

## **4. Conflict and Peace Building**

**Course Objectives:** This course is designed to help build an understanding of a variety of conflict situations among students in a way that they can relate to them through their lived experiences. It's an interdisciplinary course that draws its insights from various branches of social sciences and seeks to provide a lively learning environment for teaching and training students how to bring about political and social transformations at the local, national and international levels. The course encourages the use of new information technologies and innovative ways of understanding these issues by teaching students skills of managing and resolving conflicts and building peace through techniques such as role-play, simulations, street theatre, cinema and music on the one hand and by undertaking field visits, interacting with different segments of the civil society including those affected by conflicts as well as diplomats, journalists and experts, on the other.

### **Unit I. Concepts (6 Lectures)**

- a. Understanding Conflict (Week 1)
- b. Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation (Week 2)
- c. Peace Building (Week 3)

### **Unit II: Dimensions of Conflict (6 Lectures)**

- a. Ideology (Week 4)
- b. Economic/Resource Sharing Conflicts (Week 5)
- c. Socio-Cultural Conflicts (Ethnic, Religious, Gender-based) (Week 6)

### **Unit III: Sites of Conflict (6 Lectures)**

- a. Local (Week 7)
- b. Sub-National (Week 7)
- c. International (Week 8)

### **Unit IV: Conflict Responses: Skills And Techniques (6 Lectures)**

- a. Negotiations: Trust Building (Week 9)
- b. Mediation: Skill Building; Active Listening (Week 10)
- c. Track I, Track II & Multi Track Diplomacy (Week 11)
- d. Gandhian Methods (Week 12)

### **Unit I. Concepts**

#### **a. Understanding Conflict**

Essential Readings:

O. Ramsbotham, T. Woodhouse and H. Miall, (2011) 'Understanding Contemporary Conflict', in *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, (Third Edition), Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 94-122. W. Zartman, (1995) 'Dynamics and Constraints In Negotiations In Internal Conflicts', in William Zartman (ed.), *Elusive Peace: Negotiating an End to Civil Wars*, Washington: The Brookings Institute, pp. 3-29.

Additional Readings:

P. Wallensteen, (2012) 'Armed Conflicts', in *Understanding Conflict Resolution*, (Third Edition), London: Sage, pp. 13-28.

### **b. Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation**

Essential Readings:

C. Mitchell, (2002) 'Beyond Resolution: What Does Conflict Transformation Actually Transform?', in *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 9:1, May, pp.1-23.

S. Ryan, (1990) 'Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution', in *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 2:1, pp. 54-71.

Additional Reading:

J. Lederach, (2003) *The Little Book Of a Conflict Transformation*, London: Good Books.

I. Doucet, (1996) *Thinking About Conflict*, Resource Pack For Conflict Transformation: International Alert.

### **c. Peace Building**

Essential Readings:

M. Lund, (2001) 'A Toolbox for Responding to Conflicts and Building Peace', in L. Reyhler and T. Paffenholz, eds., *Peace-Building: A Field Guide*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner, pp. 16-20. L. Schirch, (2004) *The Little Book Of Strategic Peacebuilding*, London: Good Books.

## **Unit II: Dimensions of Conflict**

Essential Readings:

R. Rubenstein, (2003) 'Sources', in S. Cheldelin, D. Druckman and L. Fast (eds.) *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*, London: Continuum, pp.55-67.

P. Le Billon, (2009) 'Economic and Resource Causes of Conflicts', in J. Bercovitch, V. Kremenyuk and I. Zartman (eds.) *The Sage Hand Book of Conflict Resolution*, London: Sage Publications, pp. 210-224.

S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, (2009) 'Ethno-Religious Conflicts: Exploring the Role of Religion in Conflict Resolution', in J. Bercovitch, V. Kremenyuk and I. Zartman (eds.) *The Sage Hand Book of Conflict Resolution*, London: Sage Publications, pp. 264-284.

## **Unit III: Sites of Conflict**

Essential Readings:

D. Barash and C. Webel, (2009) *Peace and Conflict Studies*, London: Sage Publication, pp. 91- 117.

D. Sandole, (2003) 'Typology' in S. Cheldelin, D. Druckman and L. Fast (eds.) *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*, London: Continuum, pp.39-54.

P. Wallensteen, (2007) *Understanding Conflict Resolution* (2nd ed.), London: Sage Publications.

**Unit IV: Conflict Response: Skills And Techniques** Essential Readings:

H. Saunders, (1999) *A Public Peace Process: Sustained Dialogue To Transform Racial and Ethnic Conflicts*, Palgrave Macmillan: New York, pp. 1-30.

N. Behera, 'Forging New Solidarities: Non-official Dialogues', in M. Mekenkamp, P. Tongeren and H. Van De Veen (eds.), *Searching For Peace In Central And South Asia*, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, pp. 210-236.

J Bercovitch, V. Kremenyuk, and I. Zartman (eds.), (2009) *The Sage Hand Book of Conflict Resolution*, London: Sage Publications.

M. Steger , (2001) 'Peacebuilding and Non-Violence: Gandhi's Perspective on Power', in D. Christie, R. Wagner and D. Winter, (eds.), *Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology for the 21st Century Englewood Cliffs*, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Additional Readings:

J. Davies and E. Kaufman (eds.), (2003) *Second Track/Citizens' Diplomacy: Concepts and Techniques for Conflict Transformation*, Rowman & Littlefield: Maryland.

C. Webel and J. Galtung (eds.), (2007) *The Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, London: Routledge.

Toolkits by United States Institute of Peace

S. Mason and M. Siegfried, (2010) *Debriefing Mediators To Learn Their Experiences*, Washington D.C: United States Institute Of Peace.

I. Zartman and A. De Soto, (2010) *Timing Mediation Initiatives*, Washington D.C: United States Institute Of Peace.

A. Smith and D. Smock, (2010) *Managing A Mediation Process*, Washington D.C: United States Institute Of Peace.

H. Burgess and G. Burgess, (2010) *Conducting Track II*, Washington D.C: United States Institute Of Peace.

Online Resources Conflict Resolution in Popular Art and Culture:

The International Network of Peace Museums, at [www.museumsforpeace.org/](http://www.museumsforpeace.org/), contains links to visit the websites of many of the world's peace museums.

Theatre, peace and conflict at Theatre Without Borders, [www.theatrewithoutborders.com/peacebuilding](http://www.theatrewithoutborders.com/peacebuilding)

Global Peace Film Festival, [www.peacefilmfest.org/](http://www.peacefilmfest.org/)

Football for Peace International, [www.football4peace.eu/contact.html](http://www.football4peace.eu/contact.html)

Dialogue:

[http://www.pgexchange.org/images/toolkits/PGX\\_D\\_Sustained%20Dialogue.pdf](http://www.pgexchange.org/images/toolkits/PGX_D_Sustained%20Dialogue.pdf)

Mediation:

[http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/resources/A\\_guide\\_to\\_Mediation\\_HDC.pdf](http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/resources/A_guide_to_Mediation_HDC.pdf)

<http://www.pgexchange.org/images/toolkits/civics%20mediation%20tool.pdf>

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-essay/mediation>

Facilitation:

[http://www.pgexchange.org/images/toolkits/pgx\\_facilitation\\_tool.pdf](http://www.pgexchange.org/images/toolkits/pgx_facilitation_tool.pdf)

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-essay/facilitation>

Negotiation:

Roger Fisher et al, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without Giving In*, New York: Penguin, 1991.

[http://peacebuilding.caritas.org/index.php/Introduction\\_to\\_Principled\\_Negotiation](http://peacebuilding.caritas.org/index.php/Introduction_to_Principled_Negotiation)

Reconciliation: <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1975> John Paul Lederach, *The Journey Toward Reconciliation*, London: Herald Press, 1999.

Charles Lerche, "Peace Building Through Reconciliation," *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Vol. 5. No. 2, 2000. [http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol5\\_2/lerche.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol5_2/lerche.htm)

Crossword Puzzle:

[http://www.cengage.com/cgi-](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product_isbn_issn=9781133602101)

[wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product\\_isbn\\_issn=9781133602101](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product_isbn_issn=9781133602101)

[http://www.cengage.com/cgi-](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product_isbn_issn=978111344238)

[wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product\\_isbn\\_issn=978111344238](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product_isbn_issn=978111344238)

### **Suggested Classroom Exercises/ Activities:**

1) Map the ethnic composition of your classroom and examine the prevailing prejudices and stereotyping practices and their manifestations and then suggest a strategy for trust building.

2) Identify a group of immigrants/ refugees from the South Asian region (Afghans, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Tibetans, Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar) and based on your interactions with them, write a report explaining their respective experiences of conflicts are amenable to what kind of solution?

3) Identify musical bands and other such endeavours in the South Asian region which have used music as a peace building measure for promoting understanding among different communities.

4) Sports is a means or a barrier to promoting inter community understanding. Have a debate in the class arguing for and against this proposition.

- 5) Conduct a case study of resource allocation of water and electricity by the Government of Delhi. Identify, if any, elements of institutional discrimination has taken place.
- 6) Follow a conflict from any level (local/sub-national/national) covered in the news for a month and prepare a report on its causes, the parties and the dynamics of the conflict.
- 7) Identify protests over sharing of environmental resources and study their modus operandi for seeking redressal (for example, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Protests against the Nuclear Plant in Kondakulm, Movements against POSCO and Vedanta in Orissa)
- 8) Organize a peace film festival in your college.
- 9) Follow any track-two initiative between India and any of its neighbours (for example, Neerana Initiative, The Pakistan India Peoples forum for Peace and Democracy , RIMC Old Boys Network, Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia, Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy, Peace Pals) and, write a report on its activities and the impact factor.