



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,  
REV. FR. MOSES ORSHIO ADASU UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI  
FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 SESSION.**

**BSU-POL 109: TRADITIONAL AFRICAN CONFLICT RESOLUTION MODELS 2CR**

**Course Instructor:**

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**Course Overview**

This course offers a comprehensive understanding of the nature and causes of conflicts in African traditional societies and cultures. The course explores traditional African methods, values, processes, and institutions to manage and resolve conflict. The course emphasizes the role of culture, community, elders, and spirituality, and evaluates how these models can coexist or integrate with modern legal systems in resolving conflict in African societies.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate good understanding and knowledge in the following areas;

1. The principles and foundations of traditional African conflict.
2. Analyze different traditional models of conflict resolution across African societies.
3. Examine the roles of elders, chiefs, spiritual leaders, and community groups.
4. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of indigenous conflict resolution.
5. Explore the potential integration of traditional models with modern judicial systems.

**Grading Method**

Class Test/Assignments 20%

Class Participation 20%

End of Semester Examination 60%

Total 100 %

**Module 1: Definition and Causes of Conflict in African Society**

- Definitions and Causes of Conflict
- Types and Stages of Conflict
- Overview of Traditional African Societies
- Sources of Conflicts in Traditional African Societies

## **Module 2: Key Features of Traditional African Conflict Resolution**

- Conflict Resolution
- Conflict Resolution in Africa
- A. Oral Traditions and Storytelling
- B. Rituals, Symbols, and Spirituality
- C. Informality, Flexibility, and Accessibility

## **Module 3: Indigenous Personalities in Conflict Resolution**

- Legitimacy, authority, and wisdom in African Conflict Resolution
- Kings and Chiefs
- Ancestors
- Elders and Family Heads
- Age-Grade Association
- Secret societies

## **Module 4: Customary Courts and Informal Tribunals**

- Village courts and dispute panels
- Community-based restorative justice

## **Module 5: Case Studies**

- The Ubuntu System
- Gacaca Courts and Abunzi mediation system (Rwanda)
- Ya na Angbian (Tiv –Nigeria)
- The Igbo Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms
- Yoruba traditional arbitration and Ifá divination
- The Pondo Tribe of Zulu in South Africa

## **Suggested References**

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