

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:
Minor

Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

Objectives

Since the end of World War II, peace, conflict, and coexistence studies has emerged as an interdisciplinary area of inquiry drawing on social science, the humanities, the creative arts, and science in efforts to understand reasons for war and possible ways of resolving conflicts without resorting to violence. In the last few years, for many people the primary focus of inquiry is shifting from the Cold War and the nuclear threat to conflict resolution in small and large contexts. Along with the larger goal of ending war altogether, the Brandeis program reflects this tendency.

This is a time to examine the many meanings of "security," to investigate the nature of power and political participation and to develop ideas and ways of addressing conflicts that honor the integrity of all parties involved. This is a time, in other words, to learn alternatives to violence and a time to learn the ways of disarmament and ending of war.

How to Become a Minor

Students who wish to take peace, conflict, and coexistence studies (PAX) as a minor in addition to their major can construct an individually tailored minor in consultation with program advisors on the peace, conflict, and coexistence studies committee.

Committee

Gordon Fellman, Chair
(Sociology)

Seyom Brown
(Politics)

Steven Burg
(Politics)

Cynthia Cohen
(International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life)

David Cunningham
(Sociology)

Judith Eissenberg
(Music)

Reuven Kimelman
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Robert Lange
(Physics)

Richard Parmentier
(Anthropology)

John Schrecker
(History)

Andreas Teuber
(Philosophy)

Daniel Terris
(American Studies)

Dessima Williams
(Sociology)

Requirements for the Minor

Students are to take six required courses, configured this way:

A. Two core requirements (comprehensive course or project).

1. SOC 119a (War and Possibilities of Peace).
2. *Either* PAX 92a/b (Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies) *or* a senior honors thesis.

The internship consists of at least 10 hours a week in a social change organization in the greater Boston area or, if the student is abroad, an appropriate equivalent. The intern is supervised by a PAX professor or staff person, keeps a daily journal, presents and does the reading of a bibliography on the topic of the internship and its larger framework, and writes a paper of 15-20 pages at the end of the internship. The student is expected to meet weekly or biweekly with the supervisor and to email weekly or biweekly if doing the work abroad. Internships are organized around, but not limited to, those we find through the Hiatt Career Center.

The senior thesis is undertaken in the student's major, on a topic central to peace, conflict, and coexistence studies. With the department's permission, a member of the PAX Faculty Committee will serve on and represent the PAX Program on the thesis committee.

B. Two or more core electives: At least two courses (and up to four) from this list. Core electives must be taken in at least two different departments.

Core electives include courses that offer critical analyses of violence and nonviolence and that consider information, ideas, and examples of productive ways of resisting violence and working toward peace and justice (what in the peace studies field is called "positive peace," as distinct from "negative peace," which is the absence of war but not of conditions that appear to lead to war). These courses offer perspectives on major institutions and possible alternatives, explore some strategies for change, and encourage students to envision and work toward a world based more on positive peace than on negative peace or war.

C. Maximum of two related electives: No more than two courses from this list can count to meet requirements for the minor, and they must be taken in different departments.

These courses relate directly or indirectly to international, domestic, organizational, intergroup, interpersonal, or personal conflict and also include consideration of perspectives that promote understanding, reconciliation, and transformation. They need not focus on violence and nonviolence, positive peace, or encouraging students to envision positive peace. Students may apply courses from the "core electives" list that they have not taken to fulfill core requirements to this requirement.

D. Students are urged to take at least one course from a school other than social science to fulfill their PAX requirements.

E. Students may petition the PAX Committee for special consideration of courses not listed here that the student wishes to propose as appropriate for her/his PAX minor.

Courses of Instruction

PAX 92a Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

Usually offered every year.
Staff

PAX 92b Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

Usually offered every year.
Staff

PAX 110a International Nonviolent Initiatives

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Explores the potential of nonviolent struggle and related efforts to reduce violence worldwide. The sociological mechanisms and ethical outlooks of forms of "nonviolence" are studied, as well as the workings of "people power" on five continents.

Staff

PAX 186a Introduction to Intercommunal Coexistence

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Required for students selected as Ethics and Coexistence Fellows.

Investigates the emerging field of intercommunal coexistence, partly through case studies, and by analyzing "coexistence," "tolerance," "reconciliation," and related concepts.

Investigates methods of intercommunal work, including encounter, dialogue, activism, and the arts. Considers tensions between coexistence and values of equity and justice. Usually offered every spring.
Ms. Cohen

Core Courses
PAX 92a

Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

PAX 92b

Internship in Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

SOC 119a

War and Possibilities of Peace

Core Elective Courses
ENVS 15a

Reason to Hope: Managing the Global Commons for Peace

LGLS 130a

Conflict Analysis and Intervention

PAX 110a

International Nonviolent Initiatives

PAX 186a

Introduction to Intercommunal Coexistence

PHIL 19a

Human Rights

PHIL 111a

What is Justice?

POL 127b

Seminar: Managing Ethnic Conflict

POL 161b

Causes and Prevention of War

POL 163a

Seminar: Human Rights and International Relations

SOC 112b

Social Class and Social Change

SOC 153a

The Sociology of Empowerment

WMGS 5a

Women and Gender in Culture and Society

Related Elective Courses
AAAS 60a

Economics of Third World Hunger

AAAS 80a

Economy and Society in Africa

AAAS 123a

Third World Ideologies

AAAS 126b

Political Economy of the Third World

AMST 175a

Violence (and Nonviolence) in American Culture

ANTH 139b

Language, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

BIOL 17b

Conservation Biology

BISC 2a

Human Reproduction, Population Explosion, Global Consequences

BUS 70a

Business in the Global Economy

ECON 57a

Environmental Economics

HIST 139b

Fascism East and West

HIST 186b

War in Vietnam

LGLS 120a

Sex Discrimination and the Law

LGLS 124b

International Law and Development

LGLS 125b

International Law and Organizations

NEJS 189a

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

PHIL 20a

Social and Political Philosophy: Democracy and Disobedience

POL 15a

Introduction to International Relations

POL 127a

Ending Deadly Conflict

POL 144a

Latin American Politics I

POL 144b

Latin American Politics II

POL 178a

Seminar: International Politics of the Pacific

SOC 107a

Global Apartheid and Global Social Movements

SOC 157a

Sociology of the Israeli-Palestinian Confrontation