

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**IRL 3015: INTRODUCTION TO PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
CREDIT: 3 UNITS**

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction in the field of Peace and Conflict studies. It offers an analysis of issues and theories about peace, violence and conflict. Peace and conflict is defined from a theoretical perspective. The course also presents the different typology of peace and violence and analyses the changing dynamics and the new trends of Peace and Conflicts studies from the different perspective.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this course is introduce students to Peace and Conflict studies as an academic discipline and to provide them with a set of conceptual tools through which to evaluate and understand contemporary events in the field of Peace and Conflict studies. It highlights the contemporary discourses in Peace Studies and Peace Research. Taking advantage of the intercultural and diverse experiences in the classroom, a multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary and multicultural approach to peace and conflict studies will also be introduced.

3. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain concepts and theories in International Relations.
2. Explain and use Research Methodology in International Relations.
3. Collect, Collate, analyse and respond to critically to information.
4. Critically analyse the dynamics of world politics.
5. Identify threats and opportunities to national strategic interests, and formulate policies in response.
6. Apply understanding of a global, multicultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in International Relations.
7. Demonstrate diplomatic etiquette in the International context.

4. LINK TO PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain concepts and theories in International Relations.
2. Critically analyze the dynamics of world politics.
3. Identify threats and opportunities to national strategic interests and formulate policies in response.
4. Apply understanding of a global, multicultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in International Relations.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Define and understand peace and conflict from a theoretical perspective.
2. Identify the major theoretical and methodological issues within this holistic and interdisciplinary study.
3. Distinguish between the different typology of peace and violence.
4. Analyze the contemporary discourses in Peace Studies and Peace Research and the changing dynamics and the new trends of peace and conflict studies from different perspective.
5. Appreciate Peace and Conflict studies as a multidisciplinary and intercultural academic field.

6. COURSE REQUIREMENT

Students are expected to read and follow the schedule in the course syllabus, lecture notes, additional suggested text, and be alert and attentive with note taking in class and have a demonstrated desire to participate in any discussions.

An attendance roster is kept and students are expected to attend all sessions on time and as scheduled. **As per the university rules, any student who misses more than SEVEN sessions will receive an F grade.**

Students will be divided into groups and are expected to work with their group members on an assigned topic by the instructor. Each presentation will be limited to 30 minutes followed by 20 minutes of class discussions. The presenting group will be expected to create leading questions for discussion, provide a final detailed paper consisting of a table of content, introduction, main body, conclusion and bibliography to the instructor on the day of presentation. Students will be graded on how effectively they have mastered and communicated the subject matter to the class.

NB: PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONES DURING CLASS TIME AND DO NOT BRING YOUR LAPTOPS TO THE CLASSROOM AS THEY CAUSE DISTRACTION DURING DISCUSSION.

7. PLAGIARISM

This is the unauthorized representation of someone else's thoughts and ideas as if they were your own. Students must acknowledge sources from which they adopt ideas through citation and direct quotes must be indicated by the use of quotation marks. The university takes plagiarism cases seriously and violations may result in failure in the course and in serious cases expulsion from the degree program.

8. COURSE TEXT

1. Barash, D and Webel, C. (2nd edition.) (2009), *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Thousand Oaks and London, Sage.
2. Francis, D. J (ed.) (2008), *Peace and Conflict in Africa*, London, Zed Books Ltd.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

1. Harris, I. M, (Unpublished) "Peace Studies at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century"
2. Galtung, J, (1996), *Peace and Peaceful means: Peace and conflict development and civilization*, Oslo, International Peace Research Institute.
3. Masciulli, J. (2004), "From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Evolving Cosmopolitan Politics and Ethnicity", in Keating, T. and Knight W. A (eds.), *Building Sustainable Peace*, Canada, University of Alberta Press, pp: 331-353.
4. Rapoport, A, (1992), *Peace: An Idea Whose Time Has Come*, Michigan, University of Michigan Press.

9. COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three sections.

I. The first part introduces Peace Research and Studies.

II. The second part of this course looks at Conflict Studies.

III. The third part of the course presents the contemporary discourses in Peace Studies and Peace Research.

WEEK 1, 2 & 3: INTRODUCTION TO PEACE RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Discussion topic

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Objectives of Peace Research
- ❖ Causes of Human Suffering
- ❖ Secular Views/Concepts of Peace and Violence
- ❖ Development of Peace Studies
- ❖ Epistemological status of Peace Research and Studies: Is PS Scientific?
- ❖ Stages of Peace Studies
- ❖ What does PS study?
- ❖ Peace as a Social Construct vs. Peace as a Natural Condition from the theories of PS perspective
- ❖ Empirical-conceptual reconstruction of peace according to Galtung: Justice and development as key concepts
- ❖ A Culture of Peace
- ❖ What is a Culture of Peace?
- ❖ Culture of War vs. Culture of Peace

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the objectives of Peace Studies and causes of human suffering.
- Define secular views/concepts of peace and violence
- Identify the development, epistemological status, stages, theories and what PS studies.
- Understand the empirical-conceptual reconstruction of peace according to Galtung.
- Identify a Culture of Peace.

Assignment

- ✓ *Lecture notes*
- ✓ Barash, D and Webel, C. (2nd edition.) (2009), *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Thousand Oaks and London, Sage pp:1-12

WEEK 4: LEVELS OF PEACE, TYPES OF PEACE, DEMOCRATIC PEACE THEORY, THREE APPROACHES TO PEACE WORK AND TWO CATEGORIES OF PEACE WORK

BBC DOCUMENTARY: IS WAR INEVITABLE?

Discussion topic

- ❖ Levels of Peace
- ❖ Types of Peace
- ❖ Democratic Peace Theory
- ❖ Three approaches to Peace Work
- ❖ Two categories of Peace Work

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the levels and types of Peace.
- Understand the Democratic Peace Theory.
- Trace the three approaches and two categories of Peace Work.

Assignment

- ✓ *Lecture notes*

WEEK 5 & 6: INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT STUDIES: DEFINITION AND STAGES OF CONFLICT

Discussion topic

- ❖ Definition/Concepts of Conflict
- ❖ Reasons for the negative conception of conflicts
- ❖ Reasons for the positive conception of conflicts
- ❖ Characteristics of conflict
- ❖ Stages of conflict
- ❖ Conflict resolution (1950- 1960)
- ❖ Conflict management (1970- 1980)
- ❖ Conflict transformation (1990...)
- ❖ The main characteristics of conflict transformation
- ❖ Relation between cooperation, perception, power and conflict

Learning Outcomes

- Define conflict.
- Identify the different stages of conflict.
- Understand the main characteristics of conflict transformation and the relation between cooperation, perception, power and conflict.

Assignment

- ✓ *Lecture notes*

WEEK 7: TYPOLOGIES, TYPES AND THEORIES OF CONFLICT

Discussion topic

- ❖ Typologies of conflict
- ❖ Types of conflict
- ❖ Theories of Conflict

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the typologies, types and theories of conflict.

Assignment

- ✓ *Lecture notes*

MID-SEMESTER EXAM (WEEK 1-7)

WEEK 8: CAUSES, ACTORS, IMPACT OF CONFLICT, EARLY WARNING SIGNS, PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND MANAGEMENT MECHANISM

Discussion topic

- ❖ Causes, Actors and Impact of conflict
- ❖ Early Warning Signs
- ❖ Preventive Diplomacy
- ❖ Management Mechanism

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the causes, actors and impact of conflict.
- Understand early warning signs, preventive diplomacy and management mechanism.

Assignment

- ✓ *Lecture notes*

WEEK 9: CONTEMPORARY DISCOURSES IN PEACE STUDIES AND PEACE RESEARCH: PREPARING FOR PEACE: CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION ACROSS CULTURES AND PEACE EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE

Discussion topic

- ❖ Preparing for Peace: Conflict Transformation Across Cultures.
- ❖ Peace Education Perspective

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how to prepare for peace by learning how to transform conflict across cultures.
- Define and identify the Conceptual Underpinnings of Peace Education.

Assignment

- ✓ **GROUP 1: Preparing for Peace: Conflict Transformation Across Cultures**
- ✓ Lederach, J.P, (1996), *Preparing for Peace: Conflict Transformation Across Cultures*, Syracuse University Press, pp: 3-23.

- ✓ **GROUP 2: Peace Education**
- ✓ Harris, I.M (2008), "Conceptual Underpinnings of Peace Education", pp: 15-25.

WEEK 10: CONTEMPORARY DISCOURSES IN PEACE STUDIES AND PEACE RESEARCH: PEACE JOURNALISM, PEACE PSYCHOLOGY, GENDER AND PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE

Discussion topic

- ❖ Peace Journalism
- ❖ Peace Psychology: theory and practice
- ❖ Gender and Peace: towards a gender-inclusive, holistic perspective
- ❖ Human Rights and Peace

Learning Outcomes

- Understand and identify Peace Journalism as a contemporary discourse in Peace and Conflict Studies.
- Understand the theory and practice of Peace Psychology.
- Identify the connection between Gender and Peace from a gender-inclusive and holistic perspective.
- Identify the conventional discourses and the political origins of Human Rights.
- Understand the relationship between Human Rights and Peace.

Assignment

✓ **GROUP 3: Peace Journalism**

- ✓ Lynch, J. and McGoldrick, A., (2007), "Peace Journalism" in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 248-264.

✓ **GROUP 4: Peace Psychology**

- ✓ Sapio, A. and Zamperini, A. (2007), "Peace psychology: theory and practice" in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 265-278.

✓ **GROUP 5: Gender and Peace**

- ✓ Jenkins, T. and Reardon, B. A. (2007), "Gender and peace: towards a gender-inclusive, holistic perspective" in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 209-31.

✓ **Group 6: Human Rights and Peace**

- ✓ Ife, J. (2007), "Human rights and peace", in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 160-172.

WEEK 11: CONTEMPORARY DISCOURSES IN PEACE STUDIES AND PEACE RESEARCH: PEACE MOVEMENTS, NONVIOLENCE, MEDIATION AND RECONCILIATION

Discussion topic

- ❖ Peace Movements
- ❖ History and Taxonomy of Peace Movements
- ❖ Interconnections Between Peace and Other Social Movements
- ❖ Some Internal Debates Within Peace Movements
- ❖ Some Criticisms of Peace Movements
- ❖ Maintaining the Momentum of Peace Movements
- ❖ Nonviolence: More than the absence of violence
- ❖ Mediation
- ❖ Reconciliation

Learning Outcomes

- Define and identify the history of Peace Movements, the interconnections Between Peace and Other Social Movements.
- Understand the internal debates and criticism of Peace Movements.
- Define and understand the two overlapping traditions, of nonviolence.

- Understand nonviolence as an antithesis of violence and identify the waves and future of nonviolence.
- Define, illustrate and understand the historical background and the trends in mediation.
- Define and identify the processes of reconciliation.
- Understand what helps and hinders reconciliation.

Assignment

- ✓ **GROUP 7: Peace Movements**
- ✓ Barash, D and Webel, C. (2nd edition.) (2009), *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Thousand Oaks and London, Sage pp: 221-242.

- ✓ **GROUP 8: Nonviolence: More than the absence of violence**
- ✓ Johansen, J. (2007), "Nonviolence: More than the absence of violence", in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 143-159.

- ✓ **GROUP 9: Mediation**
- ✓ Horowitz, S. (2007), "Mediation", in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 51-63.

- ✓ **GROUP 10: Reconciliation**
- ✓ Santa-Barbara, J. (2007), "Reconciliation", in Webel, C. and Galtung, J, (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Routledge, London/New York, pp: 173-186.

WEEK 12: MOVIE: MACHINE GUN PREACHER

WEEK 13: GUEST SPEAKER AND REVISION/REFLECTION OF THE COURSE

WEEK 14: FINAL EXAM

10. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- The course will be conducted using lectures, active class discussion, personal experiences and student presentations.
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Quick Quizzes (Brainteasers)

- Guest speakers and documentary/video show will be arranged as appropriate.
- Student punctuality and active participation is highly encouraged. Participatory learning is the ideal

11. COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	- 10%
Group presentation	- 10%
2 Article Reviews	- 20%
Mid-Term Examination	- 30%
Final Examination	<u>-30%</u>
Total	100%

GRADING

A	90 - 100
A-	87 - 89
B+	84 - 86
B	80 - 83
B-	77 - 79
C+	74 - 76
C	70 - 73
C-	67 - 69
D+	64 - 66
D	62 - 63
D-	60 - 61
F	0 - 59