

**Course Code:** PCS-803

**Course Title:** Theories of Peace Conflict **(Core)**

**Credit Hours:** 3

### **Course Objectives**

*Theories of Peace and Conflict (PCS-803)* was originally developed to introduce classical approaches to peace and conflict, focusing on state-centered violence and liberal peacebuilding. However, the field has evolved significantly, and so has the course. The updated version integrates both foundational theories and current global realities. While key thinkers like Johan Galtung and John Burton remain central, the course expands to include non-Western peace practices, critiques of liberal peace models, and concepts like hybridity and indigenous systems. Students will also explore non-traditional conflict drivers—such as environmental change, resource scarcity, and digital dynamics.

The course moves beyond passive learning by incorporating simulations, case studies, and policy analysis. It prepares students to navigate complex conflict environments with skills in multi-track diplomacy, critical analysis, and theory-informed practice. These changes respond to feedback from alumni and employers, emphasizing the need for decolonial approaches, practical tools, and an understanding of emerging global threats. Introduce students to seminal theories of violence (Galtung, Burton) and contemporary critiques (Richmond, Kelman). Explore the interplay between sovereignty, power, and conflict resolution. Develop practical skills in multi-track diplomacy and hybrid peacebuilding.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Understand the foundational classical and contemporary theories of peace and conflict and their global application.
- Intellectually engage in key theoretical debates in peace and conflict studies.
- Students will evaluate the origins, drivers, and trajectories of conflicts using theoretical approaches such as human needs theory, liberal peace, structural violence, and commercial peace.

- Will be able to engage in graduate-level research, writing, and scholarly discussion.
- Will be able to communicate theoretical insights effectively in written and oral formats

## **Course Outline**

- Course Introduction + Introduction to Peace Theories
  - Foundations of Peace theory & philosophy: an introduction to classical and contemporary peace theorists
- Immanuel Kant:
  - Perpetual Peace: Theory & Philosophy
  - The Ideology of the United Nations Charter and the Philosophy of Peace
- Johan Galtung:
  - An introduction to the founder of peace studies, theories, and philosophy
  - Negative/Positive Peace
- Johan Galtung:
  - Structural, Cultural and Direct Violence
  - ABC Triangle, Galtungian Empiricism, and Constructivism
- John W. Burton
  - Human Needs Theory
- Edward E. Azar
  - Protracted Social Conflict
- Adam Curle
  - Awareness and Balance, Transforming Relations, Mediation
- Fisher & Ury
  - Principled Negotiation
- Kenneth Boulding & Elise Boulding
  - Images, Cultures of Peace and Peace Education
- John Paul Lederach
  - Conflict Transformation, Peacebuilding
- Gene Sharp

- Nonviolent Action Theory
- Erica Chenoweth
  - Nonviolent Resistance
- Brandon Hamber & Martina Fischer
  - Transitional Justice Theory and Practice
- Christine Bell
  - Transitional Justice, Law & Peace
- Roger Mac Ginty
  - Hybrid, Agnostic, and local vs. Liberal Peacebuilding
- Mary Anderson
  - Intl Aid and Peace Framework
- Climate and Peace
- Women and Peace hypothesis
- Human Geography and peace
- Human Security and Peace
- Peace Tech

### **Nature of Assessment**

<b>Nature of Examination</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Weighting (%age)</b>
End semester exam	3 hours	1	30 – 50
Mid Term	2 hours	1	15 – 25
Quizzes	-	Minimum: 3	05 – 15
Class Participation	-	-	0 – 5*
Assignments / Project(s) / Case Studies	Own time	-	10 – 40

\*Shall be allocated only if there are no case studies.

<b>Course Content</b>
Introduction and Foundations of Peace theory & philosophy: an introduction to classical and contemporary peace theorists
Immanuel Kant Perpetual Peace: Theory & Philosophy The Ideology of the United Nations Charter and the Philosophy of Peace
Johan Galtung An introduction to the founder of peace studies, theories, and philosophy Negative/Positive Peace Structural, Cultural, and Direct Violence ABC Triangle, Galtungian Empiricism, and Constructivism
John W. Burton Human Needs Theory
Edward E. Azar Protracted Social Conflict
Adam Curle Awareness and Balance, Transforming Relations, Mediation
Fisher & Ury – Principled Negotiation
Kenneth Boulding & Elise Boulding Images, Cultures of Peace and Peace Education
John Paul Lederach Conflict Transformation, Peacebuilding
Gene Sharp Nonviolent Action Theory
Erica Chenoweth Nonviolent Resistance
Brandon Hamber & Martina Fischer Transitional Justice Theory and Practice
Christine Bell Transitional Justice, Law & Peace
Roger Mac Ginty Hybrid, Agnostic and local vs. Liberal Peacebuilding
Mary Anderson

Intl Aid and peace Framework
Climate and Peace
Women and Peace hypothesis
Human Geography and peace
Human Security and Peace
Peace Tech

### **Details of lab work/workshop practice, if applicable**

N/A

### **Reading Material**

- Galtung, J. (1985). Twenty-five years of peace research: Ten challenges and some responses. *Journal of Peace Research*, 22(2), 141-158.
- Talib, N., & Fitzgerald, R. (2018). Putting philosophy back to work in critical discourse analysis. *Critical Discourse Studies*, 15(2), 123-139.
- Kant, I. (1795[1970]). *Perpetual peace: A philosophical sketch*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
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- Galtung, J., Fischer, D., & Fischer, D. (2013). *Johan Galtung: Pioneer of peace research (Vol. 5)*. Springer.
- Galtung J. (1971). A Structural Theory of Imperialism. *Journal of Peace Research*, 8(2), 81-117. ]
- Galtung, J. (1990). Cultural Violence. *Journal of Peace Research*, 27(3), 291-305.

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- Azar, E. (2003). Protracted social conflicts and second track diplomacy. *Second Track/Citizens' Diplomacy: Concepts and Techniques for Conflict Transformation*. Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, 15-30.
- Ramsbotham, O. (2005). The analysis of protracted social conflict: a tribute to Edward Azar. *Review of International Studies*, 31(1), 109-126.
- Azar, E. E., & Farah, N. (1981). The structure of inequalities and protracted social conflict: A theoretical framework. *International Interactions*, 7(4), 317-335.
- Curle, A. (2000). Obstacles to peace. *Peace and Conflict*, 6(3), 247-252.

- Curle, A. (1986). In the middle: non-official mediation in violent situations. Berg.
- Curle, A. Radical peacemaker and pioneer of peace studies. *Journal of Conflictology*, 1(1), 5.
- Fisher, R., Ury, W. L., & Patton, B. (2011). *Getting to Yes* 3rd ed. In: Penguin Books.
- McKeown, T. (2013). Fisher and Ury's 'Getting to Yes': A Critique: The Shortcomings of the Principled Bargaining Model. Available at SSRN 3054357.
- Saunders, H. H. (1985). We need a larger theory of negotiation: The importance of pre-negotiating phases. *Negotiation journal*, 1(3), 249-262.
- Boulding, K. (1995). Moving from unstable to stable peace. *The future: Images and processes*, 76-87.
- Boulding, K. E. (1978). *Stable peace*. University of Texas Press.
- Boulding, K. E. (2019). *Stable peace among nations: A learning process*. In *Peace Culture and Society* (pp. 108-114). Routledge.
- Galtung, J. (1987). Only one quarrel with Kenneth Boulding. *Journal of Peace Research*, 24(2), 199-203.
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- Lederach, J. P. (1995). Conflict transformation in protracted internal conflicts: The case for a comprehensive framework. *Conflict transformation*, 201-222.
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- Sharp, G. (2023). Gene Sharp and Social Movements. *Independent Review*, 28(1).
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- Mac Ginty, R. (2010). Hybrid peace: The interaction between top-down and bottom-up peace. *Security dialogue*, 41(4), 391-412.
- Mac Ginty, R., & Richmond, O. P. (2013). The local turn in peace building: A critical agenda for peace. *Third World Quarterly*, 34(5), 763-783.
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- Anderson, M. B. (1999). *Do no harm: how aid can support peace--or war*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.
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- Abduljaber, M., & Kalin, I. (2021). An empirical analysis of the women and peace hypothesis. *All Azimuth: A Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace*, 10(1), 5-21.
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