**PCS-712 Introduction to Conflict Research Credit Hours 03**

**Course Description**

Independent credible conflict research has to be backed with strong empirical data collection methods. This course enables students to understand research methodologies and the intricacies involved in conflict settings.

**Learning Objectives**

The course introduces students to the philosophies behind social science research and the methods for conducting research in the field of conflict resolution. It focuses on the identification of research problems associated with particular conflict situations, selection of appropriate research methods, and the design of effective research projects.

**Course Contents**

**Week 1:** **Introduction to Conflict Research**

* Course overview
* Conflict as a field of study
* Importance of research in peace & conflict studies

**Week 2:** **Philosophical Foundations of Social Science Research**

* Positivism, Interpretivism, Critical Approaches
* Application in conflict research

**Week 3:** **Research Design in Social Sciences**

* Quantitative, Qualitative & Mixed Methods
* Case study, ethnography, surveys

**Week 4:** **Identifying Research Problems in Conflict Settings**

* How to develop research questions
* Feasibility and originality

**Week 5:** **Challenges in Undertaking Conflict Research**

* Security issues, researcher bias, cultural sensitivities
* Access to conflict zones

**Week 6: The Ethics of Field Research**

* Informed consent, confidentiality, researcher’s safety
* Research with vulnerable populations

**Week 7+8:** **Data Collection Techniques (I),(II)**

* Interviews, focus groups, participant observation
* Surveys, questionnaires, archival research
* Using media & secondary sources

**Week 9: MID-Semester**

**Week 10+11:** **Data Analysis Techniques (I),(II)**

* Quantitative analysis: surveys, coding, basic statistics
* Qualitative analysis: thematic coding, discourse, narrative analysis

**Week 12:** **Designing Research Projects**

* Key components: literature review, methodology, findings
* Aligning research questions with chosen methods

**Week 13:** **Writing & Presenting Research**

* Academic writing, citations, plagiarism
* Presenting research to academic & policy audiences

**Week 14:** **Case Studies in Conflict Research**

* Local examples

**Week 15: Student Final Presentation**

**Week 16:FINAL-TERM**

* Submission of Final Research Proposal

**Required Readings**

Babbie, Earl. 2010. The Practice of Social Research. New York, NY: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. pp. 1-28. Online: http://www.cengagebrain.com/content/9781133794882.pdf

Creswell, J. W. (2013). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (4th ed). Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications.

Ibrahim Kira, Thomas Templin, et al, Effects of Torture: Two Community Studies, Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, Volume: 12 Number: 3 Sept, 2006. Page(s): 205-228.

Robson, Colin. 2011. Real World Research. 3rd Edition. John Wiley & Sons.

Tal Litvak-Hirsch, et. al., “Whose House is this? Dilemmas of Identity Construction n in the Israeli-Palestinian Context” Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 9 (2): 127-148.