

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	MA International Relations; MA Communication for Social Change
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	International Conflict, War and Peace
Course Code:	INR 7109
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course addresses core aspects of the study of international conflict and war in both theory and practice, providing advanced engagement with the theoretical and philosophical aspects of conflict, dynamics and causes of conflict, and its prevention, including the changing character of war and its impact on contemporary societies. In addition, the course examines the relationship between security and insecurity, and the politics of violence at the international level. Throughout the course, students will engage with case studies of international conflict, security and peace, conflict resolution and prevention, which are used to ground the theoretical and conceptual discussion in clear empirical contexts.

Prerequisites:

MA students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To examine concepts in the theory and practice of international conflict and security at international levels
- To cultivate a sophisticated understanding of theoretical and empirical discussions of conflict, security and war, as well as grounding these in the broader study of International Relations
- To develop and apply criteria for the evaluation of different forms of international management of conflicts and of security issues

- To identify current political challenges to international peace and security
- Critically analyse historical and current cases and issues in international conflicts, war and peace

Programme Outcomes:

MA INR: A; B; C; D; E; G

MA CSC: A1; C2; D3

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develops a critical response the various debates within the IR discipline with regard to conflict, security and war and comprehends how these are related to the historical context in which they developed
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, geographical, historical, and political dimensions of international conflict, war and peace
- Demonstrates a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply knowledge in the discipline of International Relations to questions of international conflict, war and peace
- Engages with and evaluates complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence while critically reflecting on different approaches to understanding conflict, war and peace
- Understand the legacy of colonialism and global inequality as a structural condition for conflict and war, and consider their insight alongside other critical approaches such as feminism as approaches to study conflict, war and peace
- Demonstrate a level of conceptual understanding that will allow them to critically evaluate research, advanced scholarship and methodologies and argue alternative approaches

Indicative Content:

- Theories on causes of international conflict
- Changing character of war
- Impact of globalisation and new technologies of war and security
- Impact of conflict and war on societies
- Case studies of war, conflict prevention and conflict resolution strategies
- The role of international institutions in conflict, war and peace
- The role of non-state actors in war

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.

Indicative Text(s):

- Fouskas, V. (ed.) (2010) *The politics of conflict: a survey*. London: Routledge.
- Keen, D. (2008) *Complex Emergencies*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Nye, J. (2009). *Understanding International Conflicts*. 7th edn. New York: Pearson.
- Barash, D. and Webel C. (2021) *Peace and conflict studies*. 5th edn. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. and Miall H. (2016) *Contemporary conflict resolution*. 4th edn. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Thakur, R. (2006) *The United Nations, peace and security*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Keegan, J. (2004) *A history of warfare*. London: Pimlico.
- Von Clausewitz, C. (2007) *On war*. Translated by M. Howard and P. Paret. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Journals

Security Studies

Journal of Peace Research

Journal of Peace, Conflict and Development

War & Society

Web Sites

Click here to enter text.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval	Change Actioned by Registry Services

	Body (School or AB)	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Revision – programme outcomes update	Oct 2023	
Programme name updated	January 2024	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	