distributed to the informational support team. You should receive a response within 24 hours (usually

much sooner). After you have submitted the trouble ticket, please send me an email or message to let me know what problems you are having.

### **Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

This course will introduce students to different perspectives on conflict and a variety of strategies used to resolve conflict, including peaceful means. Conflict and its various means of resolution will be presented in different contexts, emphasizing cross cultural and international conflict. Students will be encouraged to consider how they confront conflict in their personal lives, how they see conflict and its resolution carried out on the local level, and, likewise, at the international level. A variety of methods used to resolve conflict at all levels will be presented.

**Goals and Specific Objectives:** Under examination conditions and with a 60% accuracy, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze the different types of conflict in the world, which includes domestic conflict, intrastate and cultural conflict, and international conflict.
2. Uncover and assess the various factors that lead to all types of conflict.
3. Compare the wide variety of methods that are used to prevent, minimize, and end conflict, as well as methods utilized in post-conflict situations.
4. Scrutinize the various organizations and institutions, in both the private and public sectors, that attempt to resolve conflict.
5. Utilize methods of resolving conflict in role playing and case study situations.

**Core Competencies:** This course satisfies VCCS Core Competencies in the following categories:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Cultural and Social Understanding
- Information Literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Soft Skills

### **Teaching Methods:**

The class will be divided into topic assignments. There will be multiple learning topics labeled by subject area to complete. Due dates will be posted well ahead of time as each module becomes due. Please note that material will be presented in units, and part of success is learning to study significant amounts of material at once. That being said, if the reading assignments are complete, and there is active participation in the online discussion board success shouldn't be an issue.

### **Method of Evaluating Student Achievement**

The course will consist of a variety of assessments that should appeal to all learning styles. Preparation is the key to student success. Completing assignments on time is essential. No credit will be given for late assignments. Online programs are challenging at times, however, with timely communication and meeting schedule deadlines, this course will be a success.

### **Grading Policy & Scale:**

This course will be graded on a ten-point scale:

100-90 % = A 89-80 % = B 79-70 % = C 69-60 % = D 59 % or less = F

Grades are divided into categories:

- Module Reading and Reflection Papers: 20%
- Module forum assignments: 20%

- Conflict Resolution Organization Paper Assignment: 10%
- Research Paper Assignment: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exams: 20%

In the Moodle Grade Book you can see a running total of points earned and assignments as they are averaged.

All grades will be reported by SVETN to each school with a numeric grade and a recommended letter, but assignment of a final letter grade will be at the discretion of the student's school.

Students should expect to receive feedback from the instructor on all discussion board posts within 48 hours. Because it takes much longer to grade papers, you can expect feedback within 7 days of your submission (usually sooner).

**Late Work Policy:** Please be aware that this is a rigorous college course which requires disciplined work habits and the meeting of deadlines. Due dates are located on the calendar and throughout the course. You should give yourself plenty of time on assignments and don't wait until the last minute. For example: An assignment has been open for an entire week. You don't attempt the quiz until 30 minutes before it closes but then you have technical problems. You will not be given an extension because ample time was given on the quiz. I will not extend deadlines unless I am contacted by your school with an approved excuse. I will not reopen an assignment after it has closed. Plan accordingly if you will be out of school on trips, out of town, etc.

NOTE: Late submissions may be permitted with appropriate documentation of a medical or dire emergency. Documentation should be sent to me by your guidance counselor or proctor.

### **Attendance Policy:**

At least once every school day, you are required to log into MOODLE and perform three tasks:

- Check your inbox for new messages.
- Check for new course announcements.
- Check through the due dates listed on the course page to see what work is due.

You should then proceed to work on the assignments within the current unit.

The school and/or parents will be notified if a student has not logged into their course for a three-day period. Contacts will also be made if a student is logging into their course with only a minimum amount of work each day. Expect no less than 60-90 minutes of work each day.

### **How to be successful:**

Make sure you read through this entire document. There is useful information here.

In addition, there are 2 other documents in the beginning of the course:

**Everything you Need to Know** goes into great detailed instructions on each of the assignments.

**Grading Rubric** explains how each type of assignment will be

Stay on task by printing off your course documents and keeping them in a notebook with a calendar. Plan ahead, and do not procrastinate. The dual enrollment classes are college classes. An asynchronous class requires discipline. If you are not self-disciplined in your studies, then you need to rethink your decision to take this class. You must stay focused and keep a steady pace, or you will fall behind. Technical difficulties may occur. Remember that technical difficulties happen with online courses. Report technical problems as soon as possible by submitting a trouble ticket at [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org) under the Contact tab.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Disabilities Students who participate in this class are also high school students. Each high school has resources available for students with disabilities (IEP). Please contact the guidance counselor at your school to request

academic accommodations. Each community college also has the Office of Student Services, which may be able to provide additional services. A representative from your school (guidance counselor) may make a request for services at the college. That office will evaluate the request and make recommendations for appropriate and reasonable accommodations, which the student will provide to the instructor. Please contact your guidance counselor or SVETN for more information.

### **Emergency Policy:**

Follow all emergency policies for your home school.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Each student will be bound by the academic codes of their school. Any violations will be reported to the student's school for appropriate disciplinary action. Cheating will not be tolerated. Because these courses are considered college courses, each student is considered a responsible adult. It is assumed that students will maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in Elite Learning as well as the community college. Emphasis is placed on standards of student conduct rather than on limits or restrictions. Guidelines and regulations governing student conduct are developed by the Elite Learning faculty, staff, and administration. More detailed information is found in the Elite Learning Student Guide.

### **Honor Code:**

All local (and Elite Learning) Honor Codes are in place in this course and are expected to be followed at all times. The said Honor Code will be enforced and abided to in this course.

It is critical that all students read the Elite Learning Guide for Students. This guide is located at [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org) as well as within your course. Contact Dawn Stafford, SVETN Executive Director, if you have questions or concerns.

### **How do I complete this course?**

All Assignments under each bolded category are expected to be completed by the due date given by the instructor (via Moodle). Under each category you will find readings, resources, and presentations. For best results complete all work assigned, all readings and all supplementary assignments, not merely graded work. This will help you to grasp the material in an online environment, interact with your peers as well as prepare you for each topic examination. There will be an assessment at the end of each chapter, occasional project assignments (weighted as tests), a midterm multiple-choice exam and a final multiple-choice exam.

### **Course Information and Schedule**

Below is an outline of the content of the course. Please follow the due dates listed in Moodle for each assignment.

Additions and changes in expectations are at the discretion of the instructor.

Major Content Areas:

- 1) What is conflict? Defining and analyzing conflict.
- 2) Political Socialization and Ideology
- 3) Interpersonal Conflict
- 4) National Conflict
- 5) International Conflict. and inter-cultural conflict.
- 6) Conflict minimization techniques.
- 7) Conflict resolution organizations.
- 8) Case studies into selected conflict scenarios.
- 9) Introduction to peace studies

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**Course syllabus and schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**