

Department: International Relations

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences

Course Title: Critical Approaches to Peacemaking: Theory and Practice (MA, Optional)

Credits: Four

Course objectives:

The changing nature of contemporary armed conflict pose a significant challenge to the theory and practice of peacemaking. This course will provide a dialogic space to review theories, models and skills for theorizing and developing peace initiatives that can respond to protracted armed conflict particularly in South Asia. The course is organized around five themes for peacemaking: protracted armed conflicts, approaches to peacemaking, critical frames in peacemaking (timing, violence and spoilers), peace agreements, en-gendering peacemaking and post conflict challenges. The attempt is to critically engage with the rich body of academic literature on peace process, negotiations, mediation, dialogue, peace accords, power sharing, post conflict challenges from the standpoint of global south. Keeping in mind a representative spectrum, and space for comparative review, in-depth analysis of five case studies: Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Bosnia Herzegovina and Kashmir would be offered. The attempt is to initiate a dialogical process of enquiry and creativity in thinking about protracted armed conflicts. The pedagogy for the course would be elicitive, participatory and would draw on multiple formats for the teaching -learning process.

Course Structure:

Unit 1: Understanding Protracted Conflict (Week 1-3)

This unit will introduce the students to the key debates on old and new war's specifically in South Asia

Unit 2: Understanding Peacemaking (Week 3-6)

The module attempts to provide conceptual clarity on the field of Peacemaking. It will introduce students particularly to the theory of dialogue, negotiations and mediation. It would also explore questions around: What defines a peace process? Why is there a recent proliferation of peace process and peace accords? And why do some fail or succeed?

Unit 3: Critical Frames in Peacemaking: Timing, Violence & Spoilers (Week 6-9)

This unit will introduce students to critical frames on timing of intervention, the debates on mutually hurting stalemate and ripeness of conflicts, violence and the critical issues around spoilers.

Unit 4: Peace Agreements, Conflict Termination & Recurrence: The Critical Challenges (Week 9-12)

This unit will introduce students to the politics of signing peace accords and critical issues around power sharing, partition, security guarantees and minority rights. In the process it will also critically engage with the issues on conflict termination and conflict recurrence.

Unit 5: En-Gendering Peacemaking: UN Resolution 1325 & Beyond (Week 12-14)

This unit will attempt to provide critical perspectives and women experiences of conflict and discuss feminist perspectives on peacemaking particularly in the backdrop of UNSC resolution 1325, 1820 and et.al

Reading Suggestions:

Chaturvedi, Sanjay (2001), "The Mental Borders in South Asia", in Samaddar, Ranabir & Helmut Reifeld ed. *Peace as Process: Reconciliation and Conflict Resolution in South Asia*, Manohar: New Delhi

Samaddar, Ranabir (2004), *The Politics of Dialogue: Living under the Geopolitical Histories of War and Peace*, Ashgate: USA

Nandy, Ashis (1997), 'South Asian Politics: Modernity and the Landscape of Clandestine and Incommunicable Selves,' *Macalester International*, Vol.4, Article 21.

Druckman, Daniel (2007), "Negotiating in the International Context" in I. William Zartman and Lewis Rasmussen (eds.) *Peacemaking in International Conflicts* Washington, DC: USIP Press

Walter F. Barbara (2001) *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*, Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters.

Ellerby Kara (2013) "En-gendered Security? The Complexities of Women's Inclusion in Peace Processes" *International Interactions: Empirical and Theoretical Research in International Relations* Volume 39, Issue 4, 2013, pp. 435-460