

Course Name : Religion, Conflict Resolution and Peace							
Course Code	Course Type	Regular Semester	Lecture (hours/week)	Seminar (hours/week)	Lab. (hours/week)	Credits	ECTS
ISC 440	B	Spring	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	6.00
<b>Lecturer</b> Isa Erbaş, Prof. Asoc. Dr.							
<b>Assistant</b> Hysni Skura, PhD							
<b>Course language</b> English							
<b>Course level</b> Master							
<b>Description</b> In this course, the complex role of religion in contemporary conflicts in different regions of the world is examined with a particular focus on identifying and analyzing religious dynamics for promoting peace and mitigating violence in each context. Students will learn how religious ideologies are embedded in all areas of human choice. In addition to examining the conflicts themselves, we also explore the religious dimensions of the impacts those conflicts have on civic life in areas such as public discourse, politics, and economics. Possible focus countries include Israel/Palestine, Syria, Nigeria, and Western Balkan countries.							
<b>Objectives</b>							
<b>Core Concepts</b> 1. Religion 2. Religious radicalism 3. Inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts 4. Transition of conflict to peace 5. Conflict resolution							
Course Outline							
Week	Topic						
1	Introduction to Religious Literacy and Religious Studies • New perspectives on understanding religion that exposes common misconceptions. • Basic frameworks that can be used to better understand how religions function in human experience • The difference between devotional expression and the study of various expressions						
2	Methodological assumptions and analytical frameworks regarding religion • Issues related to interpretation, power, and authority. • Multi-cultural and inter-disciplinary approach to religion • Situation and perception in the cultural approach to religion						
3	The foundations of religious conflict and violence • What starts the religious conflict? • Direct, structural and cultural forms of violence and peace • Examples of cultural peace and violence						
4	Religious state and political conflict • Persecution and Religious Conflict • The nature of identity conflicts, especially religious ones						
5	Religious and secular nationalism 1 • Ritual Practices and Symbolic Systems • Peace Case Study: Israel / Palestine						
6	Religious and secular nationalism 2 • Violent sectarianism • Peace Journalism • Case Study: Syria						
7	Religious and secular nationalism 3 • The effects of colonialism on religion • Case Study: Nigeria						
8	Midterm						
9	Religious and secular nationalism 4 • national identity and religious identity • Ethnicity and religion • Western Balkans Case Study						
10	Religion and Neoliberalism • Civil Religion • Coexistence and Common Citizenship • Muslims in Europe						
11	Models of Reconciliation in Abrahamic Religions and Interreligious Dialogue and Peacebuilding						
12	Legitimacy, Rights, Minorities, and religious freedom • Multicultural citizenship • Education for Citizenship and Peace						

<b>13</b>	Radicalization and violent extremism • Instigators of radicalization • Leaders of violent extremism • Opposition to extremism
<b>14</b>	The role of religion in peace building • What role can religion play in peace building and conflict resolution? • Intra- and inter-religious dialogue • Roles of Peace Building based on Faith
<b>15</b>	Reconciliation, Justice, and Coexistence • Social Cohesion • Religious diplomacy
<b>16</b>	Final Exam
<b>Prerequisites</b>	The student must attend the course at a minimum rate of 75%.
<b>Literature</b>	• Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peace (NY: Oxford) 2015.
<b>References</b>	• Armstrong, Karen, (2014), Fields of blood: religion and the history of violence, Knopf publications .
<b>Course Outcome</b>	
<b>1</b>	Njohja e rolit që fetë luajnë në nxitjen e dhunës dhe promovimin e paqes.
<b>2</b>	Përvetësimi i njohurive teorike të qasjeve kryesore në studimet e fesë, etnisë, identiteteve kombëtare dhe nacionalizmit.
<b>3</b>	Njohja e thelluar e ndërveprimit midis fesë dhe identiteteve etnike / kombëtare në botën modern.
<b>4</b>	Te kuptuarit e nevojës për transformimin e konfliktit si një mjet për të ndryshuar dinamikën e konfliktit dhe për të shkuar drejt një të ardhme pozitive.
<b>5</b>	Eksplorimi i rëndësisë së krijimtarisë dhe imagjinatës në lehtësimin e ndryshimeve pozitive shoqërore - individualisht dhe globalisht.
<b>6</b>	Të zhvillojmë aftësi për transformimin e konflikteve në jetën tone dhe te praktikojë aftësitë e dëgjimit, pohimit dhe zgjidhjes së konflikteve.

<b>Course Evaluation</b>			
<b>In-term Studies</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	
Midterms	0	0	
Quizzes	0	0	
Projects	0	0	
Term Projects	0	0	
Laboratory	0	0	
Class Participation	0	0	
<b>Total in-term evaluation percent</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Final exam percent</b>		<b>100</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	
<b>ECTS Workload (Based on Student Workload)</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Duration (hours)</b>	<b>Total (hours)</b>
Course duration (Including the exam week: 16x Total hours of the course)	16	4	64
Study hours outside the classroom (Preparation, Practice, etc.)	14	4	56
Duties	0	0	0
Midterms	0	0	0
Final Exam	1	30	30
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total Work Load</b>			<b>150</b>
<b>Total Work Load / 25 (hours)</b>			<b>6.00</b>
<b>ECTS</b>			<b>6.00</b>