**PCS-311 03 Credit Hours**

## **Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies-History of the Discipline**

**(Foundation Course)**

This course provides an in-depth examination of the historical development of Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS) as an academic discipline. Students will explore the origins, evolution, and key milestones that have shaped the field, tracing its emergence from early peace movements to its current interdisciplinary status. By tracing the evolution of PCS, students will gain a deeper understanding of the theoretical foundations, methodologies, and overarching goals of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Examine the historical context and catalysts that led to the emergence of Peace and Conflict Studies as an academic discipline.
2. Analyze the contributions of key thinkers, practitioners, and movements in the development of PCS.
3. Explore the evolution of theories and approaches to peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and nonviolent activism.
4. Evaluate the impact of historical events, such as wars, social movements, and international conflicts, on the field of PCS.
5. Foster critical thinking skills through the examination of primary texts, scholarly articles, and case studies.
6. Reflect on the contemporary relevance and future directions of Peace and Conflict Studies in addressing global challenges.

**Weekly Course Contents:**

**Week 1.**

Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

* Overview of the course objectives, structure, and expectations
* Definition and scope of Peace and Conflict Studies
* Historical roots of peace movements and early efforts at conflict resolution
* Introduction to key concepts: peace, conflict, violence, nonviolence

**Week 2.**

Scientific Inquiry of Peace and Conflict Studies

* Observation
* Hypothesis
* Experimentation
* Measurement
* objectivity

**Week 3:**

Historical Development of Peace and Conflict Studies

* Industrialization
* Colonization
* Imperialism

**Week 4:**

Origin and Development of Peace and Conflict Studies

* WW I
* WW II
* UNO
* Peace Research Centers/Institutes

**Week 5:**

Post-World War II and the Rise of Peace Studies

* Impact of World War II on the development of peace studies
* Establishment of academic programs and research centers focused on peace
* Influence of religious and philosophical traditions on peace activism

Reading: Lederach, John Paul. Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies.

**Week 6:**

The Emergence of Peace Research

* Origins of systematic inquiry into peace and conflict
* Early pioneers in peace research: Johan Galtung, Quincy Wright, and others
* Critiques of traditional approaches to war and diplomacy
* Reading: Galtung, Johan. Peace, War, and Defense: Essays in Peace Research.

**Week 7:**

The Cold War and Nuclear Deterrence

* Role of the Cold War in shaping peace and security discourse
* Strategies of nuclear deterrence and arms control
* Anti-nuclear movements and the quest for disarmament
* Reading: Wittner, Lawrence S. The Struggle Against the Bomb: Volume One, One World or None: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement Through 1953.

**Week 8:**

Revision

**Week 9:**

Mid Term Examination

**Week 10:**

Nonviolent Resistance and Civil Rights Movements

* Contributions of nonviolent activists to peace and social justice
* Case studies of successful nonviolent movements: Civil Rights Movement, Indian Independence Movement, etc.
* Theoretical frameworks for understanding nonviolent action
* Reading: Sharp, Gene. The Politics of Nonviolent Action.

**Week 11:**

Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

* Evolution of theories and practices in peacebuilding and conflict resolution
* Role of international organizations and NGOs in peace

**Week 12:**

Nonviolent Resistance and Social Movements

* The theory and practice of nonviolent resistance.
* Case studies of successful nonviolent movements for social change.
* The influence of figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. on PCS.

**Week 13:**

Human Rights and Conflict Prevention

* Evolution of human rights discourse and its relationship to conflict prevention.
* The role of international organizations in promoting human rights and peace.
* Challenges and limitations of human rights frameworks in conflict resolution.

**Week 14:**

Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

* Theories and approaches to conflict resolution.
* Case studies of successful peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict societies.
* The role of diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation in resolving conflicts.

**Week 15-16:**

* Presentations

**Week 17:**

Final Term Examination

**Suggested Readings:**

* Galtung, J. (1976). *Peace, war, and defense: essays in peace research*. Christian Ejlers.
* Lederach, J. P. (1997). Sustainable reconciliation in divided societies. *Washington, DC: USIP*.
* Sharp, G. (1973). The politics of nonviolent action, 3 vols. *Boston: Porter Sargent*, *2*.
* Kriesberg, L. (2007). *Constructive conflicts: From escalation to resolution*. Rowman & Littlefield.
* Zartman, I. W. (Ed.). (2007). *Peacemaking in international conflict: Methods & techniques*. US Institute of Peace Press.
* Barash, D. P., & Webel, C. P. (2021). *Peace and conflict studies*. Sage Publications.
* Richter, J. (2013). Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics. Rev. and updated 3d ed. By Sidney Tarrow. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2011. 352p. 26.99 paper. *Perspectives on Politics*, *11*(3), 916-918.

Forsythe, D. P. (2009). *Encyclopedia of human rights* (Vol. 1). Oxford University Press.