

*Eastern Mennonite University/Center for Justice and Peacebuilding*  
**Summer Peacebuilding Institute**  
**IDENTITY AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**  
**PAX 551**  
*Session III: May 27–June 4, 2008*  
(Tentative Syllabus)

**Instructors**

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**Seminar Course Description**

The course will provide participants an opportunity to explore the literature and their own experiences related to identity, ethnic identity, ethno-centrism and nationalism, and acts of terrorism, in an attempt to understand the power of identity, especially in war and post-war reconstruction contexts. Course participants, through case studies and class discussion, will examine how identity is formed historically, culturally, religiously, psychologically, sociologically and politically. Religious and identity-based conflicts, whether communal, national or international, will be analyzed and participants will look at the ways and means in which these conflicts might be transformed. Additionally, trauma related to humiliation and other factors concerned with identity threat and manipulation will be explored. Finally, the role of leadership in identity formation, manipulation and transformation will be discuss

**Objectives**

- To provide course participants with deeper personal and global perspective on identity and what threatens it.
- To introduce and explore ethnic identity, ethnocentrism and religious identity in the creation and/or escalation of conflicts and terrorists acts around the world.
- To examine humiliation's role in identity formation and threat.
- To make the connection between identity threat and trauma (and healing).
- To provide insight to regressive and progressive societies and leadership within an identity framework.
- To explore how the transformation of conflict often depends on a critical awareness of identity, ethnicity, religious and culture factors.
- To examine various frameworks that will help in/outside who are asked to intervene in inter-communal conflicts.
- To survey the literature available in the field of identity and how it relates to conflict and its transformation.
- To research a specific conflict regarding the role of identity on the causes, escalation and possible transformation of the conflict.

## Course Requirements for Everyone

1. **Full participation in each class.** Regular attendance is therefore essential.
2. **Reading all course handouts**
3. **Group presentation (s):** Based on assigned papers and/or monographs

## Course Requirements for graduate students taking the course for credit

**Written assignments** (1) Write a “reflective essay” of 6-8 pages. The purpose of the essay is to put into your own words insights from the readings and class discussion. It is due the last day of class. (2) Write three separate literature reviews of 3 pages each. These reviews will start with a paragraph or two describing the content of the book or article followed by your critical analysis of the subject matter. One book or article can be drawn from the list on your syllabus. You will need to find the other two books or articles in the Library or on-line. (3) A final research paper will be due on or before August 15, 2008 (for full-time students) and by March 1, 2008 for part time students. It should be 20 to 30 pages long and address identity and conflict transformation in a real world context—preferably the students own context.

### Course Evaluation (graduate students only)

Class Participation	10%
Group presentation(s)	10%
Reflective Essay	20%
Literature Reviews (3)	30%
Research Paper	30%

*(There will be one lunch or evening session for those taking the class for academic credit.)*

### Required Reading for graduate students

1. Vern Neufeld Redekop, *From Violence to Blessings: How an understanding of deep-rooted conflict can open the paths to reconciliation.* 2002 (EMU Book Store)
2. Barry Hart, *Repairing the Effects of Threats to Ethnic Identity: Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Workshops in Liberia During the Civil War.* 1995 (Certain chapters will be handed out in class.)
3. Vamik Volkan. *Blind Trust: Large Groups and Their Leaders in Times of Crisis and Terror.* 2004. (EMU Book Store)
4. Hicks, Donna, *The Role of Identity Reconstruction in Promoting Reconciliation. In Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Religion, Public Policy and Conflict Transformation.* (2002). (Handout)
5. David W. Augsburger, *Conflict Across Cultures: Pathways and Patterns,* 1995 (EMU Bookstore).

6. Ervin Staub, *The Roots of Evil: The origins of genocide and other group violence*. 2002. (Chapters to be handed out in class)
7. Lindner, Evelin G. (2008). Humiliation, Trauma and Trauma Recovery in the Peacebuilding Process. In *Peacebuilding in Traumatized Societies*, (Hart, ed.) 2008 (Handout).
8. Druckman, Daniel. *Explaining National Identity: From Group Attachment to Collective Action*. 2006 (Handout)
9. Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace: Theological reflections in the Wake of "Ethnic Cleansing."* (Handout)
10. Sutherland, Jessie. *Worldview Skills: Transforming Conflict from the Inside Out*. 2005 (Handout)
11. Amartya Sen, *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*. (Handout.)
12. Barry Hart, Peacebuilding Leadership in Traumatized Societies. In *Peacebuilding in Traumatized Societies*, (Hart, ed.). 2008 (Handout).
13. Jay Rothman. *Resolving Identity-Based Conflict*. 1997. (EMU Book Store).

### **Recommended Reading**

1. Yehezkel Landau, *Rehumanizing the 'Enemy' and Confronting Ourselves: Challenges for Educators in an Era of Peace*, Winter 1996. (Copies in my office)
2. Michael Ignatieff, *The Warrior's Honor: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience*, 1998. (Copy in my office)
3. Marie Battiste and James Youngblood Henderson, *Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage*. 2003 (Copy in my office)
4. Volkan, Vamik. *Killing in the Name of Identity*, 2006 (Copy in my office)
5. Weingarten, Kaethe. *Common Shock: Witnessing Violence Every Day*. 2003
6. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Ethnic identity, national identity and intergroup conflict: The significance of personal experiences in "Social identity, intergroup conflict, and conflict reduction"* Ashmore, Jussim, Wilder (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2001.
7. Stuart J. Kaufman, *Modern Hatreds: The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War*. Cornell University Press. 2001.
8. Laura Silber and Allan Little, *The Cleansing of Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation*. New York: Penguin, 1997.
9. Richard Holbrooke, *To End a War*. Random House, 1998. (Copy in my office)
10. Mohammed Abu-Nimer (ed.), *Reconciliation, Justice and Coexistence*. Lexington Books, 2001. (Copy in my office)
11. Barbara Okun, Jane Fried and Marcia L. Okun, *Understanding Diversity*. Brooks/Cole, 1999.
12. Amin Maalouf, *In the Name of Identity*. Penguin Books, 2000. (Copy in my office)
13. Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*. 2002. (Copy in my office)
14. Mamdani, Mahmood. *When Victims Become Killers*. 2001 (Copy in my office)

## Tentative Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>In Class</b>	<b>Before Class</b>
May 27	Orientation and Introductions Syllabus Review, Class Guidelines Identity Exercise, Definitions and Sources. Worldview(ing)	Purchase Texts
May 28	Identity and other Human Needs Trauma and Identity	Chapter 1-3 Redekop
May 29	Ethnic Identity and Ethnonationalism Video: Prelude to Kosovo	Druckman (Handout) Hart (Handout)
May 30	Religious Identity—Formation and Threat The Role of Humiliation in Identity Threat Group Presentations	‘Exclusion and Embrace’ M. Volf (Handout). Also, Chapter 3 in “Peacebuilding in Traumatized Societies.” (Handout)
May 31-June 1	Weekend – NO CLASSES	
June 2	Transforming Identity-based Conflicts Video: Imam and the Pastor Culture, Identity and Conflict Transformation Begin Case Study Presentation	Part 1: J. Rothman D. Augsburg Chapters 1-4
June 3	Leadership and Identity Identity Reconstruction and Reconciliation Case Study preparation	Chapter 6 in Peacebuilding in Traumatized Societies (Handout). D. Hicks (Handout)
June 4	Presentations of Case Studies	