

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	International Relations
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Conflict and Post-Conflict Studies
Course Code:	INTR 5102
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US Credits

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of theories, approaches, and frameworks for understanding international and sub-national conflict as well as post-conflict societies. In doing so this course also discusses the role of different forms of violence, identity, and material factors in the outbreak and perpetuation of conflict taking into account state and human security, gender-sensitive, and post-colonial concerns throughout. The course then moves on to focus on conflict resolution, including the examination of peace agreements, different types of external interventions, military and non-military, while developing an analytical criterion of success in peace building which is applied to contemporary cases through the course. Finally, the course considers transitional justice and the particular issues that arise in post-conflict societies including those involving trauma, memory, and forgiveness. Case studies of civil and international conflicts, and of related conflict resolution strategies are used throughout.

Prerequisites:

40 Credits

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 conflicts and post-conflict situations
- 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:

A5II; B5I; C5I; D5II

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:

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used to analyse and explain issues in conflict and conflict resolution.
- Demonstrates the ability to critically reflect on the central dynamics of conflicts and conflict resolution strategies through evidence and case studies.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data.
- Demonstrates engagement with forms of learning that directly relate to practical processes of conflict management and resolution.

Indicative Content:

- Theories and frameworks for understanding conflict and conflict resolution.
- Forms of conflict intervention and evaluation of interventions.
- Conflict resolution (peace talks, negotiation, mediation, and agreements).
- Conflict case studies (for example: Russia/Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, The Arab Israeli conflict, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, Colombia, Balkans, Rwanda).
- Transitional justice and post-conflict issues.

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 delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Fouskas, V. (Ed.) (2010) *The Politics of Conflict*. Routledge.
- Özerdem, A. and Lee, S. (2016) *International Peacebuilding: An Introduction*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Ramsbotham, O., et al. (2024) *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 5th ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Wallensteen, P. (2015) *Quality Peace: Peacebuilding, Victory, and World Order*. London and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wallensteen, P. (2023) *Understanding Conflict Resolution*. 6th ed. London: Sage.
- Wegner, N and MacKenzie, M. (2021) *Feminist Solutions for Ending War*. London: Pluto Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	