

## QUALIFICATION AIMS & CONTENT PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

### Module 1: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

#### **Qualification Aims:**

This module aims at giving an introductory overview of Peace and Conflict Studies. The essential basics about the history of ideas and theories of peace as well as of Peace and Conflict Studies are conveyed. Thus students shall be enabled to comprehend different approaches with their respective assumptions and cognitive interests and apply them independently.

#### **Content:**

This module gives an overview of the historic development and the disciplinary contouring of Peace and Conflict Studies. The most important terms – war, conflict, violence and peace – are dealt with. Starting from this, different theoretical approaches in Peace and Conflict Studies are discussed. This includes theories on peace, violence and conflict as well as the presentation of approaches from the social sciences and from international relations. Moreover, the role of gender constructions in peace will be dealt with.

### Module 2: Global and Regional Conflicts

#### **Qualification Aims:**

Students shall be enabled to systematically analyse concrete conflicts. By means of exemplary studies analytic competencies about causes and development of conflict shall be gained. Students shall learn to take into consideration political, economic and cultural dimensions of conflict and shall know how to relate them to each other. Moreover, it shall be made clear that conflicts can be perceived and presented differently.

#### **Content:**

The courses in this module address different forms of conflict. Questions concerning causes, development and dynamics of conflicts will be dealt with. This comprises global conflicts on the one hand, including conflicts that result from the world view and the world order, respectively. It also includes transnational terrorism, questions concerning development and underdevelopment and conflicts about resources and the environment. On the other hand the module looks at regional conflicts. Concrete conflicts from the Euro-Atlantic Region, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as from Asia and Oceania will be analysed.

### **Module 3: Social Science Methodology**

#### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of the module is to impart sound methodological and empirical knowledge to the students which enables them to develop and work on problems and research questions independently. Students shall acquire the competence to develop research concepts and realize them by applying the appropriate methodology.

#### **Content:**

In the courses of this module basic social research methodologies will be taught. Starting with introductory questions regarding theory and practice of social research methodology various methods of data collection, data preparation and data evaluation are presented. Quantitative research techniques (multivariate analyses) as well as qualitative research techniques like content analysis, discourse analysis and case studies will be dealt with and practiced. Moreover, methodological aspects in the research on causes of peace and conflict – with regard to the content of the study course - will be discussed. In this context the advantages and disadvantages of each methodological approach will be demonstrated and discussed.

### **Module 4: Peace through International Law and International Cooperation**

#### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to impart to the students basic and sound knowledge on international law and international co-operations as well as their responsibility for world peace. They shall be enabled to comprehend and analyse problems and possibilities of international co-operation and international law with regard to conflict management and the promotion of peace in a methodologically well-founded and theoretically reflected manner.

#### **Content:**

The courses of this module are dedicated to international law and international co-operation as strategies for conflict management and peace promotion. From a legal perspective, the containment of violence and war and the protection of human rights under international law are in focus. This also includes issues of disarmament and arms control. From a political science perspective, issues of peace and security conceptions of international co-operations are dealt with. A central role with both perspectives plays the United Nations – as the only global peace and security organization – and the conditions for its strengthening and reform.

## **Module 5: State and Peace**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to convey knowledge on the role of the state and its change within the international system with regard to processes of peace and violence. Students shall gain basic and sound knowledge on measures for state building and promotion of democracy as strategies for conflict management and peace promotion. At the same time, they shall learn about the ambivalent role of the state and of statehood.

### **Content:**

The topic of this module is the role of the state and statehood. The courses of this module deal inter alia with the phenomenon of fragile statehood as a cause of conflict and the possibilities for its treatment. This includes counter strategies like the establishment and the strengthening of vital state institutions, e.g. police, judiciary and administration (Security Sector Reform). In this context, the interrelationship between democratization, rule of law and good governance shall be highlighted. Moreover, the strengthening of civil society institutions and actors as a condition and important potential for state building and promotion of democracy is discussed.

## **Module 6: Socio-Economic and Ecological Dimensions of Peace**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to sensitise students for the economic and ecological dimensions of conflicts. They shall be enabled to perceive the effects of the global economy including ecological factors as a cause of structural violence, analyse this methodologically well-founded and theoretically reflected and develop appropriate strategies for conflict management and peace promotion.

### **Content:**

The courses in this module address the challenges of economic systems including their economic and ecological interconnection. Effects of peace policy on the current global economy, aspects of a sustainable development as well as questions of social justice are addressed. In this context, the transformation of economies of war and violence is also treated. Moreover, the possibilities and perspectives of development cooperation are addressed.

## **Module 7: Peace through Mechanisms of Conflict Resolution and Non-Violence**

### **Qualification Aims:**

Students shall acquire basic and sound knowledge on dispute resolution mechanisms and non-violence as strategies for conflict management and peace promotion. The aim is to sensitise students for the characteristics and dynamics of social systems, to improve their communicative competencies and to prepare them for possible professional activities in the framework of international projects. Thereby they shall learn to mediate in concrete – international as well as regional – conflicts.

### **Content:**

The courses in this module give an overview of the different forms of peaceful conflict resolution. Students get acquainted with the modes and methods of negotiation and mediation, e.g. the Transcend Method. Diplomatic and judicial mechanisms of dispute resolution are dealt with. Moreover, strategies of non-violence and methods of peace stabilization after violent conflicts are presented.

## **Module 8: Peace Potentials of Cultures and Religions**

### **Qualification Aims:**

Students shall acquire basic and sound knowledge of the different ways of justifying social norms and reflect upon them. This includes cultural, ethic and religious approaches. The aim is to look at religion not only in connection with violence, but to show especially the peace potentials of religions. This includes the ability to look into ethic and religious dilemmas in a theoretically reflected way.

### **Content:**

The courses in this module deal with cultural, ethic and religious factors and ask for their potentials for conflict management and peace promotion. Different cultural, ethic and religious ideas, theories and concepts are presented and discussed. This includes questions regarding a culture of peace, peace aspects of practical philosophy and political ethics, the Global Ethic Project and peace and conflict potentials in world religions as well as the Just War Theory and the Concept of Just Peace.

## **Module 9: Peace Education and Non-Violent Communication**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to convey to the students basic and sound knowledge on peace education and non-violent communication as strategies for conflict management and peace promotion. They shall be enabled to analyse communication

structures with regard to war, conflict, violence and peace, to expose communicative structures of violence and develop solutions. Furthermore, they shall be enabled to eliminate communicative structures of violence in interpersonal relations, in the social and state realm, and also on an international level.

**Content:**

The courses in this module deal with the essential basics of peace education and peace pedagogy, with the aims and effects of global mass communication and TV journalism and ask for ways for a non-violent communication. Political rhetoric, ethnic, religious and gender categorizations, enemy constructions, scenarios of threat and their instrumentalisation, dealing with violence in the media and strategies for a non-violent communication will be discussed.

**Module 10: Research Project**

**Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to enlarge the theoretic and methodological armamentarium which is required for independent development and treatment of problems and research questions from the area of peace and conflict studies by using a concrete research project. The following competencies shall be expanded:

- ➔ Knowledge on methodological and theoretically well-founded development of research questions and concepts
- ➔ Ability to develop and implement research designs using the appropriate methods
- ➔ Ability to prepare, present and defend the research results

**Content:**

The research project fits in the framework of the MA study course in terms of content and deals with a current topic in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies, which students work on in a team. They shall apply methods of empirical social research, different techniques of data collection and analysis methods and find out about the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches in step with actual practice. The concrete topics of the research projects are geared towards the current research work of the lecturers. Each academic year new research projects are offered.

**Module 11: Internship**

**Qualification Aim:**

The aim of the internship is to allow students deeper insight in possible fields of occupation and activity. They shall become acquainted with the organization and method of operation as well as the requirements and problems in the various institutions. This includes inter alia occupational areas on national and international level in politics and public administration, in social organizations as well as in the

intermediary sector like political parties, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in development cooperation or in conflict management. Students shall get the opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained. Furthermore, they shall develop and strengthen competencies like co-operation, communication and articulation, the ability of persuasion and the sensibility for problems in the workplace.

**Content:**

The internship shall be subject-specific. Students shall experience concrete working conditions and requirements in a relevant occupational field of activity outside the university. In doing this, they shall learn to define and analyse problems and tasks in the workplace on the basis of their hitherto acquired qualifications as well as develop and realize solutions. In terms of content, the internship shall be in close connection with the focus of study of the student. Students have to prepare an internship report.

**Module 12: Final Module**

**Qualification Aims:**

The active participation in the seminar shall enable students to plan Peacebuilding projects and to implement and evaluate them according to scientific and practical criteria. With the Master Thesis students show their ability for independent research. They shall be in a position to comprehend a topic from the area of Peacebuilding in its width and depth, to present and analyse it, and to submit solutions. With the defence the student enters the scientific discourse which shows him/her the relativity of his/her own conviction and of the argumentation perceived as true. The Master Thesis and the defence complete the scientific qualification which the student has gained in the individual modules.

**Content:**

The final module essentially consists of the Master Thesis, a colloquium as well as the defence. In terms of content, the Master Thesis fits in the framework of the modules. Concerning the topic, the Master Thesis can be linked to one of the modules, but it can also go beyond the boundaries of a module. The colloquium serves as a support for the Master Thesis. First research results are presented and discussed there. In terms of content, the defence is linked to the topic of the Master Thesis and serves as the rounding off of the impression gained through the Master Thesis.

## **OR:** Orientation Week

### **Qualification Aims:**

The Orientation Week serves as an introduction to the study course.

### **Content:**

The orientation week includes the following:

- Introduction to the history of EPU and the Peace Center Schlaining Castle
- Guided tour through the campus Schlaining (including Haus International)
- Guided tour through the Peace Library and practical library research
- Visit of the Peace Museum
- Opening Ceremony with subsequent common dinner
- Intercultural Competence (Presentation and Discussion)
- Getting to know each other / Teambuilding I and II (Exercise/Game)
- Introduction to the history of the region (presentation and discussion)
- Presentation of countries by the students I and II
- Lecture on a current topic in Peace Research (with subsequent discussion)
- Lecture on a current topic on Europe (with subsequent discussion)
- Introduction to the study course, study courses offered and the organisation of study

## **EX:** Excursion Week

### **Qualification Aims:**

The excursion week shall visualize and deepen the content of teaching and education.

### **Content:**

In the excursion week it is planned to visit regional, national or international institutions and organisations under scientific guidance and with scientific aim. This can include e.g. visits of the EU in Brussels, the OSCE and the United Nations in Vienna, or visits to embassies.

## **SI:** Simulation Game

### **Qualification Aims:**

Simulation games include role plays and strategic games. They simulate a realistic environment in which the participants can apply their technical, their communicative and their strategic knowledge and test their own behaviour patterns. Participants take

on the roles of political actors in order to learn to see a situation from different perspectives, to evaluate and optimise it.

**Content:**

Starting from a realistic conflict participants take on the roles of major (collective) political actors involved in this conflict and/or playing a major role with regard to conflict management. From their role perspective they pursue certain interests and aims with priority in the conflict. Depending on the development, the person in charge of the game will intervene in an escalating or de-escalating manner in order to present the participants with new tasks and force them to take decisions incessantly – just as it can be in professional life. Two kinds of games are offered: a game on international and diplomatic conflict management and a game on the level of local mediative conflict management.