

COURSE SPECIFICATION

APPROVED AT LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DATE

NOTE THIS MAY ONLY BE CHANGED THROUGH OU VALIDATION AND REPLACES THE CATALOGUE

THIS SPECIFICATION BECOMES A COVER SHEET TO THE COURSE SYLLABUS CURRENTLY IN USE

Department: **Communications, Arts and Social Sciences**

Programme: **MA in International Relations**

Level: **7**

Module Title: **Conflict and Post-Conflict Studies**

Module Code: **INR 7422**

Module Leader: **Dr Michael Keating**

Student Engagement Hours: **200**

Seminars: 39

Tutorials: 6

Independent / Guided Learning : 155

Semester: **SPRING**

Credits: **20 UK CATS credits**

10 ECTS credits

4 US credits

Course Description:

Conflict and Post-Conflict Studies are central to the discipline of International Relations. This course addresses three core aspects of this subject area in both theory and practice. First, the dynamics and causes of conflict, including the changing character of war and its impact on contemporary societies and armies are addressed. Second, the course engages with the various strategies of conflict resolution and prevention utilised over the last twenty years. Third, the course examines post-conflict states and regimes and evaluates the difficulties of facilitating peace-building and reconstruction for international, state and non-state actors. Throughout the course, students engage with case studies of conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, which are used to ground the theoretical and conceptual discussion in clear empirical contexts.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: MA International Relations, MA International Development and MA Conflict and Security students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To cultivate a sophisticated understanding of theoretical and empirical discussions of conflict, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as grounding these in the broader study of International Relations
- To develop a clear sense of conflict and post-conflict studies as a subject area drawing upon broad empirical, conceptual and theoretical advances in its analyses of the contemporary world.
- To promote an abstract and critical space for engaging with conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict case studies in all their complexity, whilst analytically reflecting upon the theoretical and conceptual foundations of the subject area.
- To provide a conceptual and empirical foundation for students as they progress thorough the programme.

Programme Outcomes:

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

A; B; C; E; G

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrates a deep and systematic understanding of key texts, thinkers and debates in the study of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Develops critical and innovative responses to practices of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Demonstrates a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply knowledge in the discipline of International Relations to conflict and post-conflict case studies.
- Engages with and evaluates complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence while critically reflecting on different approaches to conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas regarding conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Indicative Content:

- Theories of conflict and conflict resolution
- Changing character of war
- Civil wars
- Impact of war on societies
- Humanitarian intervention
- Post-conflict reconstruction
- Case studies of war, conflict resolution strategies and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Non-state actors in war and post-conflict reconstruction

Assessment:

The course is assessed according to the assessment norms of the university at level 7:

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including	Total assessment

		final exam)*	
LEVEL 7	R500/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the module instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Bibliography:

- Fouskas, V. (ed.) (2010). *The Politics of Conflict*, Routledge
- Keene, D (2007). *Complex Emergencies*. Polity Press
- Nye, J. (2005). *Understanding International Conflicts*, 5th ed., Pearson
- Munkler, H. (2004). *The New Wars*. Polity Press
- Keegan, J. (2004). *A History of Warfare*. Pimlico
- Von Clausewitz, C. (1997). *On War*. Wordsworth Editions