

 <p>THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE & PEACEBUILDING</p> <p>A PROGRAM OF EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY</p>	<p>DESIGNING PROCESSES FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION PAX 665</p> <p>Fall 2023</p> <p><i>Online synchronously Thursdays, 10 am-12:00 pm.; 1:30-3:30 pm. (Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7) + asynchronous times via VoiceThread</i></p>
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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

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Office hours: Individual and small group meetings happily arranged via zoom at mutually convenient times

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Many of the systems in which we live and work are dysfunctional, harmful and mired in conflict. One strategy for transforming them is through deliberative dialogue processes that engage the whole system: whether community, organization or society. Such processes can enable us to respond creatively to our most complex challenges and move us toward more equitable, just and positive relationships and structures. Through this class, we will explore how complexity and identity theories, conflict analysis, and power assessment inform collaborative process design. Using a series of mini-case studies, we will explore the complex interactions involved in adaptive and responsive design. We ask tough questions about what kind of processes are relevant for cultivating different phases and scales of change and explore ethics underpinning the praxis of process design rooted in awareness of our 'positionality' in the system. We will learn about many process methodologies such as Appreciative Inquiry, Courageous Conversations, Emergent Strategies, Narrative Practice, Open Space, Polarity Management, Transformative Scenario Planning, Future Search, and others. We will critically explore their underlying theories of change and theories of practice in ways that enable participants to become more creative and astute process designers.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Drawing on context assessment and conflict analysis frameworks, learn how to conduct exploratory conversations that elicit perspectives, interests, needs, issues and hopes from key stakeholders. Use this insight to help frame an inclusive process with a clear purpose and to design an appropriate process to support the group through a change process.
- Gain familiarity with a range of process methods and their appropriateness for unique situations, with the purpose of understanding underlying principles and practices that can enable adaptive design and more skillful design thinking.
- Understand the applications of theories of change and theories of practice to process design and to underpin more skillful and responsive action, supporting development as reflective practitioners.
- Engage with critical issues and dilemmas in process design for conflict transformation, learning from innovation and identifying ongoing critical edge challenges to inform praxis.
- Through an intersectional lens, develop an appreciation of the need to explore one's own positionality in relation to the context and the group.

- Apply the principles and methods studied to analyze own experiences and, optionally, to conduct an assessment and craft a concept note for a process design or to identify a critical challenge and explore ways to respond to it.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Participants are not required to purchase books for this class, as all readings and audio-visual resources will be available on the class Moodle site from publications in the public domain or e-books available through EMU's Hartzler Library.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:

Class participation	10 points	Active participation in <u>all</u> of the 6 synchronous class sessions
Asynchronous participation DUE SUNDAY & DURING THE WEEK BEFORE EACH CLASS SESSION	15 points	Contributions to the online forums through responses to instructor and participants' questions and comments, drawing on class readings, lived experience and other relevant sources. <i>Refer to Guidance Note for more on expectations and the grading rubric.</i>
Reflection paper <i>3-credit only</i> DUE OCTOBER 19	25 points	Reflecting back on a personal experience in a group process, critically assess the process drawing on literature and concepts explored in class to identify insights and learning points for process design and facilitation (2,000-2,500 words; 6-8 pages) <i>Refer to Guidance Note for more on expectations and the grading rubric</i>
Cumulative project (Choose 1 option) <i>3-credit and 2-credit students</i> PROJECT DESCRIPTION DUE: NOVEMBER 6 (AT THE LATEST) PROJECT DUE: DECEMBER 14	50 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: Process Assessment and Concept Note– (recommended for those engaged in an actual community / group / organizational context). Using the provided Guidance Note template, conduct a real assessment process, articulate framing purpose and guiding questions, outline possible phases and relevant process methods. - Prepare context analysis and professional concept note (8-10 pages) • Option B: Critical issues exploration – selecting a critical challenge for justice and peacebuilding, explore the ways that deliberative dialogue processes may support transformation. Draw on scholarly and practitioner literature to explore how this challenge is addressed by others (and, as relevant, in your own experience) to discuss strategies, opportunities and risks. – <i>Choose your format:</i> Prepare written essay (2,500-3,000 words; 10-12 pages) OR recorded presentation (18-20 minutes on VoiceThread + research notes and citations)

These are brief descriptions of required graded assignments for the course. More details for each assignment can be found on the “Guidance Notes” that will be provided in class.

SCHEDULE AND TOPICS:

Please note that this class is structured in a condensed format. Each of the six session comprises two regular semester ‘weeks’ and the amount of reading and preparation for each session is planned accordingly. You will complete asynchronous work prior to each class session (readings, lectures, and a class forum on VoiceThread). **Participation in all synchronous class sessions is necessary to successfully complete the course.**

<p>Unit 1: Class on Sept 7</p>	<p>Complex Adaptive Systems, Conflict Transformation and Dialogical Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict and conflict transformation from a complexity perspective: exploring how dialogical processes may help to transform conflict habituated systems over time. • Complex adaptive systems, systems thinking and implications for change processes - including through whole of system dialogue-based processes • About dialogical processes and the dialogue, deliberation, decision-making cycle • Theories of change; theories of practice + introduction to some of the general principles for process design • <i>Process methodologies and principles</i>: Emergent Strategies; Open Space Technology • <i>Case exploration</i>: Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission
<p>Unit 2: Class on Sept 21</p>	<p>Engaging People & Creating Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting started: engaging others and embracing the spirit of inquiry. • Context assessment, conflict analysis and tracking deliberative dialogue process design along the 'progression of social conflict' model • Mapping the system; understanding your 'positionality' within it • Power dynamics, justice, ownership • Process design elements and choices • Movement building - and interface between peacebuilding dialogue and nonviolent direct-action strategies • Dynamics of identity and building basis for solidarity • When not to engage in dialogue -- and how to prepare for more just and equitable dialogue • On developing ethical practice: values, dilemmas and principles • <i>Process Methodologies and principles</i>: Narrative Practice, Part 1; Appreciative Inquiry • <i>Case studies</i>: Northern Ireland Women's Coalition; Bangladeshi farmers responding to climate change
<p>Unit 3: Class on Oct 12</p>	<p>Dialogue: shifting and changing through engaging together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is dialogue and how can it enable transformative change processes? • Complexity, 'wicked problems' and 'wicked questions' • Creating the potential for a new kind of politics through transversal dialogue • Design principles for fostering deep dialogue processes. • Framing the process; spirit of invitation; crafting questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the 'container' to hold the group and enable alchemy • Storytelling, narrative practice and the emergence of co-sensing • Understanding polarities and polarity management processes • <i>Process methodologies</i>: Public Conversations Project / Essential Partners; Polarity Management; Circle Process (brief); (Optional: Courageous Conversations) • <i>Case exploration</i>: The Network for Life and Choice: Dialogue over Abortion; Rockingham County Public Schools Community Dialogue
Unit 4: Class on Nov 2	<p>Deliberative Dialogue and Governance: National Dialogue Processes and Participatory Public Policymaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This unit explores scaling up deliberative processes to address deeply conflictual and complex challenges at the societal level. • We will begin by focusing a little more on the qualities of deliberative processes that enable groups to do their best, most creative thinking together. These principles are relevant for groups of any size and all contexts. Yet they are especially important for enabling break through thinking on issues that are highly conflictual and can be necessary for resolving the seemingly incompatible goals organizing conflict. • We will then look at different ways of scaling up these deliberative processes to enable resolution of societal level conflict - processes that are geared towards developing new thinking leading to agreements affecting governance. Everyone will get an introduction to national dialogue processes (especially used in war-to-peace transitions or constitutional level negotiations) as well as public policy dialogue. • You will then make a choice to go deeper into deliberative processes aimed at either public policy or national dialogue. In class, we will have parallel exercises for part of this session for groups to go deeper in exploring the issues, opportunities and challenges related to each of these pathways.
Unit 5: Class on Nov 16	<p>Consensus building, collaborative decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing collaborative, consensus-building processes for decision-making • Chartering the process: mandate, authority, decision rule • Consensus building theory, methods and gradients of agreement. • Supporting people within and through the 'groan zone' • Sensing and cultivating movement in the wider system of processes for consensus building and reaching agreement in contested spaces and conflictual relationships. • <i>Process methods</i>: Gradients of Agreement and consensus building; community engagement processes • <i>Case study</i>: Haida Gwaii and negotiating collaborative relationships promoting indigenous sovereignty and community ownership
Unit 6: Class on Dec 7	<p>Working with the past; imagining the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring complexity theory and insights for understanding resilience, adaptation and discontinuous change • Process design to enable acknowledgement of interdependencies; transforming unilateralism; exploring the future together • Methods for exploring the legacies of the past: acknowledging harms, exploring accountability, affirming gifts, recognizing patterns • <i>Process methodologies</i>: Transformative Scenario Planning; Future Search • <i>Case explorations</i>: South Africa Mont Fleur process; Mennonite Church USA Mennonite Church USA Advisory Group on Membership Guidelines

Writing Guidelines:

Writing will be a factor in evaluation: EMU has adopted a set of [writing guidelines](#) for graduate programs that include six sets of criteria: content, structure, rhetoric & style, information literacy, source integrity, and conventions (see page 3). It is expected that graduates will be able to write at least a “good” level with 60% writing at an “excellent” level. For the course papers, please follow the APA style described in CJP’s *GUIDELINES for GRADUATE PAPERS* (see CJP Student Resources Moodle page or request a copy from the Academic Program Coordinator), unless directed otherwise by the instructor. Criteria for Evaluating Arts-Based Peacebuilding Projects can be found at the end of this document.

Academic Accountability & Integrity:

EMU faculty and staff care about the integrity of their own work and the work of their students. They create assignments that promote interpretative thinking and work intentionally with students during the learning process. Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility are characteristics of a community that is active in loving mercy and doing justice. EMU defines plagiarism as occurring when a person presents as one’s own someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source (Adapted from the Council of Writing Program Administrators). This course will apply [EMU’s Academic Accountability Policy](#) to any events of academic dishonesty. If you have doubts about what is appropriate, [Indiana University’s Plagiarism Tutorials and Tests](#) may be a useful resource.

Turnitin:

Students are accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. You should be familiar with EMU’s Academic Integrity Policy (see link above) in order to meet the academic expectations concerning appropriate documentation of sources. In addition, EMU is using [Turnitin](#), a learning tool and plagiarism prevention system. For CJP classes, you may be asked to submit your papers to Turnitin from Moodle.

Moodle:

[Moodle](#) is the online learning platform that EMU has chosen to provide to faculty, administrators and students. Students will have access to course information within Moodle for any class they are registered for in a given term. The amount of time a student has access to information before and after the class is somewhat dependent on the access given to students by the individual faculty member. However, please note that courses are not in Moodle permanently – after two years the class will no longer be accessible. Please be sure to download resources from Moodle that you wish to have ongoing access to.

Technology Requirements and Communication/Zoom Best Practices:

Communication will largely be accomplished via the Moodle platform utilized by EMU and your EMU email. Check both frequently during the semester. Zoom will be used for synchronous online course sessions. Please review these [best practices](#) for online classes!

Graduate & Professional Studies Writing Center:

Please utilize the [writing program](#). They offer free individual sessions with a graduate student writing tutor. Please visit the website to schedule an appointment or request additional information from CJP’s Academic Program Coordinator.

Institutional Review Board (IRB):

All research conducted by or on EMU faculty, staff or students must be reviewed by the [Institutional Review Board](#) to assure participant safety.

Grading Scale & Feedback:

In most courses grades will be based on an accumulation of numerical points that will be converted to a letter grade at the end of the course (several CJP courses are graded pass/fail). Assignments will receive a score expressed as a fraction, with the points received over the total points possible (e.g. 18/20). The following is the basic scale used for evaluation. *Points may be subtracted for missed deadlines.*

95-100 = A outstanding	90-94 = A- excellent	85-89 = B+ very good
80-84 = B good	76-79 = B- satisfactory	73-75 = C+ passing
70-72 = C unsatisfactory	Below 70 = F failing	

Graduate students are expected to earn A's & B's. A GPA of 3.0 for MA students and 2.75 for GC students is the minimum requirement for graduation.

Regarding feedback on papers/projects: Students can expect to receive papers/assignments back in a class with faculty feedback before the next paper/assignment is due. This commitment from faculty assumes that the student has turned the paper in on the agreed upon due date.

Library

The [Hartzler Library](#) offers research support (via e-mail, chat, phone, or SSC campus) and the library home page offers subject guides to help start your research. The library can help you acquire resources not held by EMU through the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system. The link to ILL is on the left side of the library homepage.

Office of Academic Access:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your work in this course, it is your responsibility to contact the [Office of Academic Access](#). They will work with you to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. All information and documentation is treated confidentially.

Class Attendance (for in-person and synchronous online courses):

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If unusual or emergency circumstances prevent class attendance, the student should notify the professor in advance if possible. Multiple absences from class will result in lower grades. The student is responsible for the material presented in classes missed. Students should be aware of the importance of regular class attendance, particularly in the case of CJP classes that only meet once a week or over several weekends. Being absent for more than one class leads to a student missing a large portion of the class content. In addition to consistent class attendance, students should make every effort to arrive to class on time out of respect for the learning process, fellow students and faculty.

Religious Holidays

EMU respects the diversity of religious holidays and wishes to provide reasonable accommodations for students who may be unable to fully participate in class, lab, exams, or other assignments due to observation of a significant religious holiday. Students should provide adequate notice (a week in advance) to the faculty of such requests.

Classroom Culture & Related Policies

EMU's [Life Together](#) statement describes the sort of learning community that we aspire to be. Learning thrives where there is free and open exchange of ideas, thoughts, emotions, and convictions. Open

discourse requires trust and safety. While I anticipate that you may find that some aspects of the class challenge your views and theoretical frameworks, I invite you to respectfully express either agreement or disagreement without fear of consequences. If you feel that I am violating this commitment, please make an appointment to meet outside of class so that we can discuss the issue.

I hope we can welcome differences and demonstrate a willingness to analyze issues from frameworks that may or may not feel comfortable. I have opinions, which I may express from time to time. Please be sensitive in your class participation by not unfairly dominating discussions. Be aware of others' right to speak and welcome questions from your classmates. My goal is to create a brave space in which everyone learns to participate in scholarly dialogue that values listening, thinking, feeling, study, and professionalism. (*Adapted from Margaret Sallee and Kathryn Roulston*)

1. Our primary commitment is to learn from each other. We will listen to each other and not talk at each other. We welcome differences amongst us in backgrounds, skills, interests, and values. We realize that it is these very differences that will increase our awareness and understanding through this process.
2. We will trust that people are always doing the best they can.
3. Challenge the idea and not the person. We debate ideas, not the individual sharing this idea or practice.
4. Each of us will strive to speak our discomfort. When something is bothering you, please practice sharing this with the group. Often our emotional reactions offer valuable learning opportunities.
5. Step Up, Step Back. Be mindful of taking up much more space than others. On the same note, empower yourself to speak up when others are dominating the conversation.
6. Stay engaged. When overwhelmed or stressed, it can be tempting to slip away from the class or group while meeting. Let us honor one another with focused connection. When we catch ourselves disengaging, let us gently refocus on the tasks at hand.

Course Extensions and Outstanding Grades:

For fall and spring semesters, all coursework is due by the end of the semester. **If a student will not be able to complete a course on time, the student must submit a request one week before the end of the semester for an extension (up to 6 months), by emailing the instructor, academic advisor and the Academic Program Coordinator.** If the request is granted the student will receive an "I (incomplete) for the course which will later be replaced by a final grade when the work has been turned in on the agreed upon date. If the request for an extension is denied, the student will receive a grade for the work that has been completed up until the time the course was expected to have been completed. If no work has been submitted, the final grade will be an F (or W under unusual circumstances and with permission of the Program Director). Extensions will be given only for legitimate and unusual situations. Extensions are contracted by the student with the program for up to a maximum of 6 months after the deadline for the course work. *PLEASE NOTE: Grades for coursework submitted late may be reduced at the instructor's discretion and in line with their course policy on turning in coursework after the due date. If the extension deadline is not met, the instructor will submit the final grade based on what has been received to date.*

Inclusive, Community-Creating Language Policy:

Eastern Mennonite University expects all its faculty, staff, and students to adopt [inclusive written and spoken language](#) that welcomes everyone regardless of race or ethnicity, gender, disabilities, age, and sexual orientation. We will use respectful and welcoming language in all our official departmental documents and correspondence, including those put forth by way of Internet communication, and throughout all academic coursework, inclusive of classroom presentations and conversations, course syllabi, and both written and oral student assessment materials.

As an inclusive community, we strive to sustain safety and belonging for students of all gender and sexual identities expressed in the [LGBTQIA+ Student Support Policy](#).

Bias Response:

Bias incidents are harmful to the EMU community and/or individuals within the EMU community. Bias can be intentional or unintentional and may be directed toward an individual or group. A bias incident may take the form of a verbal interaction, cyber-interaction, physical interaction, or interaction with property. Bias reporting is a resource for anyone who needs to communicate an incident or explore a better understanding around issues of discrimination and learning how to effectively respond. All members of the university community are encouraged to [report](#) incidents of bias.

Title IX:

The following policy applies to any incidents that occur (on or off campus or online) while you are a student registered at EMU. It does not apply if you are talking about incidents that happened prior your enrollment at EMU. It is important for you to know that all faculty and staff members are required to report known or alleged incidents of sexual violence (including sexual assault, domestic/relationship violence, stalking). That means that faculty and staff members cannot keep information about sexual violence confidential if you share that information with them. For example, if you inform a faculty or staff member of an issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination they will keep the information as private as they can, but is required to bring it to the attention of the institution's [Title IX Coordinator](#). You can also report incidents or complaints through the [online portal](#). You may report, confidentially, incidents of sexual violence if you speak to Counseling Services counselors, Campus Ministries' pastors, or Health Services personnel providing clinical care. These individuals, as well as the Title IX Coordinator, can provide you with information on both internal & external support resources.

Academic Program Policies:

For EMU graduate program policies and more CJP-specific graduate program policies, please see the complete [Graduate Catalog](#).

Criteria for Evaluating Arts-Based Peacebuilding Projects

CRITERIA	A – Excellent	B – Minimal expectations	C – Below expectations	Comments
Goals & Audience <i>Are the goals or learning objectives of the project clear? Have they been met?</i>	-audience & goals/learning objectives clearly identified.	-audience and goals identified though not as clearly as they could be - project may meet its goals but this is not entirely clear	-audience and goals inappropriate or inadequately identified -project unlikely to meet its goals and/or	

<p><i>Is the intended audience clearly specified?</i> <i>Is the project appropriate for this audience?</i> <i>Does the project communicate to the intended audience?</i></p>	<p>-project appropriate for, and likely to meet, its goals -project is appropriate for specified audience -project understandable to & likely to engage and/or communicate to audience</p>	<p>- project is at least somewhat appropriate for, and likely to communicate to audience.</p>	<p>communicate to the audience</p>	
<p>Methodology <i>Is the overall methodology clear and appropriately used?</i> <i>Has the project incorporated specific methods required by the assignment?</i> <i>If intended as a form of intervention, has thought be given to how it will be implemented?</i></p>	<p>-project incorporates inquiry methods required by the assignment -all methodologies & technologies have been appropriately used, with attention to ethical and methodological issues -if intended as intervention or advocacy, project has given adequate thought to implementation -sources & methods are adequately identified</p>	<p>- methodology basically appropriate to the project and appropriately used, but could be strengthened -sources and methods identified but not as fully as they could be -more thought should be given to implementation issues</p>	<p>-methodology inadequate and/or inadequately articulated. -sources not appropriately identified -inadequate attention to implementation issues</p>	
<p>Analysis <i>Is there evidence of critical thinking and analysis?</i></p>	<p>- evidence of critical thinking about methods, sources, information and analysis or editing. -uses analysis/editing methods appropriate for the project -method of analysis or editing is adequately articulated</p>	<p>- some evidence of critical thinking but could be stronger -analytical approach and the analysis itself is basically appropriate but could be stronger and/or articulated better.</p>	<p>-inadequate evidence of critical thinking -analysis lacking or inadequate -analytic approach inappropriate or inadequately specified</p>	
<p>Craft & Coherence <i>Is the level of artistic and/or technical craft adequate for the specified goals and audience?</i> <i>Did it involve an appropriate amount of work?</i> <i>Does the final product have coherence and “resonance?”</i></p>	<p>- level of craft is clearly adequate for the audience & to meet project goals (whether or not it meets “artistic” standards) -project is coherent & likely to resonate with the intended audience -product shows an appropriate amount of effort for this assignment</p>	<p>-level of craft is minimally adequate for the audience and goals -project coherence could be stronger</p>	<p>-level of craft inadequate for purposes and/or audience -project is not coherent</p>	

Content <i>Is the content appropriate & adequate, given the goals, audience & assignment?</i> <i>Is there evidence of insight, originality &/or creativity?</i>	- information conveyed is clearly adequate for goals, audience & assignment -shows depth & breadth of content -shows insight, originality &/or creativity	-information conveyed is adequate but could be strengthened -some evidence of insight, originality, or creativity	-inadequate information -little or no evidence of insight, originality and/or creativity	
				Grade

Criteria for Evaluating Arts-Based Peacebuilding Projects

Background notes:

- Arts approaches can be used in several different stages of a project:
 1. To gain or create knowledge. (For example, research “subjects” or participants might be engaged in an arts-based project as a way of soliciting information or encouraging insight.)
 2. To add complexity or nuance to created knowledge. (For example, an arts practice may serve as one method in a multi-method research project, creating an integrated, reflective methodology for the project. Alternatively, an arts practice could be used to analyze and/or interpret data collected by conventional methods.)
 3. To test knowledge. (For example, researchers might verify their interpretation of findings from a more traditional research process by creating a play or exhibit and testing it for resonance with their subjects.)
 4. To share findings. (For example, a play or exhibit might be created to (re)-present data collected or analyzed via conventional methods in order to impart the particular kinds of meaning the researcher considers important, and as a way to reach and engage a broader audience.)
 5. As a form of intervention. (For example, a project might be designed to raise awareness of an issue or conflict, to promote dialogue on a contested issue, or to advocate for a cause.)
- Arts-based products often do not specify methodologies used. Thus it may be important for a project to be accompanied by a short paper discussing analysis, theory of change, audience, goals, and methods used.
- Patricia Leavy, in *“Method Meets Art: Arts-based Research Practice”* (New York: Guilford Press) 2009, argues that “[t]raditional conceptions of validity and reliability, which developed out of positivism, are inappropriate for evaluating artistic inquiry.” (p. 15). She suggests that authenticity, trustworthiness, and validity can be assessed through attention to such elements as aesthetics, resonance, and vigor.
- For a discussion of standards, see “Method Meets Art” (Leavy, 2009: 15ff and Chapter 8).