

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	International Relations American Studies Political Science
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Conflict and Conflict Resolution
Course Code:	INR 5101
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course provides overview of different theories and frameworks for understanding international and sub-national conflict, discussing the role of different forms of violence, identity, material factors, security concerns and basic human needs in the outbreak and reproduction of conflicts. The course then focuses on conflict resolution, including examination of different types of external interventions, military and non-military, and develops analytical criteria of success in peace building. Finally, the course considers the particular issues that arise in countries which have experienced and are experiencing civil wars. Case studies of civil and international conflicts, and of related conflict resolution strategies are used throughout.

Pre-requisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with theories of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and their relation to general theories of IR
- to critically engage students with conflict case studies, thereby both going beyond, and illustrating the validity of, theoretical discussions
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business, and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary conflict and conflict resolution strategies
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

International Relations: A5(i); B5(i); C5(ii); C5(iii); D5(i); D5(ii)

American Studies: B5i, C5ii, C5iii, D5i, D5ii

Political Science: A5i, C5ii, C5iii, D5i, D5ii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with major thinkers and theoretical approaches used in the study of conflict and conflict resolution
- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems in achieving conflict resolution
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, political, social, and gendered dimensions of conflict and practices of conflict resolution
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Theories and frameworks for understanding conflict and conflict resolution
- Forms of conflict intervention and evaluation of interventions
- Conflicts over resources and identity: Former Yugoslavia, Middle East, and Central Asia
- Conflict case studies (for example: Yemen, Syria, The Arab Israeli conflict, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, Colombia, Balkans, Rwanda)

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and

located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent, and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

- Özerdem, A. and S. Lee (2016) *International Peacebuilding: An Introduction*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Ramsbotham, O., T. Woodhouse and H. Miall (2016) *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 4th ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Wallerstein, P. (2015) *Quality Peace: Peacebuilding, Victory, and World Order*. London and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wallerstein, P. (2011) *Understanding Conflict Resolution*. London: Sage.
- Fouskas, V. (Ed.) (2010) *The Politics of Conflict*. Routledge.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	