

Master in Conflict Studies and Reconciliation

Department of Political Science

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Introduction

- The conflict Studies and Reconciliation Program is a transdisciplinary and innovative program.
 - The program allows students to explore key concepts of conflict transformation, peace, and reconciliation.
 - It draws on the theoretical and practical frameworks of the social sciences, including political science, psychology, sociology, international relations, and international law.
 - Particular attention is given to the Palestinian issue, which has been suffering from an internal political and social divisions for more than 15 years.
 - Conflicts and peace processes in different parts of the world are also discussed. The program aims to equip master students in this field to deal with the challenges of conflict prevention, peace culture, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and to think about alternative forms of conflict resolution in a systematic and informed manner.
 - Helping students develop complex research and analysis skills and apply scientific theories to solve problems.
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- Enable students for leadership positions in conflict studies and reconciliation in diverse professional, organizational, and societal environments.
 - Apply post-conflict reconstruction mechanisms with non-governmental, local and international governmental organizations and community development organizations, and acquire skills to defuse and de-escalate destructive conflicts between individuals and groups and institutionalize sustainable peace.

Master Program Goals:

- 1. Knowledge and Understanding**
- 2. Thinking skills**
- 3. Practical skills**

1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Analysis of issues related to the reconstruction of communities affected by conflict and political disasters.
- Assessing the impact of wars and political disasters and their demands on local, national and international actors.
- Understand how conflicts emerge from the bottom-up and move up, and the different interventions available at each.
- A level to change the way conflicts develop, and how to promote nonviolent approaches to conflict and peacebuilding.

Understand the analytical and policy literature related to peacebuilding, international governance structures, state building, and inform key actors and institutions such as NGOs, military and other security actors.

- Scholarly benefit from the experiences of conflict theories, and reconciliation since the end of the Cold War, in a range of examples, including across the Balkans, Cambodia, East Timor, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, and the recent and various Arab revolutions.
- Understand how to use anthropological knowledge to develop policy interventions.

2. Thinking skills

- Understand recovery processes by exploring the dynamics of rebuilding disaster-affected communities.
- Critical engagement with relevant literature and the ability to apply theoretical concepts from the literature to empirical examples.
- Critical understanding of the range of social science topics affecting peacebuilding, state building, conflict management, etc. including political, historical and anthropological understandings of peace and related strategies.
- Evaluation of peace theory, conflict transformation, and policy tools in the context of the recent history of state building.
- Understand the methodological and normative foundations of the possibilities of peaceful nonviolent construction in post-conflict societies. Examine current discussions about the nature of everyday peace and hybrid forms of peace, and related questions On forms of resistance and social mobilization.
- Reviewing a set of approaches to the ethics of conflict resolution, peace building, and the prevention and mitigation of future disasters
- Understand the trends inherent in conflict and the duration and different forms of conflict.

3. Practical skills

- Provide learners with the opportunity to participate in conflict management, conflict resolution, conflict transformation, peace building, and state building theories and practices.
- Dealing with the facts on the ground to build peace and build the state by looking at a group of
- International and regional experiences.
- Develop a range of academic and professional/transferable skills through independent and teamwork.

- Demonstrate analytical and debate skills with peers and teachers through educational programs and class discussions.
- Develop analytical skills and the ability to express ideas orally and in writing.
- Utilizing the concept of peace and implementing peacebuilding projects by global, regional, national and local actors, including the United Nations, international financial institutions, development agencies, donors, international NGOs and local organizations in conflict-affected areas.
- Analyze and evaluate the origins, dynamics, and consequences of conflict within and between groups in diverse types of organizational settings.
- Formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating third party interventions.

Outputs

- Focusing on preparing graduates to enter the labor market and advocates of peaceful social change, which means providing peaceful and creative alternatives to violence.
- Learners' ability to develop logically coherent arguments about conflict, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.
- Gain cognitive skills capable of presenting logical and effective arguments in written and oral form. Ability to pursue an advanced level of independent learning and demonstrate critical judgment.
- Engage in theories about social movements, political violence, nonviolent resistance, state formation, military intervention, and transitional justice.
- Understand the social, spatial, economic and political upheavals of everyday life after conflict
- Identify the main governmental and non-governmental actors that play a role in 'post-conflict' life.
- Dealing decisively with terms such as “post-conflict,” “reconstruction,” “rebuilding,” and reconciliation.”
- Equip learners to work in many sectors such as international development, conflict prevention, peace building, post-conflict recovery, humanitarian aid and natural resource management.
- Develop, evaluate and apply advanced conflict theories, conflict management practices, and alternative conflict solutions
- Differentiate between the characteristics of conflicts between individuals and within the group and between groups. Apply a systemic approach to analyze the factors that prevent, mitigate, escalate, transform and resolve intergroup, multilateral and multi-stakeholder conflicts in organizational settings.
- Demonstrate advanced problem-solving, facilitation and communication skills relevant to the practice of conflict management with an emphasis on their application in third party intervention processes. Differentiate the different divisions of ethnic and religious motivations in the conflict.
- Develop practical skills in conflict transformation techniques through mediation, activism, policy, and other peacebuilding activities.

Job Opportunities

Expect to see a myriad of job opportunities in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, examples include human rights, environmental protection, social work, journalism, foreign policy, public and civil service fields, media and publishing, teaching and training, and politics.

- The program works in the following sectors:
- Facilitator of conflict management and resolution in a large organization
- In charge of international programs in an organization focused on international development, humanitarian aid, or peacebuilding.
- A labor relations consultant in a government institution, union or association.
- Analyst for conflict and conflict resolution for a public or non-governmental organization.
- A local or community conflict resolution organization.
- Government and foreign institutions
- International organizations
- Research Centers
- Government or NGOs
- Local Peacebuilders Diplomats
- Community relations specialists
- Lobbyists

General Terms and Conditions

1. This program agrees with the conditions and instructions of the programs of the Deanship of Graduate Studies at the university.
2. The majors accepted in this program include all majors after the bachelor's degree, and priority is given to graduates Political Science.

Duration of Study

- A- The minimum for obtaining a master's degree is four semesters.
- B - The maximum limit for obtaining a master's degree is eight semesters (four years) from the beginning of the student's enrollment in master studies, including in that thesis writing and defence.

Remedial Courses

- A- The student's study plan may include remedial courses of (6-12) credit hours, determined by master graduate program committee, and approved by the College and the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- B- The student must complete the remedial courses during the first and second semesters of his acceptance and study in the program.

Requirements for Master Degree

- **Master Degree (Thesis Track):**

1. Study and pass successfully with a cumulative average of 75% or more (30) credit hours from the courses of the Master program degree, according to the approved study plan for the program.

2. Submit a thesis that contributes to increasing scientific and human knowledge, for which (6) credit hours are allocated.

3. Discussing the thesis before the discussion and judging committee, and passing the discussion successfully.

- A-The College of Graduate Studies awards a master's degree after fulfilling the requirements for awarding the degree program - Specialization: Peace Studies and Reconciliation.
- B- The minimum number of credit hours for graduation to successfully complete total of (36) credit hours, (30 academic hours). and (6 credit hours for the master thesis).

Study Plan

- The student must successfully study (36) credit hours, distributed as follows:

A-Compulsory Courses (21 credit hours).

B-Elective Courses (9 credit hours).

c. Thesis (6 credit hours)

Compulsory Courses (21 Credit Hours)

Course Semester	Course Hours	Course Number	Course Name
First Semester	3		Introduction to conflict Studies and Reconciliation
First Semester	3		Transdisciplinary Research Methodology
Second Semester	3		Theories of International Relations
Second Semester	3		International Law and Human Rights
Second Semester	3		Reconciliation Practices in English
Third Semester	3		Seminar in Reconciliation Processes
Third Semester	3		Case Studies in Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation
	21		Total

Course Semester	Course Credit	Course Number	Course Name
Elective Course	3		Conflict and State Building
Elective Course	3		Negotiations Skills
Elective Course	3		Mediation in the Middle East Conflicts
Elective Course	3		Power and Resistance in Post-Colonial Societies
Elective Course	3		Conflict Mapping and Analysis
Elective Course	3		Reconciliation with the Self
Elective Course	3		Transitional and Restorative Justice

Course Description

Introduction to conflict Studies and Reconciliation

- This course is an introductory course in conflict studies and reconciliation. It gives students a full explanation, description and analysis of the peace studies and reconciliation.

Research Methodology

- This course aims to develop the student's research skills, and includes introducing students to the scientific method, hypotheses and theoretical framework for research. This course also is designed to introduce students to primary data collection tools such as interview, questionnaire, observation and content analysis, and to reach results and generalizations.
- This course enables students to choose the topic of their thesis, and submitting a detailed master thesis proposal.

Theories of International Relations

- This course is designed to define international relations, theoretical approaches to the analysis of international relations and the active forces in those relations.
- It focuses also on the most important theories in international relations, such as: realism, liberalism, neoliberalism, constructivism, Marxism, and other major theories in international relations, and deals with theories of power, conflict, international cooperation, and international blocs and alliances.

International Law and Organizations

- The course includes an introduction to international organizations, their development, the scope of the international legal personality of international organizations.

- The responsibility of international organizations within the scope of international law under their charters, and their responsibilities in accordance with their internal laws.
- Contemporary international law, explains the main actors in international law in the past, and the contribution of international law to the resolution of international disputes, and covers issues such as individuals, states and organizations with which international law deals, international duties and responsibilities, treaties, treaty law, diplomatic and consular law, and maritime law, human rights, and the use of armed force.

Peace Studies and Reconciliation in English

- This course studies political texts in English in the fields and peace and reconciliation.
- During the course, students participate in a number of activities and works such as: reading, translation, and writing short research papers in English, with the aim of increasing the student's knowledge of terms, vocabulary and concepts of peace and reconciliation.

Seminar in Peace Studies and Reconciliation

- The course deals with the concept of national reconciliation and its relationship to reform and civil peace processes and the postulates on which the majority of reconciliation processes are based in global experiences, and a review of the national reconciliation approach through an awareness of transitional justice, reconciliation committees, compensation, accountability, institutional reform and national dialogue, and a review of reconciliation mediators and civil society actors. Then show the path of national reconciliation and democratic transition.

Conflict Management and Resolution

- The course is designed to study the various approaches that have been developed to understand conflict in its various forms. It explores the origins of different types of conflict, conflict prevention, conflict management, and projected conflict resolution practices through critical moments and reviews political rivalries between states or regional groups that are influenced by identity, power, and structural dimensions of antagonistic relations.
- It discusses issues related to the legitimacy of war and the legitimacy of the warring state, international peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace enforcement. The course devotes an analysis of the most prominent issues in international relations such as war and peace, theories that describe the causes and behavior of war and peace, levels of total and partial conflict, and issues that may or may not affect the beginning of the war. Conflict and its cities, as well as the ways in which conflicts end.

Conflict and State Building

- This course provides an introduction to the central theories of conflict, war and peace, and identification of the main concepts and definitions associated with studies of conflict, war and peace. Focusing on the main issues of internal and international affairs, war and peace, and recognizing the relationship between conflict, war and peace and key factors such as systems of governance, trade, economic and national development, moreover, the course focuses on the main factors and mechanisms that cause conflict and enable peace and be able to critically analyze historical and comparative cases of conflict Domestic and international, Arabs and peace.

Negotiation Skills

- The course deals with the definition of the concept of negotiation, its characteristics, strategies, skills, recipes for a successful negotiator and its relationship to other concepts, principles of successful negotiation, effective communication skills, persuasion skills, planning, strategic thinking, types of negotiation, bargaining techniques, determining mutual gains, negotiation stages, preparing and planning the negotiation process, and how Dealing with difficulties, choosing the negotiating team, paying attention to cultural characteristics, dealing with the breakdown of the negotiating process, effective negotiations, negotiating styles.

Power and Resistance in Post-Colonial Societies

- The course focuses on looking beyond the boundaries of traditional international relations, focusing on questions of resistance and power in the context of identity, subjectivity and modernity rather than on the behavior of states, and on placing previously marginalized people, places and identities at the forefront of analysis with regard to questions related to international politics.
- The objectives of post-colonial theory and its basic concepts of discourse, authority, discipline, subjectivity, the state, orientalism and resistance.
- Understand a variety of key ideas and arguments associated with postcolonial concerns (such as subjectivity, resistance, discipline, sovereignty, fodder, self-determination, inequality, justice, development, modernity, and culture), and explain the structural, social, economic, and psychological conditions that underpinned the emergence of resistance against A post-colonial state, including the types of power that were formed against it and the forms of power that constituted by the resistance.

Conflict Mapping and Analysis

- The course focuses on understanding the true nature of the conflict and examining it from different perspectives.
- It is designed to look at the strategies and plans depicted to address the conflict and its causes, determine the degree of its complexity, and monitor the interests and needs of the parties to the conflict.
- The course also focuses on the tools that can be used to present the different features of a conflict, the basic approaches to conflict analysis, and the explanation of the most important tools in conflict analysis.

Case Studies (Rwandan model)

- This course focuses on the lessons learned and current situation in terms of reconciliation and reintegration efforts in Rwanda.
- Taking the Fostering Reconciliation and Socio-Economic Reintegration in Rwanda project implemented.
- It describes and analyses the main features of reconciliation and reintegration efforts in Rwanda .to learn the lessons of implemented programs, and to try and envisage a way forward for those agencies currently involved in reconciliation and reintegration activities.
- This course describes the main characteristics and question points around reintegration efforts in Rwanda. It investigates the benefits and challenges of a multidisciplinary approach in reconciliation and reintegration programming.