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PEACE & CONFLICT “FRED C. CUNY” Summer Program 2024

Frederick C. Cuny Center for Peace & Conflict Studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology – Kosovo Campus

Named after humanitarian and disaster relief specialist Frederick C. Cuny, the Fred C. Cuny Center for Peace and Conflict Studies provides an academic and multidisciplinary platform for studying and teaching the causes, practices, and consequences of war and political violence, as well the methods of conflict management and conflict resolution. The research undertaken by the Center helps academics, governments, practitioners, and civil society to understand the multifaceted nature of conflict, assist in the formulation of policies that effectively manage and resolve conflicts, and advise on international peacekeeping and state-building efforts. It is the Center's vision to bring understanding, reconciliation, and transformation to communities across the globe through the development of tomorrow's humanitarian leaders.

Frederick C. Cuny Peace & Conflict Summer Program

The Summer Program is a premier international leadership and peace-building seminar taught by renowned practitioners and academics who have hands-on experience in the United Nations, national governments and militaries, humanitarian organizations, and the private sector. Undergraduate and graduate students are offered courses on war, diplomacy, state-building, peacekeeping, conflict transformation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, post-conflict and transitional justice, international human rights, and development economics. This program will equip students with the necessary skills from a practitioner's perspective for careers in government, international organizations, think tanks, and academia. The Summer Program's courses are accredited by the Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo (RIT Kosovo).

Program Overview

For all who are interested in peace and conflict studies, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, human rights and international criminal justice, and who envisage a career in international affairs.

Practical Skills for future leaders:

- Political reporting, policy analysis and planning
- Managing peace-keeping operations
- Ethical dimensions of decision making in peace operation
- Negotiating outcomes and employing
- International criminal and humanitarian law
- Role-playing based on real-world examples

I. Human Rights, Transitional Justice, International Law

27 May 2024 – 21 June 2024

Regional Trip

24 June 2024 – 29 June 2024 Regional Trip

II. Peacekeeping and Conflict Management

1 July 2024 – 26 July 2024

Internships

July, 2024 & August, 2024





WHAT MAKES THE SUMMER PROGRAM UNIQUE?

- **Regional Travel:** The programs include a joint, one-week study tour to Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where students learn about the region and its history by meeting local stakeholders and activists and visiting historical and recreational areas.
- **Live What You Are Learning:** Kosovo is a 'living laboratory' of history and state-building in the heart of the Balkans and an ideal location to explore the origin and resolution of armed conflict and mass atrocities, reconstruction, international peacekeeping, institution-building, justice, and reconciliation efforts at the end of wars.
- **Practitioner-Focused and Mentorship Based:** Courses are taught by senior civilian and military officials, NGO activists, and academics with hands-on experience in the Balkans, Eurasia, the Middle East, and elsewhere. The staff function not just as instructors but as mentors invested in your professional development as a leader in international affairs.
- **Professional Exposure:** Meet senior government officials, activists, and officials from diplomatic and international missions.
- **Critical Thinking Application:** Engage in stimulating discussions via informal afternoon seminars on current issues and participate in workshops and simulations of peacekeeping operations and reconciliation efforts.

Courses:

Part I

I. Human Rights, Transitional Justice, International Law

POLS-330 Human Rights in Global Perspective

This course explores the theoretical meaning, both domestically and internationally, and the institutional and political aspects of human rights. Issues covered include the definition of human rights; the relationship between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights; the meaning and impact of humanitarian and international human rights law; the impact of cultural relativism in the definition and assessment of the promotion and protection of human rights; the significance of different religious perspectives; the question of the legitimacy of humanitarian interventions and the effects of globalization on human rights perceptions and practices. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

POLS-325 International Law and Organizations

The study of international law and organizations is the study of international cooperation and governance. The course will cover a variety of theoretical and substantive topics including the theories of international law and organizations, the historical development of international organizations, how these organizations work in practice, and whether they are effective. Emphasis will be placed on the United Nations and the role and usefulness of nongovernmental organizations in international organization. Several of the substantive issues discussed are interstate violence and attempts to address humanitarian concerns, globalizations, and the environment. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

ANTH-345 Genocide and Transitional Justice

Students will assess the destruction and survival of societies, from the 19th century slaughter of Native Americans and Amazonian Indians to more recent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, the Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China. Students will consider similarities and differences in the social experiences of mass violence, and the ethics of protecting particular identity-based groups, and not others, in international, national and local laws. Students will become familiar with multiple inter-related justice systems, for instance, the International Criminal Court, national and United Nations-backed tribunals, and local justice systems such as the Rwandan Gacaca courts. Recent developments in legal ethics and international law will enable students to see how public sentiments, legal advocacy and other social, political processes facilitate enhanced protections for the world's most vulnerable people. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

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II. Peacekeeping and Conflict Management

POLS-541 Peacekeeping and Conflict Transformation

This course will provide an introduction to the dynamics of post war stabilization and reconstruction. It will address the complexities of the transformation from war to peace, including interdependent politics, security, legal and economic elements. Students will discuss these patterns in the cases in Eurasia, the Middle East and Africa. Students will learn about analysis, planning, operations, and reporting used in national and multilateral agencies. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

***This class is also offered to graduate students as POLS 641**

POLS-542 War, Diplomacy, and State-Building

This course will explore the process by which states disintegrate and fail, the armed conflicts that follow, and international peacekeeping and subsequent efforts to build institutions at the end of armed conflicts. It will consider cases that might include the wars of Yugoslav Succession, conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Syria and others. Students will consider the role of domestic and international actors, such as NATO, the US Government, the UN, and others. They will explore these efforts in readings, class discussion, debates, presentation of research, and roleplaying exercises. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

***This class is also offered to graduate students as POLS 642**

POLS-445 Terrorism and Political Violence

This course examines the causes, methods, and responses of non-state groups attempting to establish new political orders. The combined use of violence with the tactic of terror distinguishes these groups from others seeking political change. Special attention will be given to national and international efforts attempting to resolve such conflicts. Lecture 3, **(Credits 3)**

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Internships

Students will have the opportunity to complete internships with international and local government and non-government institutions. Internships can have a duration of 2 to 4 weeks depending on the student's choice. Internships will be offered after completion of the program selected by the student, i.e. in July or August.



Language Courses

Students will be offered courses in Albanian and Serbian language throughout the program.

Fees

Part I or II: EUR4000

Part I or II (internship included): EUR4500

Part I and II: EUR7000

Part I and II (internship included): EUR7500

Package:

- Part I or II: 6 transferable credits (two courses) from the Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- Part I and II: 12 transferable credits (four courses) from the Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- Regional Study Tours: Seven days around Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Two days cultural visit in Kosovo
- Seminars and workshops
- Basic Course in Albanian and Serbian Language (15 hours)

Accommodation, meals and other expenses

- RIT Kosovo campus dorm
- Meals are provided from Monday to Friday at the RIT Kosovo canteen
- Bus ticket for Prishtina
- Phone card

*** If students would want to take a third course the total cost for an extra course is 1100 EUR.**

Core Instructors

Ted Ginsberg
Bernard Nikaj
Mentor Nimani
Robert Muharremi
Geoffrey Nice
Jock Covey
Mike Hess
Louis Sell
Chris Coleman
Lulzim Peci
Leandrit Mehmeti

Summer Program Team

Robert Muharremi – Program Director
Lindita Bicaj – Faculty Office Manager
Gerta Ymeri – Program Coordinator

Contact

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