

Department: International Relations

Faculty: Social Sciences

Course Title: Introduction to Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding: Theory and Praxis in South Asia (MA, Compulsory)

Number of Credits: Four

Course Objectives:

Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding is an expanding, innovative discipline which is opening new frontiers of learning. It is mandated by the UN, which is seeking to support education for a culture of peace. However, the field is still at its fledgling stages in South Asia and has largely been dominated by Western perspectives. There is need to build a vocabulary of Peacebuilding that is more 'context sensitive', which facilitates cross-fertilization of ideas and strengthen Peacebuilding practice in South Asia.

This course will provide dialogic space to review theories, models and skills for theorizing and developing peace initiatives that can respond to deep-rooted contemporary conflicts in South Asia. The attempt will be to build a healthy synergy between research, theory and perspectives 'from the field'. It will attempt to initiate a dialogical process of enquiry and creativity in thinking about complex problems. The pedagogy for the course would be elicitive, participatory and would draw on multiple formats for the teaching-learning process.

Course Structure with Units:

Unit 1: Critical Templates in the Field (Week One -Three)

The first unit will introduce students to the relevant vocabulary in the field. It will examine critical questions around: What are the key characteristics of protracted armed conflict in South Asia? Is there a change in the nature of contemporary armed conflict in South Asia? Can conflict and violence be used interchangeably? Does absence of violence mean peace? Is conflict a negative phenomenon? Is conflict linked to the idea of social change? How do you engage with notions of security that are more inclusive of the contemporary threats to peace in South Asia?

Unit 2: Understanding Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding &Field Work Module (Week Four-Week Five)

This unit will introduce students to the vocabulary of conflict transformation and peacebuilding; would help them identify case studies for their field work module; and introduce them to the field work module.

Unit 3: Conflict Analysis (Week Six-Eight)

Conflict Analysis is central to the process of inquiry and intervention design in the field of Peacebuilding. This section will explore interdisciplinary frameworks in both theory and praxis

to understand and respond to protracted conflicts both in South Asia and beyond. The focus would be to understand the “ Why” of Conflicts.

Unit 4: Justice and Reconciliation (Week Nine to Week Ten)

This section will critically examine frameworks for Justice and Reconciliation. The focus would be on the restorative justice paradigm and how it attempts to address the needs of key stakeholders in phases of transition. Secondly critical questions around the frameworks of reconciliation will be examined especially its relevance for South Asia.

Unit 5: Gender, Conflict, Peace in South Asia (Week Ten to Twelve)

Conflict and Violence impacts men and women differently and therefore the need to mainstream the lens of gender in both conflict analysis and intervention design. This unit will examine case studies from South Asia and attempt to understand the needs and role of women beyond the convention frames of the discourse.

Reading Suggestions:

Zehr, Howard (2002) *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, Good Books, Intercourse: Pennsylvania

Bloomfield, David, Teresa Barnes and Luc Huyse (2003), *Reconciliation After Violent Conflict*, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA): Stockholm, Sweden Available at:<http://www.idea.int/publications/reconciliation/index.cfm>

Kaldor, Mary (2007), *New and Old Wars*, Stanford University Press

Fanon, Franz (2007), *The Wretched of the Earth*, Grove Press

James Gilligan, (1997) *Violence: Reflections on a National Epidemic*, Vintage: New York

Wetherell Margaret & Chandra Talpade Mohanty, (2010), *The Sage Handbook of Identities*, Sage Publications.

Lederach(2003), *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation*, Intercourse, PA: Good

Schirch, Lisa, (2004) *The Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding*, Intercourse, PA: Good Books

Anderson, B Mary, (1999), *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace - or War*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers