AL-ISTIQLAL UNIVERSITY

Master's Program in Security and Communal Peace Studies

Qualification Profile

University	Al-Istiqlal University, Jericho, Palestine, State of
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Department	Security Science
Duration / Credited hours	4 semesters / 36 credited hours
Qualification level	Master Degree
Mode of Study	Full Time
Language of Instruction	Arabic and English

1. **Program Description**
   Master Program in Security and Communal Peace Studies, is a trans-disciplinary study program, at the level of postgraduate studies dedicated to advance knowledge, research, and practices, on security and peace studies. Through a time duration lasting 4 semesters, the program offers different courses and study themes related to security, peace, and reconciliation; strategy, security policy, security theories, and rule of law. The interrelation between security and communal peace.

2. **Overall objects of the program**
   To advance knowledge and research on security studies in relation with communal peace.
   To contribute to communal peace and rule of law in Palestine as a matters of higher national priority.
   To advocate good security practices in Palestinian security sector including peaceful approaches.

3. **Specific Objectives of the program**
   - To provide students with an in depth knowledge and research in security subjects and to relate them with communal peace.
   - To enable students to have practical experience related to security and communal peace.
   - To advance scientific research on security studies.
   - To contribute to reconciliation studies from security perspective.

4. **The Rationale of the program**
   Palestinian community is widely known as a divided society due to political division in the Palestinian political system between main rival Palestinian streams, Fatah and Hamas. As well, Palestinian communities suffer lack of security and order; Palestinian security forces and police that established by Oslo Agreement of 1994 between PLO and Israel, enjoy limited rule over Palestinian Territories which remained under the Israeli overall control. Despite ongoing training and professionalizing of the Palestinian security, their rule is seriously hindered by Israeli security dominance from one hand and by internal Palestinian community tensions from another. Upon this background, achieving communal peace and rule of law has become a priority in the Palestinian case. As Al-Isiqlal University is a salient educational institution dedicated to security education in Palestine,

communal peace has become one of its main concerns within the security studies domain. Master program in security and communal peace is regarded as an important contribution on this regard; It is expected to provide security sector and other practitioners in the field with qualified staff on the strategic level which are expected to affect Palestinian security policy making that regards communal peace as part of the security policy and practices. As well, the program is expected to engage civil society organisations involved in security sector and justice with qualified staff that may contribute to justice and rule of law.

Finally, the program is expected to advance research on peace and reconciliation studies in relationship with security performance.

5. **Scientific Discipline**

The program is defined as part of security and peace studies albeit it concentrates on internal peace making at the level of society rather than international security. However, the program adopts transdisciplinary approach since it cuts across different scientific disciplines to create a coherent learning model on security and communal peace; fields such as law, sociology, political science and security studies.

6. **Study Plan**

The program is consisted of (36) credited hours which are composed of (27 compulsory CH, including thesis and 9 optional CH). That is additional to pre-requested courses offered from the graduate level for students admitted from out of the discipline.

Courses are disputed as follows:

6.1 Preliminary courses: are usually targets applicants out of the discipline, so as to fill in gap knowledge and / or to systemize basic principles of the program. Applicants identified are expected to obtain one or more of the following courses offered by the relevant faculty from the BA level, as a pre-request;

Course code	Course title	CH	Faculty
HUM31011	Introductory to security science	3	Humanities
HUM33315	Introductory to political science	3	Administration
LAW11011	Introductory to law	3	Law

6.2 Compulsory Courses:

Students are requested to fulfill (27 CH); 21 CH are courses and 6 CH are allocated to the thesis as follows

Course code	Course title	CH	Pre-Request
GS6101	Approaches to Scientific Research	3	
GS6102	Essential Readings in Security	3	
GS6103	Formulating Security Policies in A State	3	Essential Readings in Security (GS6102)
GS6104	Reconciliation Studies and Conflict Transformation	3	Essential Readings in Security (GS6102)
GS6105	Communications in Communal Peace	3	-
GS6106	Civil Conflicts and their Political Reflections	3	
GS6107	Communal Peace and Rule of Law	3	Essential Readings in Security (GS6102)
	Thesis	6	

6.3. **Optional Courses**; Students are requested to fulfill studying of (9 CH) courses from between the following courses:

Course Code	Course Title	HC	Pre-requested
GS6201	Human Security and Communal Peace	3	
GS6202	Transitional Justice	3	
GS6203	Communal Police	3	
GS6204	Security Sector Governance	3	Essential Readings in Security (GS6102)
GS6205	Communal Peace in Palestine	3	
GS6206	Communal Reconciliation in Palestine	3	
GS6207	Palestinian Community and Palestinian National Movement	3	

6.4. Course distribution

First Semester		
GS6102	Essential Readings in Security	3 CH
GS6101	Approaches to Scientific Research	3 CH
	An Optional course	3 CH

Second Semester		
GS6103	Formulating Security Policies in A State	3 CH
GS6104	Reconciliation Studies and Conflict Transformation	3 CH
	An Optional course	3 CH

Third Semester		
GS6107	Communal Peace and Rule of Law	3 CH
GS6106	Civil Conflicts and their Political Reflections	3 CH
	An elective course	3 CH
	Thesis Track 1	3 CH

Fourth Semester		
GS6105	Communications in Communal Peace	3 CH
	Thesis Track 2	3 CH

5. Courses' Description

Course Code	GS6102
Course Title	Essential Readings in Security
Pre-Requested	None
Course Description	The course formulates a conceptual background on security studies including; meaning of security, whose security, levels and pillars of security. In addition, the course provides basic concepts related to security, including strategy, security theories and their reflections

	in international politics, security policy, and security sector.
Outputs	Students are expected to apprehend a full comprehension of security related themes depending on essential readings. Particularly, students are expected to address the concept of security in terms of notion, levels, and applications at the level of the state and community; to highlight the concept of strategy, war, and peace, theories of international relations and their security implications; to address the concept of security policy and security sector. - Students are expected to have practicing on security related applications and modeling.

Course code	GS6106
Course title	Civil Conflicts, Reasons, and Reflections
Pre-requested	
Course description	The course addresses civil – conflicts in terms of their historic development, sources, motivations, and their structural relationship with society and political structure. It shows the possible reflections of ethnic, societal, and tribal divisions on motivating communal tensions on different levels.
Outputs	- Students are expected to have knowledge on civil conflicts within different social/ communal contexts; to apprehend relationship between the fabric of society, its socio- economic and political structure and between the liability of producing social tensions and divisions. - Students are expected to perfume different applications on civil conflicts, to build models and to contextualize communal tensions in the Palestinian arena.
Course code	GS6104
Course title	Reconciliation Studies and Conflict transformation
Pre-requested	**None**

Course description	The course introduces reconciliation as a trans disciplinary approach in social sciences; it highlights the concept of reconciliation and its different aspects. In addition, the course addresses reconciliation as a social and political process and its impact on conflict transformation. Finally, it analyzes reconciliation upon different social and political, internal and external contexts, showing its different applications on the sphere of conflict transformation.
Outputs	- Students are expected to apprehend the meaning of reconciliation; to fully understand its trans disciplinary character, and to grasp its different applications in relation to peace building and stability either in the level of internal and external politics. - Students are expected to relate reconciliation to conflict transformation and peace building, as well as to internal security in a divided society.

Course code	GS6107
Course title	Communal Peace and Rule of Law
Pre-requested	None
Course description	The course introduces for the concept of communal peace; particularly, it's function in the context of transitional communities and in fragile societies, where rule of law is generally weak. In addition, the course shows possible connection between communal peace and law enforcement by showing the role of Para-judiciary formations in achieving justice in such fragile societies.
Course outputs	- Students understand the concept of communal peace. - The students highlights the importance of communal peace in transitional communities.

	- Students discuss mechanisms of communal peace in different fragile – transitional contexts. - Students address interconnection between rule of law and communal peace approaches.

Course code	GS6101
Course title	Research Methodologies
Pre-requested	
Course description	The course provides students with research methodologies in social sciences with particular concentration on transdisciplinary research. It highlights the basics of critical thinking skills, logic and on solving research problems according to descriptive, historical, comparative and case – study approaches. As well students are expected to distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches and their applications in political and security studies.
Outputs	- Students highlight basics of scientific research - Students are able to formulate research problem and building theoretical assumptions. - Students are able to use critical thinking - Students are able to practice scientific research upon transdiciplinary approaches.

Course code	GS6105
Course title	Communication and Communal Peace
Pre-requested	
Course description	The course highlights the role of communication sciences in reconciliation and peace building. It produces the concept of communication, the communication process, and media. It highlights the evolution of communications in the context of

	technological evolution and the developments of mass media ad social media. In addition, it shows their different applications in reconciliation process.
Outputs	- Students have full understanding of communications as a science and as a skill. - Students understand relationship between reconciliation and communications. - Students apply different practices on communications and reconciliation.

Course code	GS6103
Course title	Formulating Security Policies in a State
Pre-requested	Essential readings in security
Course description	The course introduces for security policy in terms of the concept, and the guiding principles of security policy, the importance of formulating security policy in a state. In addition, it shows how state usually applies security policy to deal with internal and external threats. It shows, as well, relationship between security policy and national security policy. Finally, it highlights the components of security policy and the rule of security and civilian institutions in formulating security policy and how to connect security policy with national legislations.
Outputs	- Students understand the meaning of security policy. - Students are able to connects security policy with apprehended security threats. - Students understand the process of building security policy in a democratic context. - Students understand why security policy must be legislated, and how security policy is connected with national legislations. - Students apply the process of building security policies.

Course code	-----

Course title	Thesis
Pre-requested	-----
Course description	Student is asked to presents his dissertation within the discipline of security and communal peace. Scientific and practical outputs are expected to contribute to the objectives of the program.
Outputs	- Students apply scientific research skills - Students demonstrate applied research methodologies within the field of reconciliation and communal peace, - Students apply transdicsiplinary approaches.

Course code	GS6201
Course title	Human Security and Communal Peace
Course description	The course introduces human security in its different political, legal, and economic implications. The course defines the concept of human security and its evolution as a process in the framework of human law, as well as its political implications specially after the end of cold war. It develops human security as a counterpart for national security since human security introduces security as an inclusive value while national security is an exclusive approach. Finally, the course relocates human security as a pillar for development, global peace, and stability.
Outputs	- Students have wide comprehension about human security. - Students understand difference between national security and human security in terms of their different political and economic implications. - Students understand the legal framework of human security. - Students find connection between human

	security and reconciliation and peace making.

Course code	GS6202
Course title	Transitional Justice and Communal Peace
Pre-requested	
Course description	The course introduces transitional justice and its applications in communal peace. the course offers wide discussions on the applications of transitional justice within transitional contexts; the relationship between transitional justice and reconciliation process, how transitional justice, as a legal concept, is possibly applied to advance reconciliation in divided societies.
Course outputs	- Students can define transitional justice - Students are able to connect transitional justice with reconciliation and peace building within society. - Students can implement applications on transitional justice and communal peace.

Course code	GS6203
Course title	Community Police and Communal Peace
Pre-requested	-----
Course description	The course introduces different themes related t community police; the concept, history, function and legal framework. It explores the role of communal police as a bridge that connects community with the police; policing of people and humanizing of the police; the role of community police in maintaining communal peace
Outputs	- Students are able to define communal police - Students are aware of communal police role in community and in achieving security - Students make connection between communal police in reconciliation

Course code	GS6204
Course title	Security Sector Governance
Pre-requested	
Course description	The course offers an in-depth understanding to security sector governance as an intrinsic part of political governance and democratization. It introduces the concept of civil governance on security sector, security sector reform and its imperatives in post conflict situations. The importance of security sector reform in formulating a shared national vision over security; It discusses the different aspects of security governance including legal reforms, and re-building security organizational structures, and the role of civil society in achieving civilian control over security forces. Finally, it connects security sector reform on maintaining communal peace.
Outputs	- Students are aware of the concept of security governance. - Students can define the components of security sector. - Students interrelate security sector reform and civilian control. - Students interrelates security sector governance with communal peace

Course code	GS6205
Course title	Communal Peace in Palestine
Pre-requested	-----
Course description	The course provides students with an in-depth knowledge on communal peace in Palestine. It addresses the importance of communal peace and its imperatives in the Palestinian case. It highlights the challenges of communal peace in Palestine including the impact of Israeli occupation on Palestinian internal relations, how

	occupation hinders rule of law in Palestinian occupied territories; It discusses the role of social structures, committees in achieving communal peace such as reconciliation committees and community traditional leaders.
Outputs	- Students are aware of communal peace situation in Palestine. - Students are aware of challenges against achieving communal peace in Palestine. - Students are aware of the role of reconciliation committees in maintaining rule of law and communal peace

Teaching Methods

Teaching Master in Security and Communal Peace Studies is based on a combination of different teaching methods as follows:

1. Interactive lectures: lectures are delivered according to an interactive manner; asking questions, solving problems, student presentations, and focus groups discussions.

2. Practical learning: in the scope of providing students with skills needed for their security profession, and to increase understanding of the themes offered by the program, teaching of the masters in security and communal peace, depends on practical cases and examples from actual experience. This may include building training models or analyzing cases related to security, rule of law, or communal reconciliation.

3. Co-teaching: practitioners from security sector, politicians, parliaments, as well as specialized academics are welcomed to engage in teaching and training in the program.

4. Mixture between face to face and remote learning; so as to enable partners from out to engage in the program, teaching uses electronic platforms including electronic classes and on-line classes. Electronic platforms are used to enhance learning tactics and to provide learning sources as well.

Student Evaluation and Grading

Teaching of the program follows regulations adopted by Al-Istiqlal University; student evaluation is based on exams, assignments, and student

engagement in the program. The following template is used for teachers' evaluation

Category	Exams		Classwork			Mental skills
	Mid-term	Finals	Assignments	presentations	Class activities	
Proportion	25%	40%	10%	10%	5%	10%