

Conflict Transformation Studies (CTS)

Conflict is inescapable and occurs in all human experience. Conflict emerges from many sources – systemic structures, religion, class and economic resources, race and ethnicity, sexuality, cultural and national differences, failures, commitments, and efforts for positive social change. The focus of conflict transformation studies is to enhance the ability of individuals and communities of people to meet their own needs while recognizing the competing needs of others and pursuing creative, nonviolent processes for transforming their conflicts. An understanding of processes, such as arbitration, negotiation, conflict management, conflict resolution, peace building, forgiveness and reconciliation, is central to the building of civil society and a new world order.

The purpose of Conflict Transformation Studies (CTS) is to examine, from interdisciplinary and faith-based perspectives, the theory, analysis, history, culture, and transformational processes involved in conflict situations, justice, and peace building. As a Christian community grounded in the gospels, we believe that it is our responsibility to study the roots of conflict and violence, and to explore the many approaches to the work of nonviolent conflict transformation—from conflict management to mediation and reconciliation.

Admittance into the Conflict Transformation Program is based on the following criteria.

Students will:

- Have completed 44 hours of undergraduate course work.
- Complete CTS 3000/5000, Introduction to Conflict Transformation, at a grade of B- or better
- Complete a written application to the CTS program.
- Interview with two members of the CTS Advisory Council.
- Demonstrate a high level of maturity and leadership.

Certificate in Conflict Transformation Studies

Required semester hours

24 sh, with course work in at least three departments, not including CTS 3000/5000 and CTS 4970/5970

Required core courses

Introduction (4 sh): CTS 3000/5000;

Conflict Theory, Analysis, History and Culture (8 sh): AS 2530, 2540, COMM 2350, 3910 (Topics: International Conflict Transformation or Topics: Social Movements),

ENG 3260, SOC 3310, SPAN 3910 (Topics: Latin American Testimonial Literature); Training (4 sh): EDUC 5020, SBNM 5040, SBNM 5041, MNST 6272, MNST 7190;

Religion and Conflict (4 sh): BTS 2700, 2710, SPFM 7205, THEO 7190; Internship (4 sh): CTS 4970/5970

3000 Introduction to Conflict Transformation (4 sh)

An introduction to conflict studies and the philosophy and practice of conflict transformation, this course begins with the premise that conflict is part of our daily lives—an important dynamic in personal growth and social transformation, as well a source of alienation, violence and war. The course examines major sources of conflict, introduces a range of conflict management and conflict transformation processes, including active listening and communication, storytelling, mediation, negotiation, role playing and forgiveness, helps students assess their own approach to conflict, and offers

resources for faith-based approaches to conflict transformation. Required for admission to the CTS Certificate Program and upper-level CTS courses.

3910 Topics in Conflict Transformation (2-4 sh)

Seminars, study trips and/or service-learning experiences which examine particular figures or topics in conflict transformation studies, such as Violence, Peacemaking, and the World's Religions: A Travel Course to The 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions (Barcelona, Spain); and Dag Hammarskjold, Spirituality and Peacemaking

3920 Topics in Graduate Studies Topics in Conflict Transformation (1-4 sh)

Undergraduate registration for graduate courses in the CTS program. Students must present an add/drop form to the records office with signatures from the coordinator of the CTS advisory council and the director of the school in which the course is offered.

4970 Internship in Conflict Transformation (4 sh)

Working with the advisor from the CTS program, students will arrange an internship which provides a sense of community and an extended experience with the conflict analysis and transformation processes. Students will be expected to integrate CTS theory and practice, including: description of concrete experience; reflection on the experience; generalizations (relating reflections to learnings from the CTS program and the learnings from the experience itself); and a statement of how the student will change behavior and attitudes (a meta-analysis).

5000 Introduction to Conflict Transformation (4 sh)

An introduction to conflict studies and the philosophy and practice of conflict transformation, this course begins with the premise that conflict is part of our daily lives—an important dynamic in personal growth and social transformation, as well a source of alienation, violence and war. The course examines major sources of conflict, introduces a range of conflict management and conflict transformation processes, including active listening and communication, storytelling, mediation, negotiation, role playing and forgiveness, helps students assess their own approach to conflict, and offers resources for faith-based approaches to conflict transformation. Required for admission to the CTS Certificate Program and upper-level CTS courses.