**Miyazaki International College**

**Autumn 2021**

**Course Syllabus**

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| Course Title (Credits) | | ID307 Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution (3 credits) | |
| Course Designation for TC | | N/A | |
| Time and Location | | Mondays & Wednesdays 09:05 – 10:35 | |
| **Content Teacher** | | | |
| Instructor | | Atsushi Yasutomi, Ph.D. (実務経験のある教員) | |
| Email address | | ayasutomi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp | |
| Office/Ext | | MIC 1-328/ Ext. | |
| Office hours | | Tuesdays 13:00 – 17:15 | |
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| **Course Description** | | | |
| This course offers students an opportunity to learn theories and practical skills in Conflict Resolution/Transformation. The fundamental objective of the course is to make students realize that human conflict at a variety of levels--from inter-personal to inter-national ones--can be resolved without violence or at least transformed in the way in which a given conflict will not evolve to take a violent form. Students who take this course will learn theories and skills in an active learning environment--through simulations, role-plays etc. -- and will be encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills in their own lives. | | | |
| **Course Goals/Objectives** | | | |
| This course consists of two parts. Part I provides students with opportunities to be familiar with the past and current armed conflicts in the world. This part also discusses important issues related to international conflicts, such as child soldiers and religions in conflicts. Part II examines key concepts of conflict resolution, including mediation, reconciliation, DDR, and community policing.  Students will gain a familiarity with the basic knowledge, concepts, and theories in the areas of conflict resolution. In the end of the class, students will be able to critically discuss and analyse key issues and challenges of conflict resolution. Students therefore should accomplish these objectives with a focus on developing their critical thinking and communication skills.  Students’ Communication and Critical Thinking Skill Objectives  1) Students should try to improve the following communication skills this semester:  Write and speak with clarity (communicate without ambiguity or confusion)  Write and speak with precision (communicate in deﬁnite and exact terms)  Write and speak with depth (communicate complex issues effectively)  2) Students should try to improve the following critical thinking skills this semester:  Identify salient information  Determine underlying presumptions or presuppositions  Evaluate conclusions from premises  Avoid fallacies - authority, expertise, straw man, etc.  Ask the right questions to understand a problem  Categorize appropriately  Evaluate the effects of conclusions/judgments on different parties (moral imagination)  Develop a new way to solve an old problem | | | |
| **Course Schedule** | | | |
| **Session #** | **Topic** | | **Content** |
| 1  Wed, 10/2 | Syllabus & Course Introduction | | - Self-introduction / icebreaking  - Explaining the course structure, class requirements, examinations, etc.  - Students will be familiar with the territories, countries, and regions in conflict, and learn brief historical, geographical, and cultural backgrounds of the conflicts in the world |
| 2  Mon, 10/7 | ***Part I: Conflict and War studies***  I-1. What is conflict, what is war, what is peace, and what is conflict resolution? | | - Lecture: Definitions of the terms  - Activity 1: Terminology learning  - Activity 2: Different forms of violence |
| 3  Wed, 10/9 | I-2. Conflict analysis | | - Activity: Quarrel analysis  - Discussions: What causes conflicts? |
| 4  Wed, 10/16 | I-3. Conflicts in the world | | Activity: Creating conflict maps 1) |
| 5  Wed, 10/23 | I-4. Conflicts in the world | | Activity: Creating conflict maps 2) |
| 6  Mon, 10/28 | **I-5. Presentations** | | Activity: Presentation and evaluation |
| 7  Wed, 10/30 | I.6. Theories 1 | | Lecture: Conflict between states |
| 8  Wed, 11/6 | I.6. Theories 2 | | Lecture: Civil wars, new wars |
| 9  Mon, 11/11  (substituted) | I-7. Child soldiers in international conflicts 1) | | - Film |
| 10  Wed, 11/13 | I-8. Child soldiers in international conflicts 2) | | - Continuation of Session 9  - Group discussion  - Lecture: child soldiers |
| 11  Mon, 11/18 | I-6. Terrorism and international conflicts | | - Terrorisms in the world and international conflicts  - Group discussion |
| 12  Wed, 11/20 | I-7. Religions in international conflicts 1) | | - Activity: religions in the world |
| 13  Thu, 11/21 | I-7. Religions in international conflicts 2) | | - Lecture: religions and conflicts in the world |
| 14  Mon, 11/25 | Quiz #1 | | - Review sessions 1-13  - Quiz #1 |
| 15  Wed, 11/27 | ***Part II: Peace studies***  II-1. What is peace? What is peace studies? | | - Activity: What is peace?  - Lecture: What is peace? What is peace studies? |
| 16  Mon, 12/2 | II-2. Holocaust | | - Lecture: |
| 17  Wed, 12/4 | II-3. Hiroshima and Nagasaki | | - Lecture: |
| 18  Mon, 12/9 | II-4. Refugees | | - Responsibilities and roles of UNPKO  - Group discussion |
| 19  Wed, 12/11 | II-5. Development and peace | | - Lecture: Development & Peace |
| 20  Mon, 12/16 | II-6. Development and peace | | Responsibility to Protect (R2P)  - Group discussion |
| 21  Wed, 12/18 | II-7. Gender and peace | | - Early warning  - Group discussion |
| 22  Mon, 12/23 | II-8. Review and quiz#2 | | - Review Part II  - Quiz #2 |
| 23  Mon, 1/6 | Review and **Quiz (II-1 to II-4)** | | - Review and **Quiz (II-1 to II-4)** |
| 24  Wed, 1/8 | ***Part III Conflict Resolution***  III-1. UN and conflict resolution -1 | | - Basics of the United Nations |
| 25  Wed, 1/15 | III-2. UN and conflict resolution -2 | | - UN Peacekeeping Operations -2 |
| 26  Mon, 1/20 | III-3. UN and conflict resolution -3 | | - UN Peacekeeping Operations -3 |
| 27  Wed, 1/22 | III-4. DDR -1 | | - Disarmament |
| 28  Mon, 1/27 | III-5. DDR -1 | | - Demobilisation |
| 29  Wed, 1/29 | III-6. DDR -1 | | - Reintegration |
| 30  Mon, 2/3 | III-7. Reconciliation | | - Lecture: Reconciliation |
| EXAM  WEEK | **Final Exam** | | Final Exam |
| **Required Materials** | | | |
| Students will not be required to purchase a specific textbook. We will work from a number of handouts to be distributed during the class. | | | |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** | | | |
| Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students with ﬁve unexcused absences risk failing the course and will be asked to withdraw. Excusing absences is the prerogative of the instructor. Students must notify the instructor of their absences before the start of class and provide college-approved documentation. Attendance is not part of the grade for this class. Participation is part of the grade, and students must attend class to participate.  Assignment Deadlines: Students must turn in assignments on the due date. Students with an ‘excused absence’ on the due date should submit assignments on the due date via email unless granted an extension by the instructor. All late submissions of assignments that are not approved by the instructor will be penalized by minus 5% per day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays).  Academic Integrity: MIC’s Academic Honesty policy prohibits cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. The Bulletin and Handbook of Student Information explains this policy. Students should understand it and ask the instructor if they have any questions. Violating the Academic Honesty can result in losing all credit (0%) for an assignment, being asked to withdraw from the course, or other appropriate actions. | | | |
| **Student Preparation & Review Time** | | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing and doing homework. Therefore, because we meet for 90 minutes per week, you should be doing at least 180 minutes preparing and reviewing each week. In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | | | |
| **Grades and Grading** | | | |
| 25% Participation in discussions  25% Presentations  25% Quizzes  25% Mid-term and Final examinations  The grading system at MIC is as follows:   * A (Excellent) 90-100% * B (Above average) 80-89% * C (Average) 70-79% * D (Below average) 60-69% * F (Fail) 59% or less | | | |
| **Methods of Feedback** | | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comment, rubric, etc. | | | |
| **Diploma Policy Standards Satisfied by Course Objectives** | | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):  1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)  2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations  3. The ability to identify and solve problems  4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English  5. Proficiency in the use of information technology | | | |

