



The Politics of Peace & Conflict in a Globalised World

Module Coordinator	Dr Gillian Wylie, School of Religion
What will you learn from this Elective?	<p>Recent years have seen a significant escalation in the levels of conflict globally, with forms of inter-state wars erupting in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>At the same time, civil wars have continued with dramatic consequences throughout the continent Africa; and so-called 'intractable conflicts' persisted amongst peoples in Israel/Palestine, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and on the Korean Peninsula.</p> <p>Moreover, global inequalities, threats to environmental sustainability, failed-states, weak forms of governance, ethnic cleavages and religious radicalism have exacerbated even further existing conflicts or, in some instances, created new ones.</p> <p>Addressing the complex and evolving nature of war represents one of the key societal challenges of our age. This module will examine the politics of peace & conflict in a globalised world, with an interdisciplinary focus on the normative debates within international relations, peace studies, conflict analysis & resolution, and peace-building.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to critical debates and foundational concepts surrounding the issue of human conflict and different approaches aimed at solving it. They will do so by drawing from a broad yet strongly interrelated set of theories and disciplinary fields.</p> <p>These fundamental issues will be critically explored each week through a close examination of selected case studies at local, regional and global level. Cases will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Ireland• Sri Lanka• Iran and US• The Korean Peninsula• EU & UN• Israel & Palestine and other Middle East contexts <p>During the course of the module, the following questions will be discussed:</p> <p>What are the causes of inter-state, intra-state or in-group strife and violence?; in which forms has the conflict originally manifested itself and transformed over time?; what role have local, regional and transnational dynamics played on the conflict's emergence and</p>

	<p>evolution?; how have political leaders, civil society and third parties sought to resolve the conflict, how successful have those efforts been?; What is the 'sacralisation of conflict' and does religion make human disputes even more intractable? what are the gender dimensions of a given conflict and how does gender affect the possibilities of tackling conflict and restoring peace?; what role can social movements and non-violent resistance play in the transformation of conflict? and what are the main theoretical and contextual obstacles to viable conflict resolution efforts?</p> <p>By embracing a comparative approach applied on a global scale, the module will critically investigate successes, failures, predicaments, challenges, and cross-learning in contemporary conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives. In order to pursue such a goal, the module will draw upon scholarly expertise as well as the knowledge and field-experiences of high-level diplomats, governmental actors, NGOs representatives and civil society practitioners.</p>
Student Workload	<p>Student workload will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11x1 hour attendance at lecture; • 5x1 hour student-led seminar; and • 87 hours independent study, including researching additional reading for classroom based seminar discussion; preparation for assessment, including group presentation via podcast or video presentation. <p>All student learning outputs and seminar material will be uploaded on the designated YouTube Channel.</p>
Assessment Components	<p>Assessment is by means of an academic poster (40%) and a book review</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>Atack, Iain, (2005) <i>The Ethics of Peace and War</i>, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press</p> <p>Browne, Brendan, (2017) 'Transitional Justice: the Case of Palestine' in C. Lawther, L. Moffatt & D. Jacobs (Eds.) <i>The International Handbook on Transitional Justice</i>, Elgar.</p>

Fernando, Jude Lal, (2013) *Religion, Conflict and Peace in Sri Lanka: The Politics of Interpretations of Nationhood*, Berlin: LIT

Aldrovandi, Carlo, (2014) , *Apocalyptic Movements in Contemporary Politics: Christian and Jewish Zionism*, London: Palgrave

Richmond, Oliver, (2008) *Peace in International Relations*, London: Routledge

Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall (2016) *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, (4th Edition). Cambridge, Polity Press.

A full reading list or list of resources will be provided to enrolled students.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of these modules, undergraduate students should be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the dynamics underlying contemporary political conflicts and the processes required for sustainable peace;
2. Analyse and evaluate relevant peace studies theories and conflict resolution approaches and assess the applicability of such theories and approaches to other cognate disciplines and wider issues in current global affairs;
3. Compare, analyse and assess the common and contextual dimensions of conflicts in global perspective via exposure to an international range of conflicts and their resolution;
4. Communicate, collaborate and problem-solve effectively through immersion and participation in case-driven learning;
5. Analyse and assess the societal challenge of conflict and its resolution in a comparative and global perspective.