

Identification	Subject	PSIR 356: Conflict and Peace Studies 3KU / 6 ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program	Undergraduate
	Term	Spring, 2026
	Instructor	Firuz Suleymanov
	E-mail:	fsuleymanov@khazar.org
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	Consent of instructor	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Required	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core textbook:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Core Textbook: Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies <p>Supplementary sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Onditi (2020). <i>Conflictology: Systems, Institutions, and Mechanisms in Africa</i> Miller, E.C. (2005). A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies UN (2010). UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation The House of Commons (2006). Conflict and Development: Peacebuilding and Post–conflict Reconstruction Suleymanov, F. (2024). A review of the multifaceted relationship between drought dynamics and conflicts Suleymanov, F. (2023). The Role of Climate Change on Water Resources Management in the Southern Caucasus in the Post-Conflict Period 	
Course outline	This course is designed for undergraduate students. It examines the major theories, causes, and dynamics of conflict and peace, with a focus on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and security across historical and contemporary contexts.	
Course objectives	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and theories of conflictology, enhance their understanding of the nature and causes of conflicts, and develop skills in conflict analysis, negotiation, and resolution. Students will learn to apply theoretical models to real-world cases and evaluate the role of culture, power, and identity in conflict dynamics. <p>Specific Objectives of the Course</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of the course, students will be able to apply conflict analysis techniques to real-life situations, identify sources and stages of conflicts in various contexts, and design practical strategies for conflict management and resolution. The course emphasizes developing negotiation, mediation, and communication skills, enabling students to handle interpersonal, organizational, and social conflicts effectively. 		
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of the course the students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To define key concepts, theories, and terminology of conflictology To explain nature, causes, types, and functions of social, interpersonal, and international conflicts To analyze conflicts using classical and contemporary conflictology theories To identify stages and dynamics of conflict escalation and de-escalation To compare different approaches to conflict management, resolution, and transformation To apply conflict analysis models to real-world case studies To demonstrate basic negotiation, mediation, and communication skills To evaluate the role of culture, power, identity, and interests in conflicts To assess the effectiveness of various conflict resolution strategies 		
Teaching methods	Lecture		x
	Group discussion		x
	Experiential exercise		
	Role play		x
	Case analysis		x
	Course paper		x
	Others		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	25
	Attendance	During the semester	5
	Role play	During the semester	10
	Essay	15 March – 31 May	10
	Group Discussion	During the semester	10
	Final Exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	<p>Preparation for class</p> <p>The structure of this course makes your individual study and preparation outside the class extremely important. The lecture material will focus on the major points introduced in the text. Reading the assigned chapters and having some familiarity with them before class will greatly assist your understanding</p>		

of the lecture. After the lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions.

Cheating/plagiarism

Cheating or other plagiarism during the Mid-term and Final Examinations will lead to paper cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any consideration.

Essay

We appreciate the ability of students to prepare a good essay. The essay should be

- Original research of the students.
- Written according to international standards with introduction, internal parts, conclusion, and used special literature.
- Limited in size (10 -12 pages/Times New Roman - 12).
- Printed in computer and has a cover page.

As soon as it is possible, we will offer you a list of themes for essays. Every student can choose for the essay a theme with the consent of instructor. Students will write two essays, with a maximum of 5 points per essay.

Essay requirements/standards are available in DPSIR.

Role play and Group discussion

Students’ activity during classes will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in discussions on various topics during the lesson. The instructor will make notes after each discussion and will evaluate students’ activities before the final exam. Students may earn up to 2 points for each activity. Five activities will be assessed for Role Play and five for Group Discussion. Students may obtain full points in both components for the same activity.

Professional behavior guidelines

The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behavior are strictly prohibited.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	Week .02.2025	Foundations of Conflictology	1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to conflictology: definitions and history of the field • Types and causes of conflicts (interpersonal, social, political, international) 	<p>Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Part 1: Core Concepts and Theories</p> <p>2) Miller, E.C. (2005). A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies</p>
2	Week 2 .02.2025	<p>Theoretical Frameworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural and psychological theories of conflict • Dynamics of conflict escalation and de-escalation 	<p>1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Part 1: Core Concepts and Theories</p>
3	Week 3 .03.2025	<p>Conflict Analysis Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying parties, interests, positions, needs • Conflict mapping and diagnosis techniques 	<p>1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.</p>
4	Week 4 .03.2025	<p>Conflict Resolution Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation, mediation, arbitration 	<p>1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Part 2: Core</p>

			<p>Approaches: Conceptual and Methodological</p> <p>2) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies</p>
5	Week 5 .03.2025	<p>Case Studies in Eurasia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case analyses in Eurasia; discussion and group work 	<p>1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution</p> <p>2) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies, Part 1: Understanding and transforming conflict, 64-86</p>
6	Week 6 .03.2025	<p>Case Studies and Conflict Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case analyses in the Middle East; conflict resolution 	<p>1) Sandole, D.J.D., Byrne, S., Sandole-Staroste, I. & Senehi, J. (2009). Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution</p> <p>2) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies,</p>

			Part 1: Understanding and transforming conflict, 64-94
7	Week 7 .04.2025	Midterm Exam	
8	Week 8 .04.2025	Practical Skills in Mediation & Negotiation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roleplay 	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies
9	Week 9 .04.2025	Practical Skills in Mediation & Negotiation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation 	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies
10	Week 10 .04.2025	Practical Skills in Mediation & Negotiation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation exercises in post-conflict situation 	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies, Part 1: Understanding and transforming conflict, 51-64
11	Week 11 .05.2025	Contemporary Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict in global contexts 	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies, Part 1: Understanding and transforming conflict, 35-51 2) The House of Commons (2006). Conflict and Development: Peacebuilding

			and Post–conflict Reconstruction
12	Week 12 .05.2025	Contemporary Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction 	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies, Part 2: Creating peace 123-187 2) UN (2010). UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation
13	Week 13 .05.2025	Contemporary Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation analysis and simulation 	1) The House of Commons (2006). Conflict and Development: Peacebuilding and Post–conflict Reconstruction
14	Week 14 .05.2025	Conflict Prevention	1) Webel, C. & Galtung, J. (2007). Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies
15	Week 15 .06.2025	Course Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection and synthesis of learning outcomes 	
16	TBA	Final Exam	

This syllabus is a guide for the course and any modifications to it will be announced in advance.