

Religion, Conflict, and Peace Building (REL 235)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In-person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2:00 PM – 4:50 PM)

Instructor: Aurangzeb Haneef

Description:

This course explores the complex relationship between religion and conflict, with a particular focus on the role of religion in fostering and mitigating violent conflict. Through an interdisciplinary approach that draws on the fields of sociology, anthropology, political science, and religious studies, students will critically examine the ways in which religion has been used to justify and perpetuate violent conflict, as well as the ways in which religious beliefs and practices have been used to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation.

The course will begin by exploring the theoretical frameworks and historical contexts that have shaped the study of religion, conflict, and peace studies. Students will then familiarize themselves with basic principles and ideals of some of the selected world religions. They will move on to examining case studies from around the world, including conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and the United States. Through careful analysis of these case studies, students will gain a deep understanding of the various ways in which religion can be both a source of conflict and a potential tool for peacebuilding.

The course will also introduce students to a range of peacebuilding strategies and techniques, including dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution. Students will explore the ways in which these techniques can be applied in religiously diverse contexts by religious leaders, practitioners, scholars, and lay persons.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to reflect critically on their own beliefs and assumptions about religion, conflict, and peacebuilding. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of conflicts that are either religiously motivated or where religion plays an important role, and the potential for religious beliefs and practices to promote peace and reconciliation. They will also have developed the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in constructive dialogue and peacebuilding in religiously diverse contexts.