



## **Understanding Intergroup Conflicts: A Social Psychological Perspective**

Ms. Gilat Glazer

**Course Number:** 702.2898

**Class Time:** Wednesday, 15:15-17:45

**E-Mail:**

**Room:** TBD

### **Course Description:**

Understanding intergroup conflicts requires a social psychological perspective, since conflicts are very complex and affect our lives and the societies we live in. Intergroup conflicts, including ethnonational and domestic conflicts, tend to affect many aspects of life from the political international level through the societal, cultural and economic levels, down to personal and interpersonal experiences. This course focuses on the social psychological aspects of intergroup conflict, presenting major theories that explain processes and mechanisms on the personal and societal levels, affecting our thoughts, emotions, self-image, values, moral social image, and the societies we live in. The course sheds light on psychological reasons conflicts persist, giving examples from the Israeli Palestinian conflicts, and other conflicts worldwide. Students are encouraged to relate to intergroup conflicts they know, those can be ethno- national conflicts, conflicts between ethnic groups, classes, or major ideological cleavages that raise heated debate between different identity groups at the domestic level.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Required reading and writing:
  - (a) Read the required items for each class
  - (b) Actively participate in class discussions implementing the reading materials with examples from familiar conflicts
  - (c) Attendance of classes – may not miss more than 3 meetings to be eligible for a grade
2. Submit 4 short papers (3 pages font size 12) explaining main theories studied in class with implementation on a real life domestic or international conflict
3. Presentation in class –choose a real-life conflict and present how the different theories studied in class explain the social psychological aspects of the conflict
4. Examination on the theories studied in class: 4 short questions and an essay question

### **Final Grade:**

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|---|-----|
| 1. Class participation and presentation | 20% |
| 2. Posting of written assignments       | 40% |
| 3. Final Examination                    | 40% |

### **Academic Honesty:**

All written work submitted for a course, except for acknowledged quotations, must be expressed in the student's own words and must be written exclusively for this course. It must also be constructed upon a plan of the student's own devising. Work copied without acknowledgement from a book, from another student's paper, from anywhere on the internet, from Artificial Intelligence sources, or from any other source is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism can range from wholesale copying of passages from another's work to using the views, opinions, and insights of another without acknowledgement, to paraphrasing another person's original phrases without acknowledgement.

In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, a student will receive a zero for the paper AND possibly fail the course.

### **Schedule**

**This Schedule is Tentative and Subject to Change**

#### **Week 1: Multilayered Conflicts – Ethno-national conflicts & domestic conflicts The social psychological perspective**

Fisher, R. J., Kelman, H. C., & Nan, S. A. (2013). Conflict analysis and resolution.  
<https://doi-org.ezproxy.haifa.ac.il/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0016>

#### **Week 2: The self – positive self-esteem, cognitive dissonance, conformation bias**

Cast, A. D., & Burke, P. J. (2002). A theory of self-esteem. *Social forces*, 80(3), 1041-1068.

Cooper, J. (2012). Cognitive dissonance theory. *Handbook of theories of social psychology*, 1, 377-397.

Nickerson, R. S. (1998). Confirmation bias: A ubiquitous phenomenon in many guises. *Review of general psychology*, 2(2), 175-220.

#### **Week 3: The social self – Social Identity Theory (SIT)**

##### **Emotional and cognitive aspects of group identification in intergroup conflict**

Ellemers, N., & Haslam, S. A. (2012). Social identity theory. *Handbook of theories of social psychology*, 2, 379-398.

\* Next week Submit paper No.1 on lessons 2 & 3

#### **Week 4: Threat perceptions: Realistic Conflict Theory, realistic threat and symbolic threat**

McKenzie, J., & Gabriel, T. (2017). Applications and extensions of realistic conflict theory: moral development and conflict prevention. *Norms, groups, conflict, and social change*, 307-324.

Stephan, W. G., & Stephan, C. W. (2013). An integrated threat theory of prejudice. In *Reducing prejudice and discrimination* (pp. 23-45). Psychology Press.

Download the PDF file: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313054712>

[An Integrated Threat Theory of Prejudice In Stuart Oskamp ed](#)

**Week 5: Collective Emotions in Conflict - fear, hate, anger, belongingness, hope**

Halperin, E. (2014). Collective emotions and emotion regulation in intractable conflicts. Von Scheve, C & Salmela, M; *Collective Emotions*, 281-296.

**Week 6: Universal Values and Moral Foundations - implications for intergroup relations**

Schwartz, S. H. (2012). An overview of the Schwartz theory of basic values. *Online readings in Psychology and Culture*, 2(1), 11.

Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. A. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 96(5), 1029.

\* Next week submit paper No. 2 on lessons 4,5,6

**Week 7: Ethos of conflict – demonstrated by the Israeli Arab Conflict**

Rouhana, N. N., & Bar-Tal, D. (1998). Psychological dynamics of intractable ethnonational conflicts: The Israeli–Palestinian case. *American psychologist*, 53(7), 761.

Bar-Tal, D., Raviv, A., Raviv, A., & Dgani-Hirsh, A. (2009). The influence of the ethos of conflict on Israeli Jews' interpretation of Jewish–Palestinian encounters. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 53(1), 94-118.

**Week 8: Narratives of competitive victimhood**

Young, I. F., & Sullivan, D. (2016). Competitive victimhood: A review of the theoretical and empirical literature. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 11, 30-34.

\*Next week submit paper No. 3 on lessons 7,8

**Week 9: Negative Stereotypes, delegitimization, dehumanization, and group superiority**

Oren, N., & Bar-Tal, D. (2007). The detrimental dynamics of delegitimization in intractable conflicts: The Israeli–Palestinian case. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 31(1), 111-126.

Cohrs, J. C., & Kessler, T. (2013). Negative stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. In A. Golec de Zavala & A. Cichocka (eds.), *Social Psychology of Social Problems: The Intergroup Context* (pp. 3-29). Houndmills, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Week 10: Moral exclusion and moral disengagement in the perpetration of harm**

Bandura, A. (2002). Selective moral disengagement in the exercise of moral agency. *Journal of moral education*, 31(2), 101-119.

McAlister, A. L., Bandura, A., & Owen, S. V. (2006). Mechanisms of moral disengagement in support of military force: The impact of Sept. 11. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 25(2), 141-165.

**Week 11: Barriers to Peace – The relation of conflict to the group image and the self-image**

Bar-Tal, D., Halperin, E., & Oren, N. (2010). Socio-psychological barriers to peace making: The case of the Israeli Jewish society. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 4(1), 63-109.

Stein, J. G. (2005). Image, Identity and the Resolution of Violent conflict. *Peace Studies: Critical Concepts in Political Science*, 1, 364-89.

- Students present analysis of conflicts implementing a social psychological perspective

\*Next week submit paper No. 4 on lessons 9,10,11

**Week 12: Reconciliation and acknowledging narratives of the other**

Kelman, H. C. (2008). Reconciliation from a social-psychological perspective. In A. Nadler, T. E. Malloy, & Fisher, J. D. (eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup reconciliation* (pp. 15-32). New York: Oxford University Press.

Nadler, A., & Shnabel, N. (2015). Intergroup reconciliation: Instrumental and socio-emotional processes and the needs-based model. *European Review of Social Psychology*, 26(1), 93-125.

- Students present analysis of conflicts implementing a social psychological perspective.

**Week 13: Student presentations & final exam**