



Master in conflict Studies and Reconciliation

Al-Azhar University

Department of Political Science

Introduction

The Peace Studies, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation Program is an interdisciplinary and innovative programme. The program allows students to explore key concepts of conflict transformation and a culture of peace and national reconciliation. It draws on the theoretical and practical frameworks of the social sciences, including political science, psychology, social work, sociology, and international relations. Particular attention is given to the Palestinian issue, which has been suffering from an internal political and social division for more than 15 years. Conflicts and peace processes in different parts of the world are also discussed. The program aims to equip graduates in this field to deal with the challenges of conflict prevention, peace culture, peacebuilding and peacekeeping and to think about alternative forms of dispute resolution in a systematic and informed manner. Examine the political, economic, cultural, environmental and technological changes that affect development decisions. Helping students develop complex research and analysis skills and apply scientific theories to solve problems. Qualify them for leadership in conflict transformation and change management in diverse professional, organizational and societal environments. Applying post-conflict reconstruction mechanisms with NGOs, local and international governmental organizations and community development organizations. and acquire skills to defuse and de-escalate the devastating conflicts that arise between individuals and groups and to institutionalize sustainable peace.

First: the goals

First, knowledge and understanding

- Analyzing issues related to the reconstruction of communities affected by conflict and disasters.
- Assessing the impact of wars and disasters and their demands on local, national and international actors.
- Understand how conflicts emerge from the bottom-up and move up, the different interventions available at each level to change the way conflicts develop, and how to promote nonviolent approaches to conflict and peacebuilding.
- Understand the analytical and policy literature related to peacebuilding, international governance structures, state building, and the role of key actors and institutions such as NGOs, military and other security actors
- Scholarly draw on the experiences of peace theory, conflict transformation and reconciliation since the end of the Cold War, in a range of examples, including across the Balkans, Cambodia, East Timor,

Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, and the recent and various Arab revolutions.

- Understand how to use anthropological knowledge to develop policy interventions.

Second: Thinking skills

- Understand recovery processes by exploring the dynamics of rebuilding disaster-affected communities

- Critical engagement with relevant literature and the ability to apply theoretical concepts from the literature to empirical examples.

- Critical understanding of the range of social science topics affecting peacebuilding, state building, conflict management, etc. (including political, historical and anthropological understandings of peace and related strategies.

- Evaluation of peace theory, conflict transformation, and policy tools in the context of the recent history of state building.

- Understand the methodological and normative foundations of the possibilities of peaceful, nonviolent construction in post-conflict societies.

- Examine current discussions about the nature of everyday peace and hybrid forms of peace, and related questions about forms of resistance and social mobilization.

- Reviewing a set of approaches to the ethics of conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and the prevention and mitigation of future disasters.

- Understand the trends inherent in conflicts and the duration and different forms of conflict.

Third: practical skills

- Provide learners with the opportunity to participate in reconciliation, conflict resolution, conflict transformation, peace building, and state building theories and practices.

- Dealing with the facts on the ground to build peace and build the state through access to a set of global and regional experiences.

- Develop a range of academic and professional/transferable skills through independent and teamwork.

- Demonstrate analytical and debate skills with peers and teachers through educational programs and class discussions.

- Develop analytical skills and the ability to express ideas orally and in writing.

- Benefit from the concept of peace and implement peacebuilding projects by global, regional, national and local actors, including the United Nations, international financial institutions, development

agencies, donors, international NGOs and local organizations in conflict-affected areas.

- Analyze and evaluate the origins, dynamics, and consequences of conflict within and between groups in diverse types of organizational settings.
- Formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating third party interventions.

Second: the outputs

- Focusing on preparing graduates to enter the labor market and advocates of peaceful social change, which means providing peaceful and creative alternatives to violence.
- Learners' ability to develop coherent arguments about conflict, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.
- Gain cognitive skills capable of presenting logical and effective arguments in written and oral form.
- Ability to pursue an advanced level of independent learning and demonstrate critical judgment.

Engage in theories on social movements, political violence, nonviolent resistance, state formation, military intervention, and transitional justice.

- Understand the social, spatial, economic and political upheavals of everyday life after conflict.
- Identify the main governmental and non-governmental actors that play a role in 'post-conflict' life.
- Dealing decisively with terms such as “post-conflict”, “reconstruction”, “rebuilding” and “reconciliation.”
- Equip learners for employment in many sectors such as international development, conflict prevention, peace building, post-conflict recovery, humanitarian aid and natural resource management.
- Develop, evaluate and apply advanced conflict theories, conflict management practices, and alternative conflict solutions.
- Differentiating between the characteristics of interpersonal, intragroup and intergroup conflicts.
- Apply a systemic approach to analyze the factors that prevent, mitigate, escalate, transform and resolve intergroup, multilateral and multi-stakeholder conflicts in organizational settings.
- Demonstrate advanced problem-solving, facilitation and communication skills relevant to conflict management practice with an emphasis on their application in third-party intervention processes.
- Differentiating between the different divisions of ethnic and religious motives in the conflict.
- Develop practical skills in conflict transformation techniques through mediation, activism, policy, and other peacebuilding activities.

Third: job opportunities

We are expected to see a myriad of job opportunities in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Examples include human rights, social work, journalism, foreign policy, public and civil service fields, media and publishing, teaching and training, and politics. Graduates of the program can work in the following sectors:

- Facilitator of conflict management and resolution in a large organization
- Responsible for international programs in an organization focused on international development, humanitarian aid, or peacebuilding.
- Work relations consultant in a government institution, union or association.
- Conflict Analyst and Conflict Resolution for a public or non-governmental organization.
- Organized local or community conflict resolution.
- Government and foreign institutions
- International Organizations
- Research Centers
- Government or NGOs
- Local Peacebuilders
- Diplomats
- Community Relations Specialists
- Lobbyists

Fourth: General Terms and Conditions

.1This program agrees with the conditions and instructions of the programs of the Deanship of Graduate Studies at the university

.2The majors accepted in this program include all majors after the bachelor's degree, and priority is given to graduates of political science.

Fifth: The duration of the study

A- The minimum period for obtaining a master's degree is four semesters.

B - The maximum limit for obtaining a master's degree is six semesters since the student's enrollment in studies, including the registration of the thesis and the discussion.

Sixth: Remedial courses

A- The student's study plan may include remedial courses of (6-12) credit hours, determined by the department, and approved by the college and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

B- The student must complete the remedial courses during the first and second semesters of his acceptance and study in the program.

Seventh: Requirements for obtaining a master's degree

a. Master's Degree (Thesis Track):(

.1Study and pass successfully with a cumulative average of 75% or more (30) credit hours from the master's program courses, according to the program's approved study plan.

.2Submit a thesis that contributes to increasing scientific and human knowledge, for which (6) credit hours are allocated.

3. Discussing the thesis before the discussion and judging committee, and passing the discussion successfully.

Eighth: The list of awarding degrees to graduates:

A - The College of Graduate Studies grants a master’s degree after fulfilling the requirements for awarding the degree in the Political Science Program - Specialization: Peace Studies, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation.

B - The minimum number of credit hours for graduation is the successful completion of (36) credit hours (30 study hours) and (6 thesis hours).

Ninth: Study plan

The student must successfully study (36) credit hours distributed as follows:

a. Compulsory Courses (21 credit hours).

b. Elective Courses (9 credits).

c. Thesis (6 credit hours)

a. Compulsory Courses (21 credit hours):

Course Name	course number	N.C.H	the classroom
Introduction to conflict Studies and Reconciliation	Pols 6351	3 hours	
Transdisciplinary Research Methodology	Pols 6303	3 hours	
Theories of International Relations	Pols 6327	3 hours	
International Law and Human Rights	Pols 6350	3 hours	
Reconciliation Practices in English	Pols 6353	3 hours	
Seminar in Reconciliation Processes	Pols 6355	3 hours	

Case Studies in Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation	Pols 6354	3 hours	
Total		21 3 hours	

B. Elective requirements (9 credit hours) to be chosen by the student from the following courses:

Course Name	course number	N.C.H	the classroom
Conflict and State Building	Pols 6356	3 hours	
Negotiations Skills	Pols 6361	3 hours	
Mediation in the Middle East Conflicts	Pols 6357	3 hours	
Power and Resistance in Post-Colonial Societies	Pols 6358	3 hours	
Conflict Mapping and Analysis	Pols 6359	3 hours	
Reconciliation with the Self	Pols 6362	3 hours	
Transitional and Restorative Justice	Pols 6360	3 hours	
Total		27 hours	

Tenth: Course Description

Introduction to conflict Studies and Reconciliation Pols 6351

This course is an introductory course in peace studies and reconciliation. It gives students a full explanation, description and analysis of the peace studies and reconciliation. This course provides students with the basic concepts needed to analyse, explain, manage, resolve and prevent social conflict. It will refer to elements in the field of conflict studies including classic works in social sciences and the humanities as well as recent texts in the field. The course will attempt to offer a perspective as inclusive and balanced as possible with regard to the different schools of thought in conflict studies. This course concentrates on the uses to which the concept of reconciliation has been put in the treatment of moral and political issues that arise in the aftermath of wrongdoing and conflict between persons and groups.

Transdisciplinary Research Methodology Pols 6303

This course aims to develop the student's research skills, and includes introducing students to the scientific method, hypotheses and theoretical framework for research. This course also is designed to introduce students to primary data collection tools such as interview, questionnaire, observation and content analysis, and to reach results and generalizations. This course enables students to choose the topic of their thesis, and submitting a detailed master thesis proposal.

Theories of International Relations Pols 6327

This course is designed to define international relations, theoretical approaches to the analysis of international relations and the active forces in those relations.

It focuses also on the most important theories in international relations, such as: realism, liberalism, neoliberalism, constructivism, Marxism, and other major theories in international relations, and deals with theories of power, conflict, international cooperation, and international blocs and alliances.

International Law and Human Rights Pols 6350

The course includes an introduction to international organizations, their development, the scope of the international legal personality of international organizations. The responsibility of international organizations within the scope of international law under their charters, and their responsibilities in accordance with their internal laws.

Contemporary international law, explains the main actors in international law in the past, and the contribution of international law to the resolution of international disputes, and covers issues such as individuals, states and organizations with which international law deals, international duties and responsibilities, treaties, treaty law, diplomatic and consular law, and maritime law, human rights, and the use of armed force.

Reconciliation Practices in English Pols 6353

This course studies political texts in English in the fields and peace and reconciliation.

During the course, students participate in a number of activities and works such as: reading, translation, and writing short research papers in English, with the aim of increasing the student's knowledge of terms, vocabulary and concepts of peace and reconciliation.

Seminar in Reconciliation Processes Pols 6355

The course deals with the concept of national reconciliation and its relationship to reform and civil peace processes and the postulates on which the majority of reconciliation processes are based in global

experiences, and a review of the national reconciliation approach through an awareness of transitional justice, reconciliation committees, compensation, accountability, institutional reform and national dialogue, and a review of reconciliation mediators and civil society actors. Then show the path of national reconciliation and democratic transition.

Case Studies in Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation Pols 6354

This course focuses on lessons learned and the current situation regarding reconciliation and reintegration efforts in some global paradigms. and how to implement the project to promote reconciliation and social and economic reintegration in these experiences. The course describes and analyzes the main features of reconciliation and reintegration efforts to learn lessons in these implemented programs, and attempts to envision a way forward for those programs currently involved in reconciliation and reintegration activities. This course describes the main characteristics and question points about reintegration efforts. It examines the benefits and challenges of a multidisciplinary approach to reconciliation and reintegration programming.

Conflict and State Building Pols 6356

This course provides an introduction to the central theories of conflict, war and peace, and identification of the main concepts and definitions associated with studies of conflict, war and peace. Focusing on the main issues of internal and international affairs, war and peace, and recognizing the relationship between conflict, war and peace and key factors such as systems of governance, trade, economic and national development, moreover, the course focuses on the main factors and mechanisms that cause conflict and enable peace and be able to critically analyze historical and comparative cases of conflict Domestic and international, Arabs and peace.

Negotiation Skills Pols 6361

The course deals with the definition of the concept of negotiation, its characteristics, strategies, skills, recipes for a successful negotiator and its relationship to other concepts, principles of successful negotiation, effective communication skills, persuasion skills, planning, strategic thinking, types of negotiation, bargaining techniques, determining mutual gains, negotiation stages, preparing and planning the negotiation process, and how Dealing with difficulties, choosing the negotiating team, paying attention to cultural characteristics, dealing with the breakdown of the negotiating process, effective negotiations, negotiating styles.

Mediation in the Middle East Conflicts Pals 6357

The course focuses on identifying mediation in the Arab world as one of the methods of conflict management and resolution. Understand the mediation process as one of the tools for implementing the foreign policies of countries, Knowing the mechanisms of mediation and conflict resolution through diplomacy as well as the impact of artificial intelligence and new digital tools in an effort to resolve regional conflicts ,Especially since the Middle East is dominated by models of hybrid states in which official security structures monopolize power, and focus on cultural heritage as part of a new approach to mediation.

Power and Resistance in Post-Colonial Societies Pals Pals 6358

The course focuses on looking beyond the boundaries of traditional international relations. Focusing on questions of resistance and power in the context of identity, subjectivity and modernity, rather than focusing on the behavior of states. and an interest in placing previously marginalized people, places, and identities at the forefront of analysis in relation to questions of international politics. The course reveals the objectives of post-colonial theory and its basic concepts such as discourse, authority, discipline, subjectivity, the state, orientalism and resistance. and an understanding of a variety of key ideas and arguments associated with postcolonial concerns (eg subjectivity, resistance, discipline, sovereignty, violence, self-determination, inequality, justice, development, modernity, and culture). it explained the structural, social, economic, and psychological conditions that fostered the emergence of resistance against a post-colonial state, including the types of power that formed against it and the forms of power that resistance constituted.

Conflict Mapping and Analysis Pals 6359

The course focuses on understanding the true nature of the conflict and examining it from different perspectives. And look at the strategies and plans developed for treatments and solutions. Understand the basic elements of the conflict and its causes, determine the degree of its complexity, and monitor the interests and needs of the conflict parties. The course also focuses on the tools that can be used to assess the different features of a conflict. Learn about the basic approaches to conflict analysis and explain the most important tools in conflict analysis.

Reconciliation with the Self Pals 6362

The course reviews the concept of reconciliation with oneself, the present course explores discrete emotions such as hatred, anger, fear, and hope. Such an approach offers greater specificity regarding the antecedents and effects of different emotions in conflict. Cognitive appraisals and emotional goals can potentially contribute greatly to the understanding of each discrete emotion's unique role in an intergroup conflict setting, The course focuses on reconciliation a powerful means by which to help societies heal after brutal wars and mass atrocities, that the concept reconciliation must also evolve to tackle increasingly complex modern-day conflicts — often related to polarization, inequality and growing mistrust of institutions, The course explains transitional justice and its applications in the conciliatory democratic formula, acknowledgment of error and apology, addressing the repercussions of the past, recognizing the other, and restoring the reconciliation of society with itself after forced displacement, political arrest, financial restrictions and institutional collapse.

Transitional and Restorative Justice Pals 6360

This course considers the applicability of restorative justice literature in the transitional justice arena. and that Transitional justice has similar goals but aims to foster reconciliation between offenders and oppressed groups at the scale of the community and even the nation.

The course focuses on the values of truth, accountability, reparation, reconciliation, conflict resolution and democratic participation” are key for both restorative and transitional justice, which are hoped to promote understanding and healing in the wake of war, colonialism and other forms of violent conflict. and explain that restorative justice models may act as a social catalyst for broader inter-communal reconciliation.