(EM 7202) The Politics of Peace and Conflict

M.Phil. in International Peace Studies
Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin

Lectures will take place at the ISE, on Mondays 11 am - 13 pm

Lecturers:
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Office hours: Monday, 14.00 -15.30 (room 1.04)

ECTS allocation: 10 credits (International Peace Studies);
5 credits (Race, Ethnicity, Conflict)

*Introduction
Peace Studies is an inter-disciplinary field of study, with a particular concern for
developing an understanding of the origins of violent conflicts and possibilities for
their resolution and transformation, as well as the conditions for building sustainable
peace. The primary purpose of this module is to introduce relevant concepts and
theories, examine the normative dimension of war and peace, and discuss the
processes and dynamics of peacebuilding.

The module will also engage key issues and subject matters such as the concepts of
peace, violence, and conflict; conflict resolution, conflict transformation, and
peacebuilding theory; peace processes; peace journalism; religion, conflict and peace;
civil society and peacebuilding; sport, development and peace; the inclusion of women
in peace building processes can offer to the attainment of a sustainable peace in war-
torn societies; and the role that the European Union has historically played in the
resolution and prevention of conflicts.

By addressing this broad yet interrelated array of topics, disciplines and theories, the
course will lay the groundwork for more specialised modules offered as part of the
International Peace Studies programme. Each student is required to participate in one
of the seminar groups attached to the module.

*Module aims
* To provide a background in relevant peace theories
* To examine critical issues related to state and non-state violence, conflict and
  peacebuilding
* To connect Peace Studies to wider issues in other disciplines
*Teaching Method*

The teaching method for this module consists of one lecture and one seminar per week. The seminars consist of student presentations followed by discussion on relevant weekly topics (see lecture descriptions). Students will be divided into seminar groups at the beginning of term. Attendance at seminars is mandatory and students must be prepared to participate.

*Assessment*

Assessment is by means of one 4000-word essay (85%), a seminar presentation (10%), and attendance at seminars (5%) for International Peace Studies students. The seminar presentation will be assessed by means of a two-page seminar outline, and students must attend a minimum of nine out of 10 seminars. Race, Ethnicity, Conflict students submit a 3000-word essay for assessment and they have no obligation to attend seminars (but they are nonetheless welcomed to take part, should they desire to do so). The list of essay topics is attached, and the essay deadline is **December 12, 2016 at 17:00**.

The essay for this module must be submitted using TurnItIn software, a programme designed to detect plagiarism, used by TCD. The “TurnItIn Student Quickstart guide” is available through the CAPSL (Centre for Academic Teaching and Learning) page on the TCD website (https://www.tcd.ie/CAPSL/students/integrity-plagarism). You will first need to register and create a user profile. **The class ID for this module is: 13449841. The enrolment password for this module is: peace.** When you have registered for TurnItIn, you will be able to submit your essays electronically. International Peace Studies students will also need to submit a hard copy of the essay to Mary Priestman, Executive Officer, International Peace Studies, by the essay deadline.

*Seminars*

The seminars are based on responses to particular topics or particular readings. Seminar presentations should be brief and to the point, and aim at generating discussion. All participants are expected to be prepared for seminars. Seminar readings are available online through Blackboard.

*Core texts*

Lectures Outline

1. Sept. 26: Studying Peace and Conflict
   (D.J. Kim)

The first lecture will discuss the interdisciplinary and normative character of international peace studies and the expansion of the field to incorporate conflict at all levels from the interpersonal to the international.

*There is no seminar the first week of term, but there will be a session to form seminar groups, introduce seminar group members to each other, and allocate presentation topics.*

§ Readings:
Barash, “The Debate over Peace Studies”
Stephenson, “Peace Studies, Overview”
Cortright, “What is Peace”

§ Further reading:

2. Oct. 3: Defining Peace, Conflict and Violence
   (D.J. Kim)

This lecture will attempt to define peace, conflict and violence focusing on the work Johan Galtung. Galtung introduced such dichotomies as direct versus structural violence, and negative versus positive peace.

*There is no seminar the second week of term, but there will be an interactive session on how to introduce concepts in the international peace studies*

§ Readings:
Boulding, “Twelve Friendly Quarrels with Johan Galtung”
Jeong, “Concepts of Peace and Violence”

§ Further reading:
Galtung, “Cultural Violence” [Blackboard]
3. Oct. 10: Conflict Resolution, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding  
(D.J. Kim)

This lecture will provide an overview of the evolution of the theories of conflict resolution, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding, culminating in a detailed examination of John Paul Lederach’s strategic model of peacebuilding.

Seminar Topic: ‘How to Build a Sustainable Peace.’

§ Seminar Reading:
Tidwell, A. C., "Theories and Theorists in Conflict Resolution"
Lederach, J. P., "Justpeace"
Lederach, J. P. & Appleby, R.S., “Strategic Peacebuilding: An Overview”

§ Further Reading:
4. OCT. 17: Democratic Peace Theorem  
(I. Atack)

The democratic peace theorem is the proposition that democracies do not go to war with each other. It originated in Immanuel Kant’s work on ‘perpetual peace’, but has recently received renewed interest.

Seminar topic: ‘ Democracies do not go to war with each other’.

§ Seminar readings:
Geis, Brock and Müller, “From Democratic Peace to Democratic War?”
Hegre, “Democracy and armed conflict”
Russett, “Peace in the Twenty-First Century?”

§ Further reading:
Rummel, “Democracies Don’t Fight Democracies” [Blackboard]
Russett, “Bushwhacking the Democratic Peace” [Blackboard]

5. OCT. 24: Religion, Conflict and Peace  
(D.J. Kim)

This lecture will examine the role of religion in modern conflicts and the ways in which religion would be able to contribute to conflict mitigation, social justice and reconciliation. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of religious groups in creating pathways for justice, peace and reconciliation.

Seminar topic: ‘ The Role of Religion in Conflict and Peace’

§ Seminar reading:
Cavanagh, “The myth of religious violence”
Gopin, “Between Religion and Conflict Resolution”
Thomas, “Soulcraft as Statecraft? Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding”

§ Further Reading:
Fox, Jonathan and Shmuel Sandler (eds.) (2006), Religion in World Conflict, Routledge, Abingdon.
6. Oct. 28 (Friday 14.00 pm – 16.00 pm): Sport, development and peace
(D.J. Kim)

Sport has been increasingly recognized and integrated as a tool in short-term humanitarian aid activities and in long-term development projects in conflict-affected societies. The lecture explores the emergence and growth of the Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) sector, and discusses the role of sport in the promotion of development and peacebuilding.

Seminar topic:
“Is sport a useful tool to promote social development and peacebuilding?”

§ Seminar reading:
Giulianotti, “The Sport for development and peace sector”
Webb and Richelieu, “Sport for development and peace snakes and ladders”
Spaaij and Jeanes, “Education for social change? A Freirean critique of sport for development and peace”

§ Further Reading:
Burnett, “Assessing the sociology of sport: On Sport for Development and Peace” [Blackboard]
Dudfield, Oliver ed (2014) Strengthening sport for development and peace: national policies and strategies [Blackboard]
Obajimi and Omoregie, “Sport Roles as Correlate of Development and Peace among Crisis- Communities Area in Nigeria” [Blackboard]
Rookwood, “Soccer for Peace and Social Development” [Blackboard]
Tiessen, “Global Subjects or Objects of Globalisation? The promotion of global citizenship in organisations offering sport for development and/or peace programmes” [Blackboard]

7. Nov. 7: Reading Week (No lectures or seminars)
8. Nov. 14: Peace Processes  
(JL. Fernando)

This lecture will look at the dynamics of peace processes, and conditions for their success or failure, particularly from a geopolitical perspective.

**Seminar topic:** ‘Formal peace agreements are essential to successful peace processes’.

**§ Seminar reading:**

Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal, “People’s Tribunal on Sri Lanka”  

**§ Further reading:**


9. Nov. 21: Civil Society and Peacebuilding  
(G. Wylie)

Many policy-makers and academics now consider that a flourishing civil society is vital to securing peace and consolidating democracy in post-conflict situations. As a consequence aid-giving states and non-governmental agencies fund civil society promotion in many parts of the world. This lecture offers a critical analysis of this tendency, questioning the underlying assumptions about civil society on which it is founded.

**Seminar topic:** ‘Civil society cannot save the world’. Offer a critical engagement with WR Mead’s *Foreign Affairs* article of that title [available on blackboard].

**§ Seminar reading:**
Fischer, "Civil society in conflict transformation: Ambivalence, potentials and challenges"
Howell and Lind, “Manufacturing Civil Society and the Limits of Legitimacy: Aid, Security and Civil Society after 9/11 in Afghanistan”
Jessop et. al., “The Ripe Moment for Civil Society”
Pouligny, "Civil Society and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Ambiguities of International Programmes Aimed at Building ‘New’ Societies”
Marchetti and Tocci, “Conflict society: understanding the role of civil society in conflict”
Mead "Civil Society Cannot Save the World"
Wanis-St John and Kew, "Civil Society and Peace Negotations"

§ Further reading:

10. Nov. 28: Peace Journalism
(Tedla Desta)

This lecture will introduce the Peace Journalism Framework. The writings of pro-Peace Journalism scholars and activists such as Johan Galtung, Jake Lynch and Ibrahim Shaw would be discussed together with the criticisms. The media in East Africa such as Kenyan and Ethiopian media will be presented as cases.

Seminar topic: 'Mass media can resolve conflicts and build peace’

§ Seminar reading:
Galtung and Ruge, “The Structure of Foreign News. The Presentation of the Congo, Cuba and Cyprus Crises in Four Norwegian Newspapers”
Lynch and McGoldrick, “Responses to peace journalism”
Bratic, “Media effects during violent conflict: Evaluating media contributions to peace building”

§ Further Reading:
Hackett, R A (2006), Is Peace Journalism possible? Three frameworks for assessing structure and agency in news media, conflict & communication online 5 (2)
Spencer, G (2005), *The Media and Peace: From Vietnam to the 'War on Terror’*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

11. Dec. 5: Gender and Peacebuilding  
(G. Wylie)

Recent developments, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 1325 have committed the international community to redress previous neglect and include women in processes of peace-making and peacebuilding. In this lecture we explore the rationale for this development and the impact of 1325 to date.

**Seminar topic:** Does the inclusion of women in peace building processes make an important difference to the process and outcomes?

§ **Seminar reading:**
Shepherd & True, “The Women, Peace and Security agenda and Australian leadership in the world: from rhetoric to commitment?”
Maoz, “The Women and Peace Hypothesis?”
Moosa, Rahmani & Webster, “From the private to the public sphere: new research on women’s participation in peacebuilding”

§ **Further reading:**

12. Dec. 12: The European Union as a Peace Project  
(E. Tannam)

This lecture examines the origins of the European Union and the reasons why it might be expected to play a role in conflict resolution in the post-war world. Various approaches to understanding the EU’s role in conflict resolution are provided.

**Seminar topic:** ‘Was the foundation of the EEC for idealistic or pragmatic reasons?’
§ Seminar reading:
Gillingham, *The German Problem and European Integration*

§ Further reading:
1) Critically discuss the analytical usefulness of Galtung’s concept of ‘structural violence’. (DJK)

2) How to build sustainable peace? Discuss this question referring to different theoretical positions, and substantiate your arguments with case studies. (DJK)

3) Assess evidence and arguments for the claim that democracies do not go to war against each other, and examine some implications of this claim for international politics. (IA)

4) ‘In sustaining formal peace agreements in inter-state and intra-state conflicts it is not only the political will of the local actors that is pivotal but also the role played by the international community’. Discuss. (JLF)

5) Is the creation and evolution of the European Union an example of a peace project? Discuss. (ET)

6) Are those who argue that civil society is essential to peacebuilding believers in an ‘unreasonable cult’ (Mead)? (GW)

7) Is religion a source of violence or a source of peace? (DJK)

8) Does the inclusion of women in peace building processes make an important difference to the process and outcomes? (GW)