Peace and Conflict in the Middle East & Beyond

Spend your summer in London and Amman exploring the process of peace and the sensitive cultural and societal roots of conflict. Your program will begin in the U.K. by studying peace and conflict theory, using Northern Ireland as a case study for beginning to understand how those theories translate to Middle Eastern issues. Once in Amman, use your new understanding of peace and conflict to examine how the Arab/Israeli conflict; regional conflicts such as those in Lebanon, Yemen or Iraq; and tribal conflicts are being addressed.

London
The Life Cycle of Peace and Conflict: Lessons Learned in Northern Ireland
As a formal imperial power, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a nation intimately tied to the Northern Ireland conflict, the United Kingdom offers a unique perspective from which to study conflict at several levels. London’s vast political and cultural resources will be used to explore conflict development and transformation, the nature of political leadership in conflict, and the significance of “memory” in conflict.

Using Northern Ireland as a case study, students will examine burning issues in contemporary conflict resolution and raise questions to be addressed in Amman during the second half of the program.

Faculty
Dr. Paul Arthur [Program Director]
A preeminent scholar and practitioner in international conflict resolution, Dr. Arthur is a Professor of Politics and former Director of the Graduate Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster.

Study Tours & Excursions
In London, visits to Parliament and roundtable discussions with prominent politicians involved in the Northern Ireland peace process contextualize class lectures.

A three-day excursion to Derry and Belfast, Northern Ireland will allow students to explore the historical epicenter of conflict in Ireland, with lectures on the University of Ulster campus, visits to the Bloody Sunday museum, and guest speakers from individuals intimately involved in the peace and conflict process.
Amman
Conflict Resolution and Management: Beyond The Arab-Israeli Conflict

In order to understand Middle Eastern politics, an understanding of Arab culture and societal organization is essential. Intra-Arab conflicts play key roles in determining the regional political scene. Students should emerge from this course with a multi-faceted understanding of peace and conflict in the region.

Specifically, this course will address the impact of cultural and societal factors on conflict resolution and management, focusing on case studies across the Middle Eastern region. The well-publicized Arab-Israeli conflict will be addressed from multiple perspectives by experts with direct negotiation experience. Alternative dispute resolution techniques used in some inter- and intra-tribal conflicts will be examined, as well as some of the lesser-known but critical conflicts in Lebanon, Yemen or Iraq.

Faculty
Dr. Zaid Eyadat
Dr. Eyadat is an associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Jordan and the chairperson of the Human Rights and Human Development department.

Study Tours & Excursions Once in Amman, students will see the historical and contemporary sides of the capital on a city tour.

Students then explore the ancient Nabataean site at Petra, followed by a visit to Wadi Rum and the mountains where Lawrence of Arabia was active.

Students visit Madaba and the Church of St. George, the Baptism site at Bethany on the Jordan River, Mt. Nebo where Moses looked down upon the promised land, and the Dead Sea to learn about the region's significance in the culture and politics of Jordan.

As students travel through Northern Jordan to the ruins of Ajlun and Jerash, they learn about Arab military architecture the influence of ancient Roman society and architecture in one of the best preserved Roman sites in the world.