

PSJ Course Descriptions

PSJ 101: Introduction to Peace Studies (BC) 3cr

An interdisciplinary study of the concepts of peace and the interplay of economic, sociological, cultural, ideological and environmental factors since the end of the Cold War. This course familiarizes students with the salient concepts of positive and negative peace, peacemaking and the principles of a culture of peace.

Prereq: ENG 101, 103, 105 and any course coded BC

PSJ 120: Conflict Theory and Mediation (BL) 3 cr

A study of the theories of conflict and conflict styles including how to define issues in mediation, reframing, neutrality and bias, and moving parties to mutually satisfactory resolution. Students explore the role of mediator as a neutral third party who facilitates resolution which is designed by the parties based on their needs. The class includes simulated mediations and has a skills based component.

Prereq: ENG 101, 103, 105

PSJ 220: Peacemaking in Practice: Seminar in Nonviolence and Social Activism (BL) 3 cr

An exploration of the concepts of nonviolence and how individuals use them as a strategy for social change, both past and present. Students study the history of nonviolent movements and actions; the women and men who promote nonviolence; and under what cultural conditions that social change occurs. Students complete a service learning component in the form of a placement or action in the wider peace community.

Prereq: PSJ 101; PSY 214 or concurrent enrollment in PSY 214

PSY 214: Psychology of Peace, Conflict and Violence (BC) 3 cr

A focus on the key concepts of peace psychology: the relationships among violence, social inequalities, peacemaking and the pursuit of social justice. Topics include ethnic conflict, family violence, hate crimes, militarism, conflict management, social justice, nonviolent approaches to peace, and peace education. Students examine systems of violence and systems of peace, Through lectures, discussions, readings, experiential activities, projects, film and dialogue, students study the philosophy of nonviolence, conflict resolutions skills, constructive approaches to human relationships, and develop more complex views of the immediate causes of violence and deeper appreciation for the structural roots of violence.

Prereq: ENG 101,103 or 105; PSY 101