# Loyola University Conflict Management & Communication COMM 231 Fall 2017 Course Syllabus

| Instructor:<br>Cell Phone:<br>E-mail: | Lambe Bobby Papoulias, Ed.D.<br>(562) 805-1942<br>LPapoulias@LUC.edu       |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office:                               | 111 E. Pearson, #906 Lewis Tower   |
| Office Hours:                         | Monday, 3:00pm – 4:00pm  |
| Class Day(s):                         | Monday   |
| Class Time(s):                        | 4:15PM – 6:15PM  |
| Class Location:                       | Room 013 (School of Communications)  |
| Required Text 1:                      | Interpersonal Conflict – 10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> Edition      |
|                                       | Joyce Hocker & William Wilmot  |
|                                       | McGraw-Hill, 2011  |
| Required Text 2:                      | Conflict Unraveled: Fixing Problems at Work and in Families<br>Andra Medea |
|                                       | PivotPoint Press, 2004   |
| Supplemental Readings:                | Harvard Business Review, Misc.   |

## **Class Focus/Learning Objectives**

This course presents current theory and research in interpersonal conflict. Material will be drawn from the fields of communication, psychology, organizational behavior, and mediation. The course will emphasize general principles of conflict and conflict management, with applications to specific areas such as work, family, dating, friendship and marriage.

Conflict management is an exciting and rapidly evolving field. The course will balance theory with problem-solving. Students will be asked to

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Understand core principles of conflict management
- Understand the role of the brain in conflict management
- Demonstrate practical knowledge of conflict skills
- Apply conflict theory and skills to actual situations
- Collaborate and participate in classroom problem-solving

## How the Class Will Operate

Class will primarily consist of lecture and discussion. We can all learn from each other. Therefore, you are expected to have read the appropriate text chapters and outside materials prior to each class. I will facilitate class discussions on the material contained in the assigned readings. We will not discuss all of the materials or content contained in each chapter. However, you will be responsible for it on exams. When possible, we will have guest speakers who are specialists in the areas we are discussing. Emphasis will be on real world application of conflict management principles. Small group discussion and problem-solving will be ongoing.

#### **Course Requirements**

- 1. All text materials will not necessarily be covered in class. However, students are responsible for all assigned readings. Assigned materials must be read before coming to class each day.
- 2. Other assignments and due dates will be covered/explained in class. Assignments are due on time. One letter grade will be deducted for every day an assignment is turned in late.
- 3. Students are expected to have active e-mail accounts and to be able to use them.
- 4. Active class participation is a requirement of this course.

## **Class Attendance and Professionalism**

The seminar format of this class requires that students actively participate in class discussions and team activities. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time and be fully prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered, including any changes in class readings or schedules. Failure to participate, lack of preparedness or excessive absences or tardy arrivals will be reflected in final grades. Professional behavior is expected and required from every student in this class; be professional please.

## **Grading Policies and Assignments**

All work will be judged by professional standards. Neat, well-written, typed, carefully edited copy (i.e. no spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors) is expected. Due dates for all assignments will be communicated in class. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class designated.

## **Class Participation**

There will be plenty of opportunity during class sessions to discuss the material, relate the material to personal experience and observations, and probe for even greater understanding of media in general. Just as in the case for media professionals, the ability for each student to discuss, relate and challenge traditional norms will play an important role in the value of the total class experience.

## Grading

| А  | 93 - 100%   | B- | 80 - 82.99% | D+ | 67 - 69.99% |
|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| A- | 90 - 92.99% | C+ | 77 - 79.99% | D  | 64 - 66.99% |
| B+ | 87 - 89.99% | С  | 73 - 76.99% | D- | 60 - 63.99% |
| В  | 83 - 86.99% | C- | 70 - 72.99% | F  | Below 60%   |

#### Student Evaluation Points

| Group Project/Presentation      | 100 |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Writing Assignment              | 100 |
| Individual Project              | 50  |
| Class Participation*/HW/Quizzes | 100 |
| Midterm Exam                    | 50  |
| Final Exam                      | 100 |
| Total                           | 500 |

\*Class participation and assignments are essential to a good grade in this course. If you come to class unprepared, or if you do not come to class or fail to complete all of your assignments on time, it will be very difficult to earn a good grade in this course.

#### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious form of violation of academic integrity. Plagiarism is the appropriation for gain of ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient public acknowledgment and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that the very thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the deliberate taking and use of specific works and ideas of others without proper acknowledgment of the source. Plagiarism on the part of the student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning a grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department involved.

#### Disability

Any student with a learning disability that needs special accommodation during exams or class periods should provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities confidentially to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student's needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. It is the student's responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates.

| COM 231 – Conflict Management & Communication<br>Fall 2018 – Dr. L. Bobby Papoulias |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Week  | Subject/Chapter   | Assignments & Due Dates   |
| <b>1</b><br>8/27  | Introduction, Syllabus Review, Class Introductions and Activity | Read:<br>Ch. 1: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 1: Conflict Unraveled<br>Due 9/10 |
| <b>2</b><br>9/3   | No Class: Labor Day   |   |

| <b>3</b><br>9/10   | Chapter 1 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 1 Review: Conflict Unraveled   | Read:<br>Ch. 2: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 2: Conflict Unraveled<br>Prepare for Quiz<br>Due 9/17   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>4</b><br>9/17   | Chapter 2 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 2 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Group Exercises: Building a Strong Group<br>Foundation<br>Quiz 1: Chapters 1-2 (Both Textbooks)<br>Group Project Review                                | Read:<br>Ch. 5: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 5: Conflict Unraveled<br>Due 9/24   |
| <b>5</b><br>9/24   | Chapter 5 Review: Interpersonal Conflict (Group)<br>Chapter 5 Review: Conflict Unraveled (Group)<br>Individual Project Review  | Read:<br>Ch. 3: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 3: Conflict Unraveled<br>Ch. 4: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 4: Conflict Unraveled<br>Prepare for Quiz<br>Due 10/1 |
| <b>6</b><br>10/1   | Chapter 3 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 3 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Chapter 4 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 4 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Quiz 2: Chapters 3-5 (Both Textbooks)<br>Writing Assignment Review | Read:<br>Ch. 6: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 6: Conflict Unraveled<br>Ch. 7: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 7: Conflict Unraveled<br>Due 10/15                    |
| <b>7</b><br>10/8   | No Class: Mid-Semester Break   |   |
| <b>8</b><br>10/15  | Chapter 6 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 6 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Chapter 7 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 7 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Midterm Exam – Chapter 1-5 Only                                    | Ch. 8: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 8: Conflict Unraveled<br>Ch. 9: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 9: Conflict Unraveled<br>Due 10/22                             |
| <b>9</b><br>10/22  | ONLINE WEEK<br>Watch Online Lecture & Complete Survey<br>Chapter 8 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 8 Review: Conflict Unraveled<br>Chapter 9 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 9 Review: Conflict Unraveled              | Read:<br>Ch. 10: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Ch. 10: Conflict Unraveled<br>Prepare for Quiz<br>Due 10/29  |
| <b>10</b><br>10/29 | Group Project: Meet with your groups to finalize<br>group project. Practice Presentation and finalize<br>report.<br>Quiz 3: Chapters 6-9 (Both Textbooks)  |   |
| <b>11</b><br>11/5  | Chapter 10 Review: Interpersonal Conflict<br>Chapter 10 Review: Conflict Unraveled   |   |

| 12    | Individual Project Presentations              | Individual Project         |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| 11/12 |   | Due 11/12                  |
| 13    | Individual Project Presentations              |                            |
| 11/19 |   |                            |
| 14    | Group Project Presentations                   | Prepare for Final Exam     |
| 11/26 | Final Exam Review                             | <mark>Group Project</mark> |
|       |   | Due 11/26                  |
| 15    | Extra Credit Assignment                       | <mark>Final Exam</mark>    |
| 12/3  | Writing Assignment Questions/Wrap-Up          | <mark>In Class</mark>      |
|       | Final Exam                                    |                            |
| 16    | Finals Exam Week: Complete Writing Assignment | Individual Project         |
| 12/10 |   | Due During Final Exam      |