Universities 4 Ushahidi

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE
Center of Innovation: Science, Technology & Peacebuilding

UNIVERSITIES FOR USHAHIDI: The USIP Peacebuilding Module

2011 Curriculum

June 13th - 17th, 2011
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Course Rationale

Crisis mapping is an emerging interdisciplinary field that uses technology and social media to aid in the response to humanitarian emergencies and conflicts. After the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the crisis mapping community and a network of students at Tufts University led the largest and most successful deployment of a crisis map to date. Around the world, crisis mapping technologies are also being applied to an increasingly wide range of scenarios, including the monitoring of elections and human rights abuses, citizen journalists mobilization, conflict tracking, and aid evaluation. These maps, the geo-location and visualization of data has also been used in Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, and elsewhere, providing real-time information for everything from disaster relief to political violence and election monitoring.

But, as the field matures, how do we take these technology solutions beyond 'dots on a map' and make them an effective, sustainable part of the peacebuilder's toolkit? How do we engage and empower local communities with these new powerful technologies? How do we find new ways to work with, and not around, larger social organizations, relief agencies, and government agencies?

As the world takes notice of the dramatic new possibilities opened up by these tools, there is a rapidly growing need for skilled professionals who understand both how to implement crisis mapping platforms in their work, and the broader implications of applying mapping technologies within various contexts of international social change. There is also a need to bring these tools to the communities they are serving in order to create sustainable programs and long-term solutions. This course aims to address these issues by teaching students how to properly identifying local issues and problems, develop and manage teams to find appropriate solutions, and equip them with the skills to apply the right crisis mapping and conflict management tools. The participants will not only become a part of the growing network of crisis mappers but also a new generation of community leaders and innovative peacebuilders.

Course Goal

To foster the next generation of responsible peace builders who can use traditional and innovative techniques to solve challenging problems both in their community and in the world.

Course Objectives

This course will meet its goal by working towards a variety of objectives. This training will…

1. Give students conflict management and technical skills that can be transferred back to their communities

2. Teach students how to create a project that utilizes local capacity as well as innovative methods to solve local problems

3. Realize the challenges as well as the potential of conflict management, crisis mapping, and peace building and the tools around them

Sub-Objectives

1. Give the students a basic understanding of the history and research within the crisis mapping field and the resources needed for further research and exploration
2. Engage the students in discussion about the challenges and potential of crisis mapping in a variety of contexts
3. Give the students a foundation in conflict management skills that equips them with the tools and the core concepts to lead peacebulding efforts in their own countries and around the world
4. Promote a collaborative environment in which students learn to work together in order to solve tough issues
5. Ensure the students are using both their new skills and their own understanding to solve challenging topics in-country
6. Provide the students with hands-on instruction and avenues for application of new knowledge and skills
7. Expose the students to traditional and innovative ways to manage conflict and crisis

Summary of Activities

In order to achieve the objective and goals of this course, the participants of U4U will engage in a collaborative and unique set of activities aimed at giving them the skills and knowledge they need to take back to their home country. These activities have been designed in collaboration between crisis mapping trainers and USIP Academy professors. This curriculum is the beginning of an open curriculum designed to engage the larger audience on these challenging and innovative ways to manage peace. Please see the schedule following for more detail regarding assignments and trainings.

These activities and outputs include:

1. Reading and Discussion
   a. Objectives fulfilled
      i. Give the students a basic understanding of the history and research within the crisis mapping field and the resources needed for further research and exploration
      ii. Engage the students in discussion about the challenges and potential of crisis mapping in a variety of contexts
   b. Outputs
      i. Read at least 3 articles or reports (at least one is different from the other students)
      ii. Summarize one of the readings to share with the other participants
      iii. Engage in discussion the first two days based on the ideas covered
2. Neogeography training
   a. Objectives fulfilled
      i. Provide the students with hands-on instruction and avenues for application of new knowledge and skills
      ii. Promote a collaborative environment in which students learn to work together in order to solve tough issues
   b. Outputs
      i. Learn how to use Ushahidi, Open Street Map, and GPS units
      ii. Engage in a simulation using Ushahidi in a conflict environment
3. Peace building Workshops
   a. Objectives fulfilled
      i. Give the students a foundation in conflict management skills that equips them with the tools and the core concepts to lead peacebulding efforts in their own countries and around the world
      ii. Expose the students to traditional and innovative ways to manage conflict and crisis
      iii. Promote a collaborative environment in which students learn to work together in order to solve tough issues
   b. Outputs – Topics Covered
      i. Foundations of Conflict Analysis
      ii. Leading Adaptive Teams in Conflict environments
      iii. Strengthening Local Capacity and Enhancing Human Security
      iv. Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning
4. Final Project
   a. Objectives fulfilled:

      i. Provide the students with hands-on instruction and avenues for application of new knowledge and skills

     ii. Ensure the students are using both their new skills and their own understanding to solve challenging topics

   iii. Give the students a foundation in conflict management skills that equips them with the tools and the core concepts to lead peacebulding efforts in their own countries and around the world

b. Outputs

      i. Project proposal on how to use crisis mapping technology within their own community)

     ii. Final presentation (both a poster/display & PowerPoint presentation) on the details of their project, including how to engage the local population and transfer their new knowledge and skills to local actors

Course Schedule & Assignments

Friday, June 3rd (Pre-U4U Work)

Although participatory mapping is a dynamic and interactive field, research and dialogue is still a necessary component to its advancement. The goal of Universities for Ushahidi is to provide you with the tools and understanding needed to enter this field as well as the opportunity to start a discussion and answer your peers. You will be required to do the following readings as assigned, but there will be numerous additional readings listed afterward for your ongoing research.

A large portion of the discussion in and around this field mirrors the collaborative and innovative nature of its practitioners. Therefore, these readings have been taken from reports, blog posts, videos, etc. Your assignments will focus on not just learning the material but also engaging in conversation about this material with your peers.

Assignment Details:
- Read all of the assignments under "all"
- Read the additional assignment with your name next to it
    - For your specific assignment, please summarize the reading (no more than 1 page); be sure to answer the following questions
        - What was the main point of the article/video/blog/etc?
        - What potential and/or challenges of mapping did the author note?
        - What recommendations for the field, if any, were there?
    - This summary will be sent around to your classmates
    - Please note this is not an essay, it's supposed to be a simple summary or outline. This exercise is an opportunity to begin thinking about the subject material as well as provide a synopsis for your peers.
- We will begin a discussion of these readings and summaries over email and hopefully continue this discussion during U4U

Readings:

- All
  - o Video: "Changing the World, One Map at a Time," Patrick Meier, http://blog.ushahidi.com/index.php/2011/05/09/changing-the-world-one-map-at-a-time-video/
  - o Report: "Disaster Relief 2.0," HHI & UN Foundation, Executive Summary http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/disaster-relief-20-report.pdf
- Individually assigned
  - o Article: "Citizens As Sensors," Michael Goodchild, http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.165.9241&rep=rep1&type=pdf
    -- Osama Khaleel
  - o Article: "SMS as a Tool for Election Observation," Ian Schuler, pg. 143-158 http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/disaster-relief-20-report.pdf
    -- Seda Muradyan
  - o Report: "New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts," Diane Coyle and Patrick Meier, Section 5 & 6 (pg. 39-48) http://www.unfoundation.org/press-center/publications/new-technologies-emergencies-conflicts.html
    -- James Sumo
  - o Report: "Crowdsourcing Crisis Information in Disaster-Affected Haiti," Jessica Heinzelman and Carol Waters http://www.usip.org/publications/crowdsourcing-crisis-information-in-disaster-affected-haiti
    -- Louino Robillard
  - o Report: "The Role of Mobile Phones in Disasters and Emergencies, " Diane Coyle and MB Childs, Chapter 7 & Recommendations (pg. 28 - 34) http://www.dinkom.no/FILES/gsm_disaster_relief_report.pdf
    -- Natasha Mzonsa
  - o Guide: Map Action Field Guide to Humanitarian Mapping, Chapter 1 (pg. 7 - 23) http://www.mapaction.org/images/stories/publicdocs/mapaction%20field%20guide%20to%20humanitarian%20mapping%20first%20edn%20low-res.pdf
    -- Farazdaq Abbas, Asma Bushara
  - o Report: "Blogs and Bullets," S. Aday, H. Farrell, M. Lynch, J. Sides, J. Kelly, and E. Zuckerman, pg. 13-28 http://www.usip.org/publications/blogs-and-bullets-new-media-in-contentious-politics
    -- Abdelraham Hassan
  - o Article: "Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted," Malcom Gladwell, http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/04/101004fa_fact_gladwell
    -- Aggrey Willis Otieno
  - o Article: Citizen Communications in Crisis, Leysia Palen and Sophia Liu, http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.85.1285&rep=rep1&type=pdf
    -- Krity Piya, Assadullah Sahil
  - o Report: Media, Information Systems, & Communities: Lessons from Haiti, CDAC, pg. 15 - 26 http://www.knightfoundation.org/dotAsset/377221.pdf
    -- Roohafza Ludin, Farazdaq Abbas

Monday, June 13th

8 – 8:30AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 8:45AM	Welcome *Pamela Aall , Sheldon Himelfarb, and Patrick Meier*
8:45 – 9:00AM	Review of the week's schedule Review of goals and expectations of students *Rob Baker and Anand Varghese*
9:00 – 9:30AM	Student introductions
9:30AM – 10:30AM	**Framing the problem: The Role of Community Mapping in Preventing Conflict and Building Sustainable Peace** *Matt Levinger and Mary Hope Schwoebel*
10:30 – 10:45AM	Break
10:45AM – 1:00PM	**Foundations of Conflict Analysis** *Matt Levinger*
1 – 2PM	Lunch
2 – 5PM	**Ushahidi Introduction & Training** *Rob Baker and Roz Sewell*
5 – 5:30PM	Closing discussion
6:30 – 8PM	Dinner

*All courses will include a 15 min break, as determined by the instructor

Final Project
- At the end of the week, you will be responsible for a final project that utilizes not only the technology platforms but also the skills and knowledge acquired in your peacebuilding course work
- You will be able to work alone or in teams; however you must address an issue of clearly defined scope. Your project must be feasible for you to carry out individually or with a small team of volunteers.
- Please see the following page for the full details

Final Project Details

In order to understand how to use mapping tools to support crisis management and peacebuilding efforts, it is necessary to apply the knowledge gained in a class setting to real experiences. This course works to give students that experience through case studies, simulation exercises, and application of knowledge in a final project that will allow you to apply newly acquired crisis mapping and conflict management skills to inherent problems in your own community. The goal is to equip you with skills to develop useful mapping projects in your own community.

The final U4U project has three components: project proposal, final project report, and final project presentation.

Project Proposal
You are asked to consider a on-going problem in your community or country. Using traditional and innovative techniques, you will create a project that works towards solving this problem. On **Wednesday, June 15** you will hand-in a one-page **maximum** summary of your project using the following outline.

1. *Background*
   o What is the nature of this problem?
2. *Project Goal & Rationale*
   o What is the overall goal of your project? Please limit this to one or two sentences
3. *Project Activities*
   o What activities will you engage in to complete this project?
     ▪ These should be no more than two or three activities that can be completed given your constraints
   o How do these activities engage the local population?
   o What technology are you using? How are you using this technology?
     ▪ Think about why a certain tool is needed and remember that a map is not necessary for every circumstance
4. *Resources*
   o What do you need to complete this project? This includes, finances, partners, technology, Internet access, hardware etc.
   o We don't want a detailed budget, just show that you've thought about what it would take to put this together.

5. *Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning*
   o What risks do you and your community face as part of this project? Do you foresee other changes in the social and political environment that may affect project execution? If so, how will you plan for these events?

Although this proposal is due on Wednesday, you are encouraged to start as soon as possible. You can work alone or in groups, but remember, it must address **your local needs**. The proposal will need to be emailed to avarghese1@usip.org and roz@crisismappers.net. You will receive feedback on **Thursday June 16**, so that you can incorporate any changes to the final components.

Although you will receive formal comments on the 16th please use the afternoon session on Wednesday plus the lunch and dinner sessions to ask questions and garner feedback about your project.

Final Project Report
With your feedback on your project proposal, you will need to submit a **two to three** page final project report detailing your project as outlined in the five categories above. The goal is for this to no longer be a summary, but instead a narrative about your project. This will be due by **9 am** on **Friday June 17** and should be emailed to avarghese1@usip.org **and** robbaker@ushahidi.com.

Additional points that you should consider for your project:
- Expand your background
  - Who does this problem affect? (Think about the vulnerable populations, the beneficiary populations, the problem instigators)
  - How long has this problem occurred? Has anything changed recently?
- Consider your project rationale
  - How does this goal alleviate or reduce your stated problem?
  - Think about your beneficiary population and the **outcome** you would like to achieve
- Other questions to think about
  - How does each activity work towards meeting that goal? If it doesn't, why do you need that activity?
  - What assumptions are making?

Project Presentation
The last session on Friday is for you to present your final project to both academy professors and crisis management practitioners. You may use any presentation software you feel comfortable with – OpenOffice, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc. However, you will be limited to **10 minutes** each to leave time for questions and discussion.

You do not have to follow the outline below, but it is strongly advised in order to keep your presentation brief and to the point. Please note that your presentation should include pictures and limit the use of text.

Slide 1: Name of your project & you/your team
Slide 2-3: Background
Slide 4: Goal of your project
Slide 5-6: Project Activities
Slide 7-8: Resources Needed
Slide 9: Any other information, pictures, or media

Tuesday, June 14ᵗʰ

9 – 9:30AM	Breakfast
9:30AM – 1PM	**Needs Assessment & Strengthening Local Peacebuilding Capacity** *Jeff Helsing and Nadia Gerspacher*
1 – 2PM	Lunch
1 – 5 PM	**OpenStreetMap Introduction & Training** *Kate Chapman and Rob Baker* Our OSM training will be a brief introduction to what OSM is and how it has been used in several countries and by several organizations to support a variety of initiatives. This course will include a "mapping party," where students will split into group to map points the surrounding neighborhood. We will review the data they collect and how to submit and update information to the global OSM map.
5 – 5:30PM	Closing discussion
7 – 9PM	Dinner

Wednesday, June 15th

8:30 – 9AM	Breakfast

9:AM – 12:30PM **Leading Without Authority**
Lauren van Metre and Linda Bishai
This course will discuss leadership styles and ask, what are the skills and values that make leaders effective in various circumstances? In social networks, such as Ushahidi, leaders often lead without authority and leadership within the network is fluid, that is, it may shift to different individuals based on their expertise and experience and the requirements of a particular situation or task. Leadership must be embedded throughout the network. This session includes a simulation that provides experience using mapping during an election and also challenges participants to apply lateral leadership styles.

12:30 – 1:30PM Lunch

1:30 – 5PM **Student project development**
Matt Levinger, Rob Baker, Roz Sewell, and Anand Varghese
Group discussions on how to use mapping for capacity building, working with local actors, and enhancing human security. This will include time for the students to complete substantial parts of project planning templates.

5 – 5:30PM **Closing discussion**
Rob Baker

6:30 – 8:30PM Dinner

Final Project
- Your project proposal (1-2 pages) is due today after the last afternoon session. The goal is simply to answer questions and help you construct your ideas.
- An outline of your final presentation is also due today (Word document, Open Office document, or text file is fine)
- Feedback will be given to you Thursday morning so that you can continue to work on it Thursday

Thursday, June 16th

8 – 8:30AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 AM	**Project Proposal Feedback and Discussion** *Anand Varghese and Roz Sewell*
9:30 – 12:30PM	**The Other 90%: Looking Beyond the Technology and Thinking about Security** *Sam Bendett (Star-Tides)*
12:30– 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 4 PM	**Intended and Unintended Consequences: Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning** *Matt Levinger, Mary Hope Schwoebel, and Anand Varghese*
4 – 5:30 PM	**Student Project Development** (contd.)
7 – 9PM	Working Dinner Students will be able to use this time to work on their final projects while still being able to solicit feedback from instructors.

Final Project
- Armed with feedback, edit your final project as needed

Friday, June 17th

9:15 – 9:45 AM	Breakfast
10AM – 12PM	**Public Event:** From Crisis to Community: Mapping as a Peacebuilding Tool *Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP* *Patrick Meier, Ushahidi* *Peter Mandaville, US Dept. of State* *Nigel Snoad, UN- OCHA (via phone from Sudan)* *Two student representatives from the 2011 U4U program*
12:15 – 1:15PM	Lunch
1:15 – 3:45PM	**Student project presentations** Students will present their project templates and take questions from staff, other students, and a guest instructor/practitioner. *Emily Jacobi (Digital Democracy), Matt Levinger, Rob Baker*
4 – 5:30 PM	**Closing & Graduation Ceremony** *Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP*
6 – 10PM	Graduation celebration