

## **Course Title: Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations: Peace and Conflict Dynamics**

**Course Code:** PCS 828

**Credit Hours:** 3 (3-0)

### **Course Description**

This course examines the historical, political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of peace and conflict dynamics between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It engages students with the colonial legacies of border demarcation, Cold War politics, the rise of militancy, U.S. interventions, regional rivalries, and post-2001 transformations in Pak-Afghan relations. Particular emphasis is placed on contemporary challenges such as cross-border militancy, trade, migration, and peacebuilding initiatives, alongside the role of global and regional actors. Through critical readings, case studies, and applied research, students will analyze policy responses and develop nuanced perspectives on conflict resolution and peace prospects in the region.

### **Course Objectives**

- To provide historical grounding in the origins of Pak-Afghan tensions and cooperation.
- To analyze the role of state, non-state, and transnational actors in shaping bilateral relations.
- To examine peacebuilding frameworks, negotiations, and reconciliation processes.
- To explore the socio-economic and cultural dimensions of conflict, migration, and cross-border linkages.
- To assess the impact of international interventions and regional geopolitics on Pak-Afghan peace dynamics.
- To equip students with analytical tools for evaluating policy, diplomacy, and peacebuilding strategies.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Critically explain the historical roots of Pak-Afghan relations.
- Identify and analyze sources of conflict and cooperation between the two states.
- Evaluate the role of regional and international actors in conflict and peace dynamics.
- Assess peacebuilding strategies, negotiations, and reconciliation frameworks.
- Develop research-based insights into prospects for sustainable peace.
- Apply theoretical perspectives from peace and conflict studies to empirical Pak-Afghan contexts.

## **Course Contents**

- Introduction: Why Study Pak-Afghan Dynamics?
- Colonial Legacies: The Durand Line, Tribal Politics, and State Formation
- Cold War Era: Afghan Wars, Refugees, and Pakistan's Strategic Depth Policy
- Rise of the Taliban and Pakistan's Regional Policy (1990s)
- Post-9/11 Transformations: U.S. Intervention in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Shifting Role
- Cross-Border Militancy, Terrorism, and Security Challenges
- Refugees, Migration, and Human Security: Pak-Afghan Societal Linkages
- Peace Processes and Negotiations: Doha Agreement, Intra-Afghan Talks, and Pakistan's Mediation
- The Taliban's Return (2021): Implications for Pakistan and the Region
- Economic Interdependence: Transit Trade, CPEC, and Informal Economies
- Regional Geopolitics: Role of India, Iran, China, Russia, and Central Asia
- Global Dimensions: U.S., NATO, UN, and International NGOs
- Gender, Ethnicity, and Minority Dimensions in Conflict Dynamics
- Peacebuilding from Below: Civil Society, Media, and Track-II Diplomacy
- Current Flashpoints: Border Skirmishes, TTP Resurgence, and Policy Shifts
- Future Trajectories: Prospects for Regional Integration and Sustainable Peace

## Reading Material

### Compulsory Readings

- Barfield, Thomas. *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*. Princeton University Press, 2010.
- Rubin, Barnett R. *Afghanistan from the Cold War through the War on Terror*. Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Saikal, Amin. *Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival*. I.B. Tauris, 2012.

### Additional & Recent Readings (2019–2024)

- Ruttig, Thomas. "The Taliban After the U.S. Withdrawal: Internal Dynamics and Regional Implications." *Afghanistan Analysts Network*, 2022.
- Ibrahimi, Niamatullah, and Shahram Akbarzadeh. *The Taliban's Return to Power: Regional and Global Implications*. Routledge, 2023.
- Yamin, Tughral. *The Afghanistan Conflict and Pakistan's Security Dilemma*. NDU Press, 2021.
- Khan, Amina. "Pakistan's Afghan Dilemma Post-U.S. Withdrawal." *Strategic Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 4, 2022.
- Rashid, Ahmed. *Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Taliban: Regional Security Challenges*. Yale University Press, 2021.
- Human Rights Watch. *What Will Happen to Us? Women's Rights Under Taliban Rule*. HRW Report, 2022.
- International Crisis Group. *Pakistan: Managing Tensions with the Afghan Taliban*. ICG Asia Report No. 322, 2023.
- Siraj, Muhammad, and Zahid Hussain. "Pak-Afghan Border Conflicts and the TTP Factor." *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 2023.