

# **PSC 4291 - Conflict and Peace Processes in Sri Lanka**

## **Introduction**

Sri Lanka's contemporary politics is dominated by the events and developments connected to the conflict and peace processes. The ethnic conflict, the civil war and armed insurgencies, failed attempts at peace through negotiation, external mediation, political and economic dimensions of both conflict and peace are some of the key dimensions of these processes. Sri Lanka's conflict and peace processes is also the subject of a growing body of academic research and theorizing, particularly in the field of conflict and peace studies. This course is designed to raise the understanding of students of these issues with an exposure to the growing body of academic literature.

## **Objectives**

This course has the following objectives:

- i. To enable students to identify and critically understand the main trends and issues in Sri Lanka's contemporary conflict and peace processes.
- i. To make students aware of the academic literature relating to Sri Lanka's conflict and peace processes and enable them to use the academic analysis in making sense of the different dimensions of the conflict as well as attempts at restoring peace.

## **Course Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will have learnt to:

- i. identify different facets and trajectories of Sri Lanka's contemporary conflict and peace processes,
- ii. apply theoretical concepts in understanding and analyzing some of the key dimensions of Sri Lanka's conflict and peace attempts, and
- iii. relate their own understanding of issues under study to the academic literature in the field.

## **Course Outline**

1. Origin and spread of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka: From protest and mass mobilization to civil war.
2. Attempts at a negotiated settlement and their failures and outcomes
3. Issues of negotiation, third party-mediation and external actors.
4. Conflict management, peace-building and economic development.

5. Ethnic conflict and state reform: possibilities and limits.
6. Militarization of ethnic conflict and its consequences.
7. Women, children and the conflict.

## Method of Evaluation

Mid-term Test	15%
Assignments	15%
Final Examination	60%
Class Attendance and Participation	15%

## Recommended Reading

De Mel, Neloufer, 2007, *Militarizing Sri Lanka: Popular Culture, Memory and Narrative in the Armed Conflict*, New Delhi: SAGE.

De Silva, K. M. 1999, *Reaping the Whirlwind: Ethnic Politics in Sri Lanka*, Bombay: Penguin India.

Lederach, Jaohn Paul, 1994, *Building Peace – Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*, Tokyo: UN University Press.

Loganatha, Ketesh, 1995, *Sri Lanka: Lost Opportunities, Past Attempts at resolving the Ethnic Conflict*, Colombo, University of Colombo: CEPRA.

Rupesinghe, Kumar (Ed.), 2006, *Negotiating Peace in Sri Lanka: Efforts, Failures and Lessons, 2 Volumes*, Colombo: Foundation for Co-Existence.

Shanmugaratnam, N (Ed.), 2008, *Between War and Peace in Sudan and Sri Lanka*, Oxford: James Currey.

Uyangoda, Jayadeva, (Ed.), 2005, *Conflict, Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building, An Introduction to Theories and Practices*, Colombo: University of Colombo.

Uyangoda, Jayadeva, 2007, *Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka: Changing Dynamics*, Washington DC: East-West Center.

Winslow, Deborah and Michael D. Woost (Eds.), 2004, *Economy, Culture and Civil War in Sri Lanka*, Bloomington: Indian University Press.

Zartman, William, (Ed.), 1996, *Elusive Peace: Negotiating an End to Civil Wars*, Washington DC: US Institute of Peace.