



Department of Political Science
Rev. Fr. Moses Orshio Adasu University, Makurdi
M.Sc. Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
2025/2026 Session

PCR 801: Theories of Conflict Resolution

Three Credit Units

Instructor:

Dr. John Tor Tsuwa Fspsp

B.Sc (BSU), M.Sc (BSU), PhD (BSU), PhD (NDA).

Google Scholar link: <https://bit.ly/3TUAewA>

ORCID: 0000-0002-7090-5556

Course Description and Objectives:

The overall objective of this course is to examine the basic concepts, perspectives and theories of conflict and conflict resolution. It is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the major approaches, theories and processes of conflict resolution. The course examines how conflict resolution theory and practice intersect and relate to one another. This intersection of theory and practice will be explored through examining conflict resolution from different perspectives.

a. Course Requirements:

i.	Compulsory attendance and participation at lectures -	5%
ii.	Critical Thinking Papers	25%
iii.	Class Presentations	10%
iv.	End of Semester Examinations	60%
v.	Total	100%

b. Course Content:

Module One: Basic Issues in Understanding Conflict

Meaning of Conflict
Types of Conflict
Stages of Conflict
Dimensions of Conflict
What is a Theory

Module Two: Basic Issues in Understanding Conflict Resolution

Meaning of Conflict Resolution
Emotional Intelligence
Perception
Communication
Trust
Benefits of Conflict Resolution

Module Three: Traditional Approaches to Conflict Resolution

- i) Power-based Approach
Use of Force and Coercion
Hierarchical Structures and Authority
- ii) Rights-Based Approach
Legal Framework and Due Process
Individual and Group Rights

Module Four: Contemporary Approaches to Conflict Resolution

- i) Interest-Based Approach
Collaborative Problem-solving
Win-Win Solutions
- ii) Value-Based Approach
Ethics and Moral Dimensions of Conflict
Cultural Sensitivity and Diversity

Module Five: Theories of Conflict Resolution

Human Needs Theory
Structural Theory
Realist Theory
Conflict Transformation Theory
Games Theory
Transformative Theory
Communication Theory

Module Eight: Emotion Intelligence and Conflict Resolution

The interaction between emotion and conflict
Recognizing and managing emotions in mediation
Emotion and learning

Module Nine: Alternative Dispute (Conflict) Resolution

- i) Mediation and Negotiation Techniques
Mediation as a Conflict Resolution Method
Roles and Skills in Mediation
Stages of Mediation Process
- ii) Negotiation Strategies
Difference between Mediation and Negotiation
Best Alternative to Negotiated Agreement (BATNA)

- iii) Arbitration and Adjudication
Similarities and Differences with Mediation
Pros and Cons of Adjudicatory Processes
Restorative Justice.

Module Ten: Development of Case Studies

Interpersonal Conflict
Intergroup Conflict

Suggested Reading List:

- Galtung J. (1969). Violence, Peace and Peace Research.
Lederach, P (1995) Preparing for Peace: Conflict Transformation Across Cultures. Syracuse University Press.
Lederach, P (1997) Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies. USIP.
Sun Tzu (1945) The Art of War
Rosenberg, M () Non-Violent Communication: A language of life
Jeong, H (2000). Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction.
- Tsuwa, J. T and Ogbu, M (2025) The Role of Technology in Enhancing National Security. *African Journal of Governance and Development Studies (AJGDS)*. 1 (1). 182 - 207.
<https://doi.org/10.61955/KZOSDF>
- Tsuwa, J. T (2025) Fragmenting Nationalism and Institutionalizing Conflict and Underdevelopment in Africa. *International Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution*. Vol. 10(1).1-12. <https://journals.rcmss.com/index.php/ijpcs/issue/view/151>
- Tsuwa, J. T and Akegh, J.N (2024). *Navigating Hardships: Addressing The Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons In Benue State Through Community Engagement*. *Journal of the Society of Peace Studies and Practice* Vol. 13(3) 106-120 www.spsp.org
- Tsuwa, J.T ad Adimula, R.A (2024) Introduction to Peace and Conflict Resolution: Readings in honour of Prof. Noah Yusuf. Extension Publishers. Ibandan