

Department of Political Science, BBAU

Course name: Peace and Conflict Studies

Course code: PS 403

Name of the teacher: Dr. Ripu Sudan Singh

Semester: IV (Optional Course)

Class timings:

Faculty email: ripsrevolts@rediffmail.com

Course description

This course offers a general overview on the topic of Peace and Conflict resolution. It highlights the way human beings resolve conflicts on international, national and local levels, acting as individual or representatives of groups or countries. The course will concentrate on the legal methods of settling conflicts, such as negotiation, mediation, communication, etc. The course has broadly three units. In first unit the students will learn the theoretical parts of peace and conflict resolution. The second unit will deal with several methods of conflict resolution. The third unit is very important as it will deal with the Indian perspective of peace and conflict resolution and will discuss Gautam Buddha's approach in this regard. This introduction will help participants to understand how difficult and fragile the negotiation process is and how conflict can form. The course defines and explains the role of mediators who are involved as a third party to assist the parties when they have failed to reach an agreement. By the end of this part, students will do another group simulation about negotiation and mediation in the Darfur conflict. After doing this simulation, students will be able to apply their negotiation skills to assist others in the mediation process and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Course objectives

General objectives of this course will cover the following aspects;

1. To introduce conflict, its major causes and consequences to the students.
2. To develop the students' skills on how to address conflict from an interpersonal level to an international level.
3. To furnish the students capacity and capability to understand a conflicting situation in an international and a national perspective.
4. Provide analytical tools and methods of conflict resolution to students so that they take leading roles in their future policy field.
5. To establish that conflict originates in the mind of man. Therefore, the responsibility rests on people to resolve conflict and establish peace.
6. To build a generation who are aware of the conflict and its long-standing direct and underlying causes in national and international disputes.
7. To develop a course curriculum and resourceful individuals for future expansion of the study of conflict and conflict resolution.

Evaluation methods

Tutorial/ Book Review / Class presentation- 20%

Presentation of the tutorial – 10%

End Semester - 70%

Course contents

Unit-I: Understanding Conflict, Peace and Conflict resolution (January 10-February 15)

- Understanding conflict and peace
- How conflict occurs?
- Identifying armed conflict
- What is conflict resolution?
- Limits of conflict resolution.

Essential readings:

Burton, John, W., *Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy* (Manchester University Press, 1993)

Deutsch, Morton. *Introduction to the Resolution of Conflict* (New Haven. CY: Yale University, 1973). pages 3-19

Burr, Millard, J and Collins, Robert, O. *Darfur: the Long Road to Disaster*. (Markus Weiner publishers. Princeton, 2006)

Unit-II: Methods of Conflict Resolution (February 16-March 15)

- The role of the state.
- Peace agreements in civil war in internal state.
- Definition of negotiation.
- Types and methods of Negotiation
- Definition of mediation.
- An overview on the ten-stage mediation model (using diagram).
- The Role of Institutions in Conflict Resolution
- UN in peace agreements.
- NGOs

Essential readings:

Tidwell, Alan, *Conflict Resolved? A Critical Assessment of Conflict Resolution* (1998)

Ahmar, Moonis, ed, *Conflict management mechanism and the challenge of Peace* (Karachi; Programme on peace studies and conflict resolution, Deptt of International Relations, University of Karachi, 2008)

Unit-III: Buddhist approach in Conflict Resolution (March 16-April 10)

- Buddha's concept of Peace and Conflict
- Buddha's method of Conflict Resolution

Essential readings:

Ambedkar, B.R. *The Buddha and His Dhamma*, (Siddharatha Publication, Bombay, 1957)

Smoch, John Paul, *Perspectives on Pacifism: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Views on non-violence and international conflict*, (United States Institute of Peace, 1995).

Suggested Readings

Ambedkar, B.R. *The Buddha and His Dhamma*, (Siddharatha Publication, Bombay, 1957)

Burton, John. W., *Conflict Resolution and Prevention*. (London, Macmillan, 1990)

Burton, W., John.. *Conflict Resolution as a Political Philosophy*. In *Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice: Integration and Application* (Manchester and New York. Manchester University Press, 1993).

Deutsch, Morton. *Introduction to the Handbook of Conflict Resolution*. In *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice*. (San Francisco. Jossey-Bass Publishers. 2000) Pages 2-9.

Fisher, S. *Working with Conflict: Skills and Strategies for Action*. (London. Zed Book publications, 2000), pp.17-22

Gaya Best, Shedrack., *Introduction to peace and conflict studies in West Africa*. (Ibadan, Spectrum Books Limited, 2006). pp.61-72 and Chapter 6, pages 93-113

Jeong, Ho-Won., *Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction*. (London. Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2000). pp. 31-37

Lederach, Paul, John., *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington DC. United States Institute of Peace, 1997)

Mingst, Karen. *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, (Boulder. Westview Press 2007). pages 2-15

Otite O. *On Conflict, their Resolution, Transformation and Management*. In Otite O. and Albert O. (eds). *Community Conflict in Nigeria*. (Ibadan: Spectrum Books, 1990).

Ramsbotham, Oliver. Woodhouse, Tom and Miall, Hugh. (2005). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Thompson, L., *The Mind and Heart of the Negotiator*, 3rd ed. (NJ: Prentice Hall 2004)

Tidwell, C., Alan.. *Conflict resolved?: A Critical Assessment of Conflict Resolution* (London. Continuum Publications. 1998) pages 31-85

Understanding Civil Wars., Africa.Vol.1 Evidence and Analysis. Edited by Paul, Collier and Nicholas Sambanis (World Bank Publishers, 2005).

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: AD HOC Missions, permanent engagement, UN University Press New York, NY,