

## THEORIES OF CONFLICT

### Final Analytical Paper

#### Note to Instructor

This is the final, summative, case analysis assignment. It purposely follows a very similar format as the formative mid-course multi-perspective case study (where I use the documentary on Northern Ireland). You will find below very specific instructions for students to follow.

For this assignment, you may choose from any number of films, but I recommend you select one that has a lot of interpersonal and group verbal conflict. For a number of years, I have used the original 1957 version of the movie *12 Angry Men* (starring Henry Fonda): It is relatively short (93 minutes); it is a classic; it offers a great deal of material from which students can draw for analysis; students generally find it quite engaging; it is relevant to law students; and it can be streamed for free (though the links periodically change and need to be found again). Even if students have seen the film in the past, they report that it is refreshing to view for purposes of this course.

If you are not familiar with the film, you will note that none of the characters discloses their name (except for two after the closing credits). As a result, I have created a map of the jury table that I recommend be distributed to students in advance. It is in the folder.

Unlike the mid-course multi-perspective case study, there are no pre-printed observation forms. By this point in the course, students should be responsible to understand the specific theories well enough to know for what to observe.

If time permits, I recommend you view the film in class. Following the screening, I give students one last opportunity to discuss in small groups what they viewed. It is a final opportunity to connect the various theories covered in the course with a case study. I instruct them that, once they leave the classroom, they are not permitted to discuss the film or the assignment any further.

Certainly, you might decide to choose another film. Some have suggested *My Uncle Vinny* (which I have never used). It runs two hours long, which may be a challenge for classroom viewing. You may also have other ideas for this assignment.

## THEORIES OF CONFLICT

### Final Analytical Paper

[50% of Course Grade]

See Syllabus for Due Date – Upload to Canvas

### USE YOUR EXAM NUMBER ONLY

This final assignment is not a reflective essay, but an analytical paper. I want you to conduct an in-depth analysis of the film *12 Angry Men*. This analysis must include all of the following sections (using headings to correspond to the outline below – I have included an appendix to illustrate the structure. Failure to use proper headings will lower your grade).

#### Section 1

Select three (3) different *perspectives* that we have studied in class with which to analyze the film. Using the hand-out “Where Do the Theories Fit?,” I want you to select at least one perspective from the *Individualist Orientation* category and one perspective from the *Symbolic and Constructionist Orientation* category. You may select the third perspective from either of these categories, or from the *Social Structural Orientation* category.

In section one, provide a *thorough and accurate* description (not a brief summary) of each of the three perspectives you will use, demonstrating your mastery of the perspective and its underlying perspective. I expect you will quote or otherwise cite from course readings (and additional outside sources as appropriate), using correct citation format. **This is your opportunity to demonstrate the sophistication with which you understand the three perspectives you have selected.**

#### Section 2

Select two scenes or interactions from the film to analyze. Each scene need not be long (depending on the scope of the perspectives you select, even a brief interaction may be sufficiently rich to analyze). Give me a very *brief* description of the scenes or interactions so I will know what you are focusing on in the film (I’m very familiar with the movie, so a brief description will be sufficient). Taking each scene in turn, *carefully* and *closely* analyze each scene or interaction by applying each of the three perspectives you have selected, identifying and discussing what insights each of the perspectives reveals about the conflict or the parties from each scene. If the first scene or interaction you choose fits best with only one (or two) of your selected perspectives, then be sure that your second scene or interaction allows you to highlight the other of your selected perspectives. However, I still want you to apply all three perspectives to each scene or interaction.

In section two, am looking for precision of analysis. Do NOT speculate or draw conclusions that go beyond the actual data present in the movie. Be careful not to over generalize from your data. If you find yourself needing to make (reasonable) assumptions about the scene or interaction, name your assumptions and discuss why they are reasonable. Then, identify what specific questions or further inquiry you would want to make (if it were possible to do), from the perspective of your selected perspective, to test your assumptions and how that inquiry is consistent with the perspective you are using. **This is your opportunity to demonstrate your ability to correctly and accurately apply multiple perspectives to the same conflict and to identify relevant insights, based on each perspective.**

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### Section 3

Within the context of this analysis, discuss the *usefulness and limitations* of each of the perspectives that you just employed. Focus on whether and how each of your selected perspectives gives you a different and deeper understanding of the conflict you are analyzing. Draw any appropriate conclusions about the use and usefulness of applying multiple perspectives to understand conflict. **This is your opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of how different perspectives reveal different (more and less) useful understanding about conflict.**

#### Technical Information for the paper:

- This paper is to be submitted using your exam number only. **DO NOT USE YOUR NAME**
- Regarding format: Use section headings corresponding to the sections described above (Section 1; Section 2; and Section 3). I have included an example of proper formatting as an appendix to these instructions. **Failure to properly follow this format may lower your assignment grade.**
- Length: 12 to 15 pages (not including any cover page or citations)
- Properly cite quotes and references. You may use footnotes, endnotes or a bibliography format, depending on the citation format you are using for other law school classes.
- Double-space, using 12-point New Times Roman type face with one inch margins all around
- Indent new paragraphs

#### When and Where Due

The final analytical paper is due, uploaded to Canvas, no later than 11:59pm on the date specified in the course syllabus, unless otherwise indicated in writing by your instructor. Please see policies related to late or missing assignments.

## **Appendix - Structure of Final Paper**

***Place your exam number here (do NOT use your name)***

### **Section 1**

**1a** – *[name the specific individualist perspective here. Then provide your thorough and accurate description of the perspective]:*

**1b** – *[name the specific constructionist perspective here. Then provide your thorough and accurate description of the perspective]:*

**1c** – *[name the specific third perspective here. Then provide your thorough and accurate description of the perspective]:*

### **Section 2**

**First scene:** *[Briefly describe the first scene or interaction you will be analyzing]*

**2a** – *[conduct your analysis of the first scene by applying the specific individualist perspective]*

**2b** – *[conduct your analysis of the first scene by applying the specific constructionist perspective]*

**2c** – *[conduct your analysis of the first scene by applying the specific third choice perspective]*

**Second scene:** *[Briefly describe the second scene or interaction you will be analyzing]*

**2d** – *[conduct your analysis of the second scene by applying the specific individualist perspective]*

**2e** – *[conduct your analysis of the second scene by applying the specific constructionist perspective]*

**2f** – *[conduct your analysis of the second scene by applying the specific third choice perspective]*

### **Section 3**

**3a** – *[discuss the usefulness and limitations of the specific individualist perspective you selected and applied]*

**3b** – *[discuss the usefulness and limitations of the specific constructionist perspective you selected and applied]*

**3c** – *[discuss the usefulness and limitations of the specific third perspective you selected and applied]*

### **Endnotes or Bibliography (if Footnotes are not used)**

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