Conflict Management Learning Goals

The following represent the overall goals and objectives for student learning in the Conflict Management concentration at SAIS. Attainment will be ascertained through review of course syllabi, student evaluations of their courses (e.g., responses to questions about “amount learned”), and through their ability to apply their knowledge to a specific case or cases of intra- or inter-state conflict in a capstone research paper in their final semester at SAIS.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to diagnose long-term underlying causes and drivers of social conflicts within and between states in any concrete situation they may encounter;
2. Evaluate the conditions that might affect the likelihood for a conflict to escalate, especially the probability that any conflict will result in large-scale violence;
3. Familiarize themselves with a wide range of tools for managing conflicts - negotiation, mediation, crisis management, coercive diplomacy, interaction conflict resolution, post conflict stabilization and reconstruction – to prevent conflicts from escalating, for managing crises, for ending violent conflicts, and for institutionalizing peace-building after violent conflict;
4. Understand the primary institutions and cooperative regimes for managing conflicts at the global, regional, national, and sub-state levels, including awareness of their capability to manage and resolve conflicts and build a just peace within and between states; and
5. Know how conflicts may be managed in several issue areas, including ethno-national conflict, territorial and geopolitical conflict, as well as international economic, environmental and security regimes.