

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

DEGREE: BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEGREE COURSE YEAR: FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH
1^º SEMESTER 2^º SEMESTER
CATEGORY: BASIC COMPULSORY OPTIONAL
NO. OF SESSIONS: 30
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
TUTORIALS:
FORMAT:
PREREQUISITES:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will review the main concepts and theoretical frameworks for conflict analysis, management and resolution; examine in depth how a number of contemporary conflicts have been or are being addressed; and draw applicable lessons and conclusions. The course will address current challenges and the way practitioners and scholars have been tackling the complex reality of contemporary conflict. It aims to give the student a broad vision on the realities of modern conflict and provide the basic tools and knowledge to understand current dynamics from both, a theoretical and practical point of view, but most importantly from a critical point of view. The course will draw on students' acquired knowledge of international security, international public law, international organizations and democratic governance.

Students should read the materials each week, in advance of the class session and be ready for discussion. Further instructions on which specific material the student should concentrate on will be given from one session to the next. Specific additional material for each session will include articles, think tank and media materials, and official documents related to each topic.

Each subject of the course will alternate a theoretical and a practical part. When possible, the lecturer will invite practitioners from different fields to share his/her views and expertise on a specific subject, to allow the student to understand the work in practice. Audiovisual materials will also be used as a basis for discussion on specific subjects. Students will be asked to comment and present one case during the term in small groups of up to four persons. In addition, students will be asked to write a short essay of a maximum of 500 words before the end of the course. Both the presentation and the essay, as well as participation during the sessions, will count towards the final grade in the percentages indicated below. They should all go beyond description and use the newly acquired knowledge and concepts to analyse the topic at hand and identify the main challenges and possible solutions.

Students will follow current conflicts in the media and will be ready to discuss them in class.

The course grading will break down as follows:

- . Class participation and attendance (10 %)
- . Case presentation (20 %)
- . 500 words essay on a topic TBC 20%
- . Final exam (50 %)

Any student missing more than 30% of the sessions will fail the class. Students who fail the class due to poor grades will have the chance to take an extraordinary exam in July. Students who fail the class due to attendance or ethics violations will not be able to take the July exam. July Exam dates are non-negotiable.

2. PROGRAMME

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD AND BASIC CONCEPTS

SESSION 1-2: CONFLICTS: ORIGINS, DEFINITIONS AND TYPOLOGIES

SESSION 3-4: CONFLICTS: ORIGINS, DEFINITIONS AND TYPOLOGIES CONTINUED: WHO'S WHO IN THE CONFLICT SCENE: NEW AND NOT SO NEW ACTORS.

Presentation from a practitioner in the field

SESSION 5-6: HARNESSING CONFLICT? PRINCIPLES OF INTERVENTION. JUST WARS OR JUST WAR?

SESSION 7-8: HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION, "RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT" AND THE SOVEREIGNTY CONUNDRUM

- Case study: Kosovo, Libya, Syria

SESSION 9-10: THE INTERVENTION TABOO: REGIME CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIC INTERVENTION

- Case study: Haiti, Iraq

PART II: DEALING WITH CONFLICT: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND MECHANISMS

SESSION 11-12: COERCIVE DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS: WAR BY OTHER MEANS?

- Case study: Iraq, Cuba, Iran

SESSION 13-14: DIPLOMACY AND MEDIATION: ACTORS, PARTIES AND ACTIONS (TRACK I, TRACK II AND TRACK 1,5 DIPLOMACY)

- Case study/ Presentation: The role of Private Diplomacy Actors

SESSION 15-16: PEACEKEEPING

- Case study: UNIFIL

SESSION 17-18 PEACEBUILDING

PART III: WHEN THE DUST SETTLES, CHALLENGES OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

SESSION 19-20: TALKING TO TERRORISTS?

- Case study: ISIS, Northern Ireland, South Africa

SESSION 21-22: POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH AND THE “DO NO HARM” PRINCIPLE

- Case study: Afghanistan

SESSION 23-24: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE: PEACE VS JUSTICE?: DEALING WITH THE PAST, RECONCILIATION AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

SESSION 25-26: FROM BULLETS TO BALLOTS

SESSION 27-28: GENDER AND PEACE: 15 YEARS OF RESOLUTION 1325

SESSION 29-30: FINAL EXAM