

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

HONOURS B.A. IN CONFLICT STUDIES
(BACHELOR'S)

This is the face of change



UNIVERSITÉ
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GENERAL INFORMATION

ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2024 TERM ARE NOW ACCEPTED

Program description

The B.A. in Conflict Studies is designed to prepare you to analyze and manage various disputes in a professional manner by demonstrating both objectivity and empathy. No matter what the conflict situation, whether it is local, national or international, you will be equipped to resolve disputes.

In order to do so, you will examine the origins and dynamics that underlie conflicts while taking into consideration their political, psychological and social dimensions. With the help of case studies, practical exercises and lectures, you will deepen and apply methods that serve to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. You will learn how to use various active listening techniques and several negotiation and mediation tools. To do this, you will explore a wide range of non-violent, humanitarian and diplomatic solutions to conflicts, as well as actions that promote peace, social justice and reconciliation.

By the end of the program, you will know how act as a neutral third-party while being able to propose conflict resolution strategies and comprehensive response plans.

Who should apply?

Anyone who wants to reflect on the political, psychological and social aspects that are often at the root of conflict. Also, anyone who is interested in human rights and international affairs and wants to participate actively in the resolution of any type of conflict.

The Centre for Informal Dispute Resolution

The [Centre for Informal Dispute Resolution](#) is an organization with a practical orientation run by the School of Conflict Studies. It offers students the opportunity to enhance their practical training in the informal, inclusive and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Related careers

- » Conflict management and resolution facilitator in a large organization;
- » International programs officer in an organization focused on international development, humanitarian aid or peace-building;
- » Labour relations advisor in a state institution, union or association;
- » Conflict and conflict resolution analyst for a public or non-governmental organization;
- » Local or community conflict resolution organizer.

Admission details

- » Enrollment: full-time or part-time
- » Program length: 8 terms or 4 years (full-time).
- » Program delivery: some courses are also offered online
- » Languages: this program is offered in English and [in French](#).

For more details, please [click here](#).



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Scholarship possibilities

Students registered in this program may be eligible for a number of scholarships. For more information, please [click here](#).

TEACHING STAFF

DIENG, Moda , Professor

EPPERSON, Brent, Professor

MORISSETTE , Anny, Professor

O. ONGUNY, Philip, Professor

PANDIMAKIL, Peter, Professor

PARENT, Geneviève, Professor

RIOUX, Jean-François, Professor

SULA-RAXHIMI, Enkelejda, Professor

TESSIER, Hélène, Professor

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Foundational Courses (12 units)

Compulsory Courses: 12 units

HTP1102 Approaches in the Humanities: Interpreting the Human Experience
HTP1103 People, Social Justice and Ecology
HTP1105 Critical Analysis, Reading and Writing Academic Works
HTP1106 The First Peoples in Canada

Discipline Specific Courses (60 units)

Compulsory Courses: 42 units

ECS2103 Negotiation
ECS2104 Mediation
ECS2111 Research Methods in Conflict Studies I
ECS2112 Research Methods in Conflict Studies II
ECS2191 Introduction to Conflict Studies
ECS2192 Inequality, Conflict and Social Justice
ECS2201 Political Conflicts and their Resolution
ECS2321 Listening and Interaction in Conflict Resolution
ECS3125 Peaceful Resolution of Violent Conflict
ECS3140 Gender Relations and Conflict
ECS4101 Causes of Conflict I: Biological and Psychological Approaches
ECS4102 Causes of Conflict II: Sociological and Rationalist Approaches
IPA1121 Human Behavior and Spirituality: Theoretical Foundations
IPA1122 Human Behavior and Spirituality: Empirical Observations

Optional Courses: 18 units

6 units from:

ECS2124 Local and Community Responses to Conflict
ECS2126 Indigenous Peoples and Conflict
ECS2202 Causes and Dynamics of International Conflicts
ECS2928 Language and Conflict in Canada / Conflits linguistiques au Canada
ECS2999 Neutral Third Party/ Tierce partie neutre

12 units from:

ECS3101 Introduction to Technical and Legal Aspects of Conflict Resolution
ECS3110 Internship I
ECS3123 Psychological Impacts of Conflicts
ECS3124 Conflict in Organizations
ECS3127 Group Processes and Conflicts
ECS3128 Consultation and Coaching in Conflicts
ECS3130 Special Topics in Conflict Studies
ECS3323 Dialogue

ECS4130 Advanced Topics in Conflict Studies

ECS4999 Advanced Internship in Conflict Resolution / Stage avancé en résolution de conflits

With the approval of the School of Conflict Studies, students may also choose optional courses from among those offered by the [Graduate School of Public and International Affairs](#) (course code ECH).

Elective Courses (48 units)

Students choose 48 units **or** complete a minor (30 units) and 18 units.

12 units must be of 3000 or 4000 level.

COURSES

ECS 2103 - NEGOTIATION

Concepts and foundations. Difference between mediation and negotiation. Case Studies. Ethical considerations. Role playing and practical exercises. Specificities of negotiation among ethnic and religious groups. A minimum of ten laboratory hours will be required in this course.

Prerequisite or concomitant: ECS2321.

ECS 2104 - MEDIATION

Concepts and foundations. Objectives of mediation, importance of third parties. Mediation and post-modernity. Ethical considerations. Role playing and practical exercises. Specificities of mediation among ethnic and religious groups. A minimum of ten laboratory hours will be required in this course.

Prerequisite: ECS2103.

ECS 2111 - RESEARCH METHODS IN CONFLICT STUDIES I

Introduction to the philosophy of science. Research Ethics. Development of research projects: questions, hypotheses, variables, data and analysis. Textual and qualitative research methods: bibliographic research, historical research, interviews, case studies, and observation. Problems related to the study of ethnic and religious conflicts.

Prerequisite or concomitant: ECS 2191.

ECS 2112 - RESEARCH METHODS IN CONFLICT STUDIES II

Preparation of comparative and quantitative research projects. Use of data sets, surveys and polls. Statistical analysis: correlation, regression analysis, trends, statistical inference. Examples taken from the study of ethnic and religious conflicts.

Prerequisite or concomitant: ECS 2191.

ECS 2124 - LOCAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

Conflict is always experienced at a community level, whether its source is local or international. This course identifies and examines the many different ways in which local or community level actors respond to the causes and effects of violent and non-violent conflict in their midst.

ECS 2126 - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CONFLICT

A review of conflict and peaceful coexistence between indigenous peoples and settler societies around the world, including the examination of (1) differences among the world's indigenous peoples in their cultures, political economic situations, and in their relationships with colonizing settler societies and (2) efforts to transcend "contemporary colonialism" and "post-modern imperialism" to establish indigenously defined cultural, social, and political orders.

ECS 2191 - INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT STUDIES

A multidisciplinary introduction to research in the evolving field of peace and conflict studies, with emphasis on ethnic and religious conflict. Cases are drawn from local to global levels. Includes anthropology, sociology, psychology, history, political science, law, labour relations, theology, philosophy, gender studies and security studies.

ECS 2192 - INEQUALITY, CONFLICT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

This course consists of two components: (1) the examination of the variable linkages between inequality (economic, social, political), injustice, and violent conflict; and (2) the examination of efforts to create environments characterized by equality, equity, justice and peace.

ECS 2201 - POLITICAL CONFLICTS AND THEIR RESOLUTION

Explorations of the political sources of conflict, including power and ideologies. Respective roles of the state, public institutions, parties, and interest groups in conflicts. Management and resolution of conflicts in different political regimes.

ECS 2202 - CAUSES AND DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS

Broad review of many international conflicts, their causes, and the factors that may contribute to their escalation. Roles of diverse international actors in the aggravation or the resolution of conflicts. Analysis of violent conflicts. Ethical and moral questions related to the use of violence.

Prerequisite: ECS2201.

ECS 2321 - LISTENING AND INTERACTION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Theory and practice of the listening skills crucial for participating in conflict resolution processes. Development of synthesis, reframing, and appropriate responses to difficult situations. Attention to non verbal communication, emotions, and communication styles. Exploration of some of cultural differences in communication. A minimum of ten laboratory hours will be required in this course.

ECS 2928 - LANGUAGE AND CONFLICT IN CANADA

Overview of relations between English- and French-speaking groups in Canada with emphasis on their identity components. Review of efforts undertaken at various levels to address tensions related to language differences. Dialogue and elaboration of proposals for improving linguistic relations.

Bilingual course. Students are expected to work in both official languages.

Prerequisite: ECS2321.

ECS 2999 - NEUTRAL THIRD PARTY

Intensive training including simulations in which the participants play in turn the roles of conciliator, mediator and facilitator. The mark S or NS will be attributed following the handing in of a training report.

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ECS 3101 - INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Introduction to some concepts pertaining to the analysis and resolution of conflict: judicial norms, contracts, binding character of judicial decisions, judicial organization and structures, formal processes of mediation and negotiation. The course also includes consideration of some aspects of international law, as well as principles of conflict management in key fields areas such as labour, social services, etc.

Prerequisites: ECS 2191 and ECS 2192.

ECS 3110 - INTERNSHIP I

Internship in a reputed institution for a minimum of 150 working hours. Graded S/NS.

Prerequisites: 24 ECS credits and a cumulative grade point average of B+.

ECS 3123 - PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF CONFLICTS

A multidisciplinary examination of trauma: Disruption of responsive mechanisms. Decision making in crises. Contributing factors affecting the impact of trauma. Conflict and psychological transformation.

Prerequisites: PSY1101 and PSY1102 or IPA1121 and IPA1122.

ECS 3124 - CONFLICT IN ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction to the resolution of conflicts related to labour relations and policy differences in large organizations, especially in the public sector, with emphasis on ethnic and religious conflict. Roles of employers, workers, unions, third parties, mediation mechanisms, arbitration, and administrative tribunals.

Prerequisites: ECS 2191 and ECS 2192.

ECS 3125 - PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF VIOLENT CONFLICT

This course compares and contrasts different approaches to the pacific resolution of violent conflict, such as peace building, peacemaking, and peace operations. Contribution of religions to peace building. An effort is made to understand when, why, and how such approaches are effective or ineffective for managing and resolving conflicts.

Prerequisites: ECS 2191 and ECS 2192.

ECS 3127 - GROUP PROCESSES AND CONFLICTS

Introduction to the intervention toward groups in order to manage and resolve conflicts. Study of group dynamics and underlying behaviours. Review of different approaches to group processes. Exploration of the requirements and abilities for the leadership and facilitation of groups. Case studies. Practical in-class exercises.

Prerequisites : ECS2103, ECS2104.

ECS 3128 - CONSULTATION AND COACHING IN CONFLICTS

Initiation to personal support to people involved in conflicts. Presentation of various models of personal and group coaching. Development of some basic abilities in this kind of intervention (including self-awareness, emotional intelligence, active and empathetic listening, communication, overcoming resistance, etc.) through simulations and exercises.

Prerequisites: ECS2103, ECS2104.

ECS 3130 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN CONFLICT STUDIES

Prerequisites: ECS2191, ECS2192.

ECS 3140 - GENDER RELATIONS AND CONFLICT

Social and philosophical theories of gender. Feminist theories of discrimination and power relations as they apply in conflict situations. Ethnic and religious factors in gender-related conflict issues. Constructive responses and social movements.

Prerequisites: ECS 2191 and ECS 2192. This course was previously ECS2125.

ECS 3323 - DIALOGUE

Examination of dialogue as a means of exploring hidden beliefs and the exchange of ideas between participants. Practical exercises that explore the use of dialogue as a means of resolving and transforming conflicts. Training in the use of structured dialogue in professional activities. Specificities of dialogue among ethnic and religious groups.

Prerequisite: ECS2321.

ECS 4101 - CAUSES OF CONFLICT I: BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Examination of the many possible causes of conflict and violence such as aggression, instinct, character traits, learned behaviours, socialization, personality disorders, group influences, mob behaviour, and perceptual issues.

Prerequisites: ECS 2111, ECS 2112, ECS 2192, PSY 1101 or IPA1121, PSY 1102 or IPA1122.

ECS 4102 - CAUSES OF CONFLICT II: SOCIOLOGICAL AND RATIONALIST APPROACHES

Examination of the many factors affecting conflict and violence including social classes, unequal resource distribution, culture, religion, institutions, decision making. Introduction to game theory in conflict studies.

Prerequisites: ECS 2111, ECS 2112, ECS 2192, ECS2201.

ECS 4130 - ADVANCED TOPICS IN CONFLICT STUDIES

In depth study of particular topics related to conflict studies.

Prerequisites: 51 university credits. Reserved for students registered in Conflict Studies.

ECS 4999 - ADVANCED INTERNSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Internship in a reputed institution for a minimum of 150 working hours in conflict prevention, management or resolution. Graded S/NS.

Prerequisite: 24 ECS credits and a cumulative grade point average of B+.

HTP 1102 - APPROACHES IN THE HUMANITIES: INTERPRETING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Introduction to theoretical approaches in the Humanities and to the methods that are applied to interpret the multiple expressions of human experience, particularly those expressed in important works of art and literature.

HTP 1103 - PEOPLE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY

Social and ecological challenges facing humanity today, and related issues of social justice. These questions will be examined from a perspective of community building and efforts towards ecological and social transformations for a hopeful future.

HTP 1105 - CRITICAL ANALYSIS, READING AND WRITING ACADEMIC WORKS

Development of abilities to read critically and understand academic works. Focus on formal writing skills: techniques of clear expression and construction of texts, argument development and organization. This course also includes a library laboratory component with focus on research skills, citations, and academic integrity.

HTP 1106 - THE FIRST PEOPLES IN CANADA

Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on the First Peoples in Canada, cultural diversity, traditional practices and beliefs, relationship with the environment, changing roles and structures influenced by colonization. Contemporary issues faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, including cultural genocide and trauma.

IPA 1121 - HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SPIRITUALITY: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Purpose and method of psychology. Historical perspective. Bases of the nervous system, consciousness. Sensory processes, perception, cognition, memory, language and thought. Emotions and motivation. Learning process. Introduction to fundamental theoretical psychology of religion.

This course cannot be combined for credit with PSY1101.

IPA 1122 - HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SPIRITUALITY: EMPIRICAL OBSERVATIONS

Heredity, environment and human development. Intelligence. Personality. Mental health, abnormal behavior and therapeutic approaches. Social psychology. Introduction to empirical research in contemporary psychology of religion.

This course cannot be combined for credit with PSY1102.

CONTACT US

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Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.