

**Conflict and Conflict Management**  
**Law 5450 FALL 2021**

Required Texts:

**Mayer, Bernard, Staying with Conflict: A Strategic Approach to Ongoing Disputes.** (Jossey-Bass, 2009). ISBN 978-0-7879-9729-8. (hereinafter “M”)

**Dean G. Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim, Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement,** (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., McGraw Hill, 2004). ISBN 978-0-07-285535-7. (hereinafter “P&K”)

- This book recently went out of print. I have “recommended” it as a text because I will assign readings out of it. If you can find it for a reasonable price, I highly recommend buying it as it is really the “gold standard” of textbooks. But I will also find a way to make relevant excerpts available to the class. We will read from this book nearly every week so please make sure you have access to these readings one way or the other.

Course Website:

A course website titled [2021FS-LAW-5450-01](https://umsystem.instructure.com/courses/2021FS-LAW-5450-01) has been created for the course using the Canvas learning management system. It will be available, starting at or about one week before the first class, at <https://umsystem.instructure.com/courses>. Access is by your university pawprint. All course materials, including slides, assignments, discussions, the course syllabus, etc. are available on this course website.

Readings and Activities for the first Module (i.e., the week of 8/23 and 8/25):

This week is an introduction to conflict. Before you do any of the readings regarding this, please participate in the discussion board titled “How Do You Envision Conflict?” in Module 1. Then read:

- P&K Ch. 1, pp. 1-13
- M Ch. 1, pp. 1-18

As for the schedule this first week:

- **By noon on Tuesday, 8/24,** post your answer to the discussion board prompt. Then do the reading for class on Wednesday.
  - Typically, discussion boards, etc. will be due on Monday but for this first week of class AND the week of Labor Day, I am making them due on Tuesday.
- **On Wednesday, 8/25,** will discuss the basics of course content and expectations and discuss your posts in light of the readings.

As discussed more fully in the syllabus, this class meets both asynchronously and via Zoom. Although it is scheduled for Mondays/Wednesdays from 11:00-12:15, we typically will not meet as a group on Mondays. Instead, I generally will post the readings and slides for the entire week before Monday. Use the Monday class (or before) to read the materials and digest them. There will be a discussion board or other short activity available most weeks in lieu of the Monday class. We will meet as a class on Wednesdays.