

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** International Relations

**FHEQ Level:** 6

**Course Title:** Conflict and Peace Studies

**Course Code:** INR 6400

**Course Leader:** Dr Michael F. Keating

**Student Engagement Hours:** **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

**Semester:** FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits  
6 ECTS credits  
3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

Starts with an overview of the different theories of international conflicts, discussing different factors like identity, material factors, security, and basic human needs as forces that underlie the outbreak and reproduction of international conflicts. Focus on theories of peace and the criteria for successful conflict resolution. Examines forms of outside interventions, ranging from humanitarian intervention to joint military actions, and develops criteria of success. Considers issues that arise in countries which have experienced civil wars, such as the power of war memories or the destruction of civil and political infrastructure. Case studies are used to highlight cultural differences in conflict resolution.

**Pre-requisites:** INR 4100 or INR 4105 or HST 4105

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- to integrate theoretical and empirical discussions of conflict, peace and war in an informed and comprehensible manner
- to critically engage with theories of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and their relation to general theories of IR
- to critically engage with conflict case studies, thereby both going beyond, and illustrating the validity of, theoretical discussions
- to critically engage with the complexity of modern conflicts before and after the end of the Cold War

**Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

6A(ii); 6A(iii); 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in Conflict and Peace Studies
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts of power and influence in international relations as they pertain to conflict and conflict resolution
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, political and social dimensions of conflict and conflict resolution
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major debates in the study of conflict and conflict resolution
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course

**Indicative Content:**

- Theories of conflict and conflict resolution
- Forms of conflict intervention and evaluation of interventions
- Conflicts over resources: Middle East and Central Asia
- Post-conflict issues
- Conflict case studies (for example: The Arab-Israeli conflict, Cyprus, Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, Colombia, Balkans, Rwanda)
- The 'New Wars' hypothesis

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**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.

