

**Centre for West Asian Studies  
School of International Studies**

Course: **PhD**  
Course No: **WA 625N**  
Course Title: ***Conflict and Peace in West Asia & North Africa***  
Course Type: Optional  
Course Teacher: Prof. Aswini K Mohapatra  
Credits: Two  
Contact Hours: Two per Week  
Evaluation Methods: Sessional Assignments & Semester Examination.

**Objectives:**

West Asia & North Africa (WANA) is one of the world's worst conflict zones. Apart from the Arab-Israeli conflict, which dominates regional politics, WANA is beset with a number of intra- and inter-state conflicts. While some of them fall in the category of high-intensity conflicts, others are either dormant or recurrent or protracted low-intensity variety. The course aims to provide students with an in-depth, interdisciplinary understanding of conflict-causation, conflict structure and process, and challenges to conflict resolution and conflict transformation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Given its interdisciplinary nature, the Course will enhance analytical skills among students to undertake research specific to WANA as well as in the field of conflict & peace study. Besides, familiarity with the conflict –resolution strategies will also enable students to explore career options in government, corporate sector, media outlets, think-tanks, NGOs and INGOs.

**Course Content**

**Unit-I: Conflict Analysis**

Conflict Structure; Conflict Process & Stages of Conflict Expansion

**Unit-II: Conflict Resolution**

Peace Making and Peace Building; Facilitation; Mediation & Negotiation;  
Conflict Management & Conflict Settlement; Conflict Transformation; Post-Conflict  
Reconstruction & Reconciliation

**Unit-III: Conflict Formation in West Asia & North Africa**

Historical Process of State-building; Weak-state Structure; National Identity Construction; Boundary/territorial Delineation; Dependency-structured Economy; Regional Power Configuration; External Penetration; Problem of Water Sharing

#### **Unit-IV: Conflict Types and Actors**

**Intra-and Inter-State Conflict:** Civil War in Lebanon, Algeria, Syria & Libya; Kurdish Insurgency in Turkey; Iraq-Iran War & Iraq-Kuwaiti Conflict

**Regional Conflict:** Arab-Israel & Cyprus

#### **Unit -V: Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in WANA**

Peacemaking & Peacekeeping: Role of the UN, US and Regional Organizations  
Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Peace-building in Iraq

#### **Readings:**

- Ahari, M.E. (1996), ed., *Change and Continuity in the Middle East: Conflict Resolution and Prospects for Peace*, N.Y.: St. Martin's Press
- Ajami, Fouad (2012), *The Syrian Rebellion*, Stanford: Hoover Institute Press
- Alley, Roderic (2004), *Internal Conflict and the International Community: Wars without End?*, Aldershot: Ashgate
- Askari, Hossein (2013), *Conflicts in the Persian Gulf: Origins and Evolution*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan
- Ayoob, Mohammed (1995), *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers
- Azar, Edward E. (1990), *The Management of Protracted Social Conflict: Theory and Cases*, Aldershot: Dartmouth Publishing Company Ltd.
- Barnett, Michael N. (1996-97), "Regional Security After the Gulf War", *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 111, no. 4, pp. 597- 618.
- Ben-Dor, Gabriel and Dewitt, David S. (1987), eds., *Conflict Management in the Middle East* Lexington Mass
- Blumi, Isa (2011), *Chaos in Yemen: Societal Collapse and the New Authoritarianism*, London: Routledge
- Bramsen, Isabel, Poder, Poul and Waever, Ole (2019), eds., *Resolving International Conflict: Dynamics of Escalation, Continuation and Transformation*, London: Routledge
- Buzan, Barry (1983), *People, States, and Fear: The National Security Problem in International Relations*, Chapel Hill: University of N. Carolina Press
- Coakley, John (2010), ed., *Pathways from Ethnic Conflict: Institutional Redesign in Divided Societies*, London: Routledge
- Cordell, Karl and Wolff, Stefan (2010), *Ethnic Conflict: Causes-Consequences –Responses*, Cambridge: Polity Press
- Crystal, Jill (Jan 1994), "Authoritarianism and Its Adversaries in the Arab World", *World Politics*, vol. 46, no. 2, pp. 262-289.

De Goor, Lucvan, Rupesinghe, Kumar and Sciarone, Paul (1996), eds., *Between Development and Destruction: An Enquiry into the Causes of Conflict in Post-Colonial States*, New York: St. Martin's Press

Demmers, Jolle (2012), *Theories of Violent Conflict: An Introduction*, London: Routledge

Fisher, Ronald J. (1997), *Interactive Conflict Resolution*, Syracuse, NY: Syracuse Univ. Press

Freedman, Amy I. (2014), ed., *The Internationalisation of Internal Conflicts: Threatening the State*, London: Routledge

Gagnon, Chip and Keith Brown (2014), eds., *Post-Conflict Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, London: Routledge

Galtung, Johan (1996), *Peace by Peaceful Means: Peace and Conflict, Development and Civilization*, Oslo: PRIO

Gardner, David (2010), *Last Chance: The Middle East in the Balance*, New York: I. B. Tauris

Inbar, Efraim (1995), ed., *Regional Security Regimes: Israel and its Neighbours*, N.Y.: State Univ. of New York Press

Jenkins, Rob (2013), *Peacebuilding: From Concept to Commission*, London: Routledge

Jeong, Ho-Won (2006), *Peacebuilding in Postconflict Societies: Straggly and Process*, New Delhi: Viva Books Pvt Limited

Jones, Peter (1999), *Towards a Regional Security Regime for the Middle East: Issues and Options*, Stockholm: SIPRI

Joshi, Madhav and Wallenstein, Peter (2019), eds., *Understanding Quality Peace: Pecebuilding after Civil War*, London: Routledge

Kamrava, Mehran (2014), ed., *Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East*, New York: Oxford University Press

Karsh, Efraim (Spring 1990) "Geopolitical Determinism: The Origins of the Iran-Iraq War", *Middle East Journal*, vol. 44, no. 2, pp. 256 – 268

Kreyenbroek, Philip G. and Sperl, Stefan (1992), eds., *The Kurds: A Contemporary Review*, London: Routledge

Le Sueur, James D. (2010), *Between Terror and Democracy: Algeria since 1989*, London: Zed Books

Milton-Edwards, Beverley and Hincheliffe, Peter (2001), *Conflicts in the Middle East since 1945*, London: Routledge

Mitchell, C.R. (1981), *The Structure of International Conflict*, London: Macmillan

Mohapatra, Aswini Kumar (1997), "Cyprus Conflict: An Overview" in R. C. Sharma and Stavros Epaminondas (ed.), *Cyprus: In Search for Peace and Justice*, New Delhi: Somali Publication

----- (July 2015), "Armed Conflicts in the World: An Overview", *World Focus*, pp. 1-7.

Monshipouri, Mahmood (1998), *Islamism, Secularism, and Human Rights in the Middle East*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner

Peleg, Ilan, ed. (1998), *The Middle East Peace Process: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, Albany: State University of New York Pres.

Pettersson, Therese *et al* (2021), "Organized Violence 1989-2020, with a Special Emphasis on Syria", *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 58, no. 4, pp. 809-825

Roberts, Hugh (1995), "Algeria's Ruinous Impasse and the Honourable Way out", *International Affairs*, vol. 71, no. 2, pp. 247-267

Spiegel, Steven L. (1992), ed., *The Arab-Israeli Search for Peace*, Boulder. Colo: Lynne Rinner

St John, Ronald Bruce (2013), *Libya: Continuity and Change*, London : Routledge

Tibi, Bassam (1998), *Conflict and War in the Middle East: From Interstate War to New Security*, N. Y.: St. Martin's Press

Themner, Lotta and Wallensteen, Peter (2014), "Armed Conflicts, 1946-2013", *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 51, no. 4, pp. 615-637

Varynen, Raimo (1984), "Regional Conflict Formations: An Intractable Problem of International Relations", *Journal Peace Research*, vol. 21, no. 4, pp. 337-357.

Wallensteen, Peter, ed. (1998), *Preventing Violent Conflicts: Past Record and Future Challenges*, Uppsala: Uppsala University

Webel, Charles p. and Johansen, Jorgen (2012), eds., *Peace and Conflict Studies: A Reader*, London: Routledge

Yetim, Muserref (2016), *Negotiating International Water Rights: Resource Conflict in Turkey, Syria and Iraq*, New York: I. B. Tauris

Zartman, William I. (1995), ed., *Collapsed States: The Disintegration and Restoration of Legitimate Authority*, London: SAIS African Studies

Zoubir, Y. H. and White, G (2016), *North African Politics: Change and Continuity*, London: Routledge