

(GPP 822) Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice

Pre-Requisites: None

Learning Objectives

Conflict is a natural and common phenomenon in social interaction however, in the global perspective, conflicts are often explained as a perpetual feature of power politics, inherent in the international political order. This course aims to provide students with a conceptual understanding of conflict approaches as well as conflict resolution mechanisms which will encompass international and indigenous perspectives. Additionally, a range of tools for conflict management will be evaluated in context of contemporary and protracted conflicts.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and differentiate conflict approaches and theoretical perspectives
- Develop conflict mapping skills and evaluate conflict management tools
- Understand the role of regional and international organizations in conflict resolution paradigm

Course Contents

The topics covered include: nature of conflicts from peace and realist paradigms, state conflicts and conflicts between non-state actors, conflict prevention, management and resolution approaches, impacts and limitations of resolution approaches, mediation, negotiation, preventive diplomacy, intervention and international diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Impact of socio-cultural and ethno-religious forces on conflict escalation and de-escalation, effect of global threats like terrorism and environmental change on protracted conflicts as well as potential of new conflicts in vulnerable societies.

Text Books and Software

1. Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. and Miall, H. (3rd ed., 2011). Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention, Management and Transformation of deadly conflicts. Cambridge: Polity Press
2. Deutsch, M., Coleman, P.T., and Marcus, E.C. (Eds.). (2nd ed., 2006). The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice. CA: Jossey-Bass
3. Jeong, Ho-Won. (2010). Conflict Management and Resolution: An Introduction. NY: Routledge
4. Wallensteen, P. (2002). Understanding Conflict Resolution: War, Peace and the Global System. London: Sage Publications.
5. Galtung, J. (2005). Pax Pacifica: Terrorism, the Pacific Hemisphere, Globalisation and Peace Studies. London: Pluto Press.
6. Miller, C.E. (2nd ed., 2005). A glossary of terms and concepts in Peace and Conflict studies. M.E.King (Ed.). University for Peace.