Please note that we will have significant work carried out on-line and all students must have access to a computer with internet. If you have hesitation about using the internet or BlackBoard, please discuss with me whether or not you should be in this class.

**Attendance:**
Class attendance is NOT optional. Because of the intensity of scheduling, all students MUST attend all classes. If you have a problem with attendance at one of the scheduled meetings, you should withdraw from this class. Please note the following Communication Department attendance policy which will be vigorously enforced in this course.

“The Department of Communication Graduate Program develops student knowledge and skills through a varied curriculum in applied organizational communication. Our courses are special learning communities where professors and students join together to study bodies of literature in course-specific topics. Students process and evaluate scholarly work through written and oral presentation of information and ideas. Therefore, attendance and active participation are essential for all students' success.

Punctual attendance at each class is an obligation of the student. By registering for this course, you are indicating that you will be able to attend classes on time and without early departure on the dates published. A student missing a weekend class meeting or more than one semester-long evening class meeting should NOT expect to pass the course. Students should have their personal or professional schedules well in mind when they choose courses for the semester. Graduate faculty may supplement this departmental attendance policy through specific announcements in each course syllabus.”

**Course Objectives:**
This course design intends to provide the opportunity for students and instructor to examine conflict in everyday life with a particular focus on the role that communication plays in the development and management of conflict situations. The course will cover the primary literature on conflict and communication: definitions and concepts, power, causes and development of conflict in interpersonal, organizational, and intercultural settings, with some attention to conflict management strategies. However, the course will primarily focus on the application of theory to conflict in the everyday life of people. Therefore, the students should identify a specific area of organization or other life situation in which they encounter conflict and toward which they would prefer to direct their own research and application. The instructor will assist each student in identifying her/his own target situation and in locating research that can offer specific concepts and ideas for application to the target situation. Another important factor in this course concerns the use of web-based instruction. Because of the significant on-line lectures, information, and assignments, the class will not meet as often as usual for weekend classes. Each student must have easy access to the internet since a very significant portion of the work between class meetings will take place on that medium. The web site listed above serves as the basic nucleus of the mediated interaction. When a student registers for this class, he/she automatically joins the BlackBoard website for COMM 565. Students should familiarize themselves with methods for accessing and using the various components of BlackBoard. The University provides help lines at 270 745 7020 and the instructor will assist with this function as much as possible. But it is the student's responsibility to become familiar with and have easy and frequent access to BlackBoard. Naturally, this function is easily available in the university computer labs. Communication covers broad areas; students will read and report on what they have learned; these reports will take written, oral, and technological forms. In addition, students will work together in groups to develop projects that contribute to and reflect their learning. Finally, each student will develop an individual project which will form the culmination of his/her learning in the class. We will discuss these projects during the initial class session.
TEXTS:
We will also utilize the conflict situations in two movies. Please get access to these two movies and be prepared to discuss them according to the schedule in the syllabus.

Two movies: The Lion King and Ordinary People

Course Outline:

Week 1:
Introduction to class
Introduction of Students and Student Goals
Discussion of Writing Activities, On-Line Activities, Lab Activities

Discussion Topics: Nature and range of conflict; Definition of conflict; History of conflict study; Traditional perspectives; Levels of conflict; Destructive and constructive aspects of conflict; conflict origins and climate.

Text References: W&H 1: B&V 1. The student should have read these chapters before coming to the class.

Week 2:
Discussion Topics: Conflict theory; Types of conflict; Personal issues, e.g., emotions, interests and goals; Styles and tactics; Role of language in conflict; Metaphors of conflict;

Text References: W&H 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 ; B&V 2, 3,4,5,6

Week 3:
Discussion Topics: Components of conflict (power, gender, writing)
Public issues; Organizational conflict; Context for Conflict: Assessment; Intervention strategies; Games; Management of conflict, e.g., 1 party, 2 party, 3rd party intervention.

Text References: W&H 8, 9, 10, 11

Final week:
Completion of topics and presentation of lab group reports

Student Readings and Analysis:
In addition to the text references listed for each class session, students will identify other academic references which contribute to their knowledge and share their findings with the other class members. Citations for the additional sources identified by students should be made available on discussion board activities, class discussions, class reports, group projects.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS
Writing:
Writing guidelines appear in the “Course Information” section of the website. Students MUST familiarize themselves with and follow these guidelines. Every paper must follow the APA style sheet. Writing assignments must be posted through turnitin.com. DO NOT send them as email attachments to the instructor. The instructor will post a video presentation prior to the first class meeting in which she discusses the writing guidelines and gives examples and activities. Students should watch this video and work out the activities before attempting to write the first paper. Students who have not taken a class previously with this instructor will have the option of rewriting the first paper for a grade. The instructor will remind those students when she has read the first papers. A rewrite submission date will be posted.

1. Students will prepare two short papers (3-4 pages plus reference page). The first paper is due on February 5; the second paper is due on February 19. Topics for papers will appear on the website under “Assignments.” Each short written assignment will count 10% of the total course grade. (Total of 20%)

2. Each student will choose a specific topic of interest and will research this topic in order to complete a study that results in a final term paper/project. The instructor will work with individuals to identify an interesting and useful topic. Students should have selected their topics by the February 26 class period and have the instructor’s approval/support for this topic. This final paper (12-15 pages) should be submitted to the instructor by March 12 and will count 25% of the course grade.

On-Line Activities:
Students will participate in three discussion board activities through small groups. The instructor will identify a topic (forum) for each DB activity and provide a sample grading guide so students will know the grading expectations for the DB work. Due to the amount of on-line activities for this course, DB activities will be assigned in groups of approximately 5 members each. Please review guidelines for the DB’s in the “Course Information” section of the webpage. Each DB will count 5% of the total grade. (Total of 15%)

Final Exam:
The class will culminate in a final exam worth 20% of the final course grade. We will discuss the format of the exam during the first class meeting.

Conflicts Laboratory Activities:
In order to make the theoretical study of this class as applied as possible, students will be assigned to lab groups. These groups will undertake a lab project which will be assigned by the instructor. Members of the lab groups will work together on developing their project and preparing a presentation for the rest of the class. This presentation will take place on September 27 at the final class meeting. A discussion of this laboratory activity and final presentation will take place during the first class meeting. This assignment will value 15% of the final grade.

Student Participation in class and in on-line activities:
This class will meet fewer times in person than is typical. Instead, much more work will take place on-line so this course serves as a more “hybrid” course format. Various activities will be present to the class through on-line lectures, activities, projects, etc. Student work in these activities and meaningful participation in class will form an important component of the grading for the class. (5% of final grade)

Student Disability Services
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.
Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.