



INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Course Syllabus

**Ethnoconflictology**  
**(Cultural Anthropology of Conflict)**

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**Course description**

**1. Prerequisites**

There are not mandatory prerequisites, but knowledge of basics of philosophy, contemporary history and political science is preferable.

**2. Course Type**

Elective.

**3. Abstract**

The aim of this course is to make students familiar with the major concepts, theories, and debates in Ethnoconflictology – the study of conflictive situations and the appropriate cultural methods of resolving them from an anthropological perspective. Conflict may perhaps be viewed as one of the most intriguing and complex cultural events there exist. It is believed that ethnic conflict is the oldest form of social conflict, and that in fact other types of conflict play only a secondary role.

The present course covers the main theoretical concepts of Ethnoconflictology, discusses sources and dynamics of ethnic conflicts, their typology, strategies of conflict reduction and resolution, and ways to heal the society in the post-conflict period. It exposes students to contemporary advanced theoretical approaches to ethnic identity, conflict, and conciliation in a number of specific situations in the contemporary world. The central theme throughout the course is the role of identity in conflict processes and structures

The course is intended for students wishing to pursue the study of the processes and consequences of ethnic conflict and violence, and of peacemaking and conciliation in the contemporary world. It will be of interest to those with experience in, or considering a career in conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian relief and conciliation, as well as to those concerned with general representation of conflict and responses to it.

**Learning objectives**

The present course is designed

- to make students familiar with the major concepts, theories, and debates in Ethnoconflictology;
- to develop and/or foster the ability to critically review published research outcomes, which are based on contemporary research and global best practices in Ethnoconflictology.

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will have mastered the key ideas, concepts and theories of Ethnoconflictology. They will also have developed logical skills that will allow them to build arguments to discuss and analyze issues related to conflicts.

The competences expected by the end of the course:

Code (RUS)	Code (ENG)	Competence description
CK-1	SC-1	Ability to analyze acquired research methods and interpret the results of the research

<b>CK-6</b>	<b>SC-6</b>	Ability to analyze, verify and assess information, synthesize any lacking details and work in uncertain conditions
<b>CK-3</b>	<b>SC-3</b>	Ability to learn new research methods and approaches on his/her own, to evolve professionally
<b>CK-8</b>	<b>SC-8</b>	Ability to carry out research and other professional activities in an international environment
<b>PK-3</b>	<b>PC-3</b>	Ability to freely use foreign languages for professional communication
<b>PK-4</b>	<b>PC-4</b>	Ability to communicate effectively with different audiences, to deliver her/his message clearly and to tailor it depending on the audience's age, education, attitude to the speaker, etc.
<b>PK-5</b>	<b>PC-5</b>	Ability to report the work results and present them according to required standards

### Course plan

<b>№</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Academic hours</b>	<b>Seminars</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Ethnoconflictology</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Main Theoretical Concepts of Ethnoconflictology. Ethnic Identity, Culture, and Conflict.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Ethnic Conflicts: Genesis and Dynamics</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Classification of Ethnic Conflicts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Approaches to Ethnic Conflict Analysis</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Regulation of Ethnic Conflict: Strategies and Methods</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conflict Resolution Mechanisms</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Post-conflict Conciliation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>

#### **1. Introduction to Ethnoconflictology**

Ethnoconflictology as a subfield of Anthropology. Ethnoconflictology and Conflictology (Conflict Resolution). Evolution of Ethnoconflictology. Subject and object of Ethnoconflictology. Structure of the discipline.

#### **2. Main Theoretical Concepts of Ethnoconflictology**

Ethnicity, ethnic group and nation. Problems of definition and relevant theories. Interethnic relations. Culture and conflict. Theoretical concepts of Ethnoconflictology.

#### **3. Ethnic Conflicts: Genesis and Dynamics**

Socio-cultural, political, economic root causes and contexts. Specifics of ethnic conflict. Functions, forms and mechanisms of ethnic conflict. Stages of development. Ethnic conflicts in the modern world.

#### **4. Classification of Ethnic Conflicts**

Problems of classification. Ethnic conflicts and other types of conflict. Cultural and ethnic factors in non-ethnic conflicts. Genocide and ethnic cleansing. Specifics of secessionist conflicts.

#### **5. Approaches to Ethnic Conflict Analysis**

Theories of conflict analysis from various disciplines. An anthropological perspective and synthesis. Key criteria and indicators.

## **6. Regulation of Ethnic Conflict: Strategies and Methods**

Problems of conflict management. Principles of conflict management. Conflict prevention. Promotion of tolerance.

## **7. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms**

De-escalation, peacemaking and peacekeeping. Coercion, consensus, violence, power sharing schemes. Integrated approaches. Negotiations. Tracks of diplomacy. Arbitration and mediation.

## **8. Post-conflict Conciliation**

Sustainability of peace. Aims and priorities of post-conflict political, economic, social reconstruction.

### **Required reading list**

1. Crawford B., Lipschutz R. D. The Myth of "Ethnic Conflict": Politics, Economics, and "Cultural" Violence // Research Series, 1998. (532 p)
2. Regmi R. Ethnicity and identity // Occasional papers in sociology and anthropology. – 2003. – T. 8. – P. 1-11.
3. Hutchinson J. Nations as Zones of Conflict. – Sage, 2005. (193 p)
4. Horowitz D. Ethnic Groups in Conflict. – Berkley, etc., 1985. (679 p)
5. De Waal A. Tragedy in Darfur // posted on Sudan Tribune website. – 2004.
6. McGarry J., O'Leary B. The political regulation of national and ethnic conflict //Parliamentary Affairs. – 1994. – Vol. 47. – P. 94-115.
7. LeVine R. A. Anthropology and the Study of Conflict: an Introduction. – 1961. (15 p)
8. Ross M. H. Cultural Contestation in Ethnic Conflict. – Cambridge University Press, 2007. (327 p)
9. Schmidt B., Schröder I. (ed.). Anthropology of Violence and Conflict. – Psychology Press, 2001. (223 p)
10. Anderson B. Imagined communities: Reflections on the growth and spread of nationalism //New York and London: Verso. – 1983. (240 p)
11. Gurr T. R. Minorities at risk - a global view of ethnopolitical conflicts // United States Institute of Peace Press. – 1993. (448 p)

### **Recommended reading**

1. Ferguson R. B. Introduction: Violent conflict and control of the state // The State, Identity and Violence. – Routledge, 2002. – P. 1-58.
2. Beeman W. O. The great Satan vs. the mad Mullahs: How the United States and Iran demonize each other. – University of Chicago Press, 2008. (320 p).
3. Jones A. Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction. – Routledge, 2006. (393 p)
4. Conformity and conflict : readings in cultural anthropology / [edited by] James Spradley, David W. McCurdy.—14th ed. 2012. (386 p)
5. Searching for Boko Haram. A History of Violence in Central Africa. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 233 p.
6. Cox F. D., Sisk T. D. (ed.). Peacebuilding in Deeply Divided Societies: Toward Social Cohesion?. – Springer, 2017. (350 p)
7. Lederach J. P. Building peace: Sustainable reconciliation in divided societies // Washington DC. – 1997. (170 p)
8. Fry D. P. Beyond war: The human potential for peace. – Oxford University Press, 2009. (320 p)

### **Grading system**

50% Accumulated grade (homework and classwork)

50% Final exam

### **Methods of Instruction**

Each session consists of a lecture and a discussion of home reading materials.

### **Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)**

Laptop/projector needed for PowerPoint presentations.