**PCS-434 ICT in Peace Building 03 Credit Hours**

**(General Course)**

This course structure aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the role of ICT in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to leverage technology for promoting peace, dialogue, and sustainable development in conflict-affected regions. This course explores the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the context of peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and humanitarian efforts. Students will examine how ICT tools and platforms are used to mitigate conflict, promote dialogue, and facilitate humanitarian assistance. Through theoretical insights, case studies, and practical exercises, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by ICT in peace and conflict contexts.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Explore the diverse applications of ICT tools and platforms in conflict analysis, mapping, and resolution processes.

2. Develop practical skills in utilizing ICT tools for promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and community engagement in conflict-affected regions.

3. Explore innovative approaches and emerging technologies in ICT for peacebuilding, such as social media, digital storytelling, and artificial intelligence.

4. Understand the role of ICT in humanitarian assistance, crisis response, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

5. Foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills through discussions, group activities, and hands-on exercises related to ICT applications in peace and conflict contexts.

6. Reflect on personal values, biases, and ethical considerations in using ICT for peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

**Course Contents**

1. Introduction to ICT in Peace and Conflict Studies

· Overview of ICT tools and platforms and its relevance to Peacebuilding

· Theoretical frameworks for understanding ICT's impact on peace and conflict

· Historical evolution of ICT tools and platforms in conflict resolution

· Ethical considerations in the use of ICT for peacebuilding

· Case studies: Examples of ICT applications in conflict zones

2. Basic ICT Productivity Tools

· Effective use of popular search engines (e.g., Google, Bing, etc.) to explore World Wide Web.

· Formal communication tools and etiquettes (Gmail, Microsoft Outlook, etc.).

· Microsoft Office Suites (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

· Google Workspace (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides).

· Dropbox (Cloud storage and file sharing), Google Drive (Cloud storage with Google Docs integration) and Microsoft OneDrive (Cloud storage with Microsoft Office integration).

· Evernote (Notetaking and organization applications) and OneNote (Microsoft's digital notebook for capturing and organizing ideas).

· Video conferencing (Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.).

· Social media applications (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

3. ICT for Conflict Analysis and Early Warning Systems

· Role of ICT in data collection, analysis, and mapping

· Early warning systems and predictive analytics

· Crowdsourcing, participatory mapping techniques, and citizen journalism for conflict mapping, analysis and monitoring

· Case studies: Use of ICT in conflict analysis in different regions Utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for conflict mapping and analysis

4. Social Media and Conflict Transformation

· Impact of social media on conflict dynamics

· Role of social media in mobilization and advocacy

· Online dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives

· Social media platforms and their role in mobilizing peace initiatives

· Online dialogue and mediation platforms

· Digital storytelling for conflict transformation

· Case studies: Social media campaigns for peace and reconciliation or Social media's role in conflict transformation processes

5. ICT for Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Response

· Use of ICT in humanitarian needs assessment and coordination

· Crisis mapping and real-time information sharing

· Mobile technologies for delivering aid and services

· Remote sensing and satellite imagery for disaster monitoring

· Case studies: ICT-enabled humanitarian interventions in conflict-affected regions

6. Cybersecurity and Digital Threats in Conflict Settings

· Understanding cybersecurity threats in conflict zones

· Cyber warfare and the weaponization of ICT

· Protection of digital rights and privacy in conflict contexts

· Cyberpeace initiatives and efforts to prevent cyber conflicts

· Role of ICT in promoting cyber diplomacy and conflict resolution

· Case studies: Cybersecurity challenges and responses in peacebuilding efforts or Cyberattacks and digital threats in contemporary conflicts

7. ICT and Transitional Justice

· Digital archives and documentation of human rights abuses

· ICT tools for truth commissions and reconciliation processes

· Ensuring data integrity and privacy in transitional justice efforts

· Case studies: ICT applications in post-conflict justice mechanisms

8. Capacity Building and Digital Literacy

· Promoting digital literacy and ICT skills among peacebuilders and local communities

· Training programs and capacity-building initiatives

· Integrating ICT into peace education and conflict resolution training

· Case studies: Successful ICT capacity-building initiatives in conflict-affected regions

9. Future Trends and Emerging Technologies

· Emerging technologies and their potential impact on peacebuilding

· Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning in conflict analysis and prediction

· Blockchain technology for enhancing transparency and accountability

· Case studies: Exploring the future of ICT in peace and conflict studies

10. Ethical Considerations in Use of ICT Platforms and Pools

· Intellectual properly and copyright issues.

· Ensuring originality in content creation by avoiding plagiarism and unauthorized use of information sources.

· Content accuracy and integrity (ensuring that the content shared through ICT platforms is free from misinformation, fake news, and manipulation).  
  
**Practical Requirements**

As part of the overall learning requirements, the course will include:

* Guided tutorials and exercises to ensure that students are proficient in commonly used software applications such as word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word), presentation software (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint), spreadsheet software (e.g., Microsoft Excel) among such other tools. Students may be assigned practical tasks that require them to create documents, presentations, and spreadsheets etc.
* Assigning of tasks that involve creating, managing, and organizing files and folders on both local and cloud storage systems. Students will practice file naming conventions, creating directories, and using cloud storage solutions (e.g., Google Drive, OneDrive).
* The use of online learning management systems (LMS) where students can access course materials, submit assignments, participate in discussion forums, and take quizzes or tests. This will provide students with the practical experience with online platforms commonly used in education and the workplace.

**Reference Readings:**

1. "Peacebuilding in the Information Age: Sifting Hype from Reality" by William J. Durch and Russel Sticklor

2. "Digital Humanitarians: How Big Data Is Changing the Face of Humanitarian Response" by Patrick Meier

3. "ICT for Peacebuilding: Lessons Learned from ICT4Peace Projects" edited by Daniel Stauffacher and Massimo Tommasoli

4. "Social Media and Conflict Prevention: Digital Diplomacy in Practice" by Derek Antoine

5. "Cyberpeace: Technology, Security, and Conflict Resolution" by Stilianos V. Tzankov and John M. Lannon

**Recommended Readings**

* "Discovering Computers" by Vermaat, Shaffer, and Freund.
* "GO! with Microsoft Office" Series by Gaskin, Vargas, and McLellan.
* "Exploring Microsoft Office" Series by Grauer and Poatsy.
* "Computing Essentials" by Morley and Parker.
* "Technology in Action" by Evans, Martin, and Poatsy.