

# 2023 Syllabus and Program Details

## Peace Scholars Seminar

Introduction to the Study of Peace, Conflict and Dialogue

### Course Plan and Syllabus 2023

Course Code: ISSSV1810

Credits: 5 ECTS credits

**Time:** Seminars held 14:00 – 16:00 on irregular days except for the pre-week program. See schedule for excursions (times/dates subject to change).

**Classroom:**

**Course Leader:**

Erik Cleven – [erikcleven@gmail.com](mailto:erikcleven@gmail.com)

**Course Objectives:** This course provides a general introduction to the interdisciplinary field of peace and conflict studies. The content varies from year to year according to the background and expertise of the course leader(s), and combines theoretical and empirical approaches. The course focuses on topics related to peace, dialogue, and the nature of conflict and division. Case studies for students' individual research projects are drawn primarily from Norway, whose role as a force for good and broker of peace is critically assessed against the backdrop of recent academic and public debates over the underlying aims of Norwegian foreign policy, and the reception of refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants to Norway.

**Course Structure:** The course is six weeks in duration and includes weekly seminars as well as an extensive program of excursions. All dates and times are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes as far in advance as possible.

### Statement of Inclusivity

This class strives to be an inclusive learning community, respecting those of differing backgrounds and beliefs. As a community, we aim to be respectful to all citizens in this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, caste, class, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you go by a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Using correct gender pronouns is important to me, so you are encouraged to share your pronouns with me and correct me if a mistake is made. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

**Requirements and Grading:** The success of the course depends on the active participation of the entire group. Students' grades will be calculated according to their performance in the following areas.

**1. Written take-home exam (60% of the final grade):** Students will submit a five-seven page, double-spaced paper in which they draw on assigned readings and answer questions stemming from themes taken up in the course. **DUE DATE: Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 5pm**, submitted through the online exam portal. Instructions for submission will come towards the end of the semester.

**2. Research project proposal and presentation (40% of the final grade):** The instructor will conduct individual meetings with students to help them select a topic and develop a plan for conducting original research during Week 1. Students will then submit a draft project proposal to the instructor by email by **Thursday, July 6 at 5pm**. In it, they will present their chosen topic and briefly outline their plans for conducting research. They will also raise any questions or concerns they have connected with their potential research. On the basis of instructor feedback, summer research, class readings and excursions, students will construct 20-minute long presentations on their chosen topics, accompanied by power point slides, to be **delivered during the final class sessions on Monday, July 31 and Tuesday, August 1**. Case studies/topics should be selected so that they have some connection to Norway: Either a case study is directly related to Norway, it includes comparison between a Norwegian and non-Norwegian case, or there is another type of well-argued reason for it to be conducted while in Norway. In their final presentations, students will introduce the topic, summarize the work they have done on their topic, the ways in which their interests and focus have evolved over the course of the summer, and reflect on any challenges they have faced. Presentations will be assessed on the basis of students' preparation, the structure and quality of the presentation, and the depth of reflection they demonstrate surrounding the experience of conducting summer research.

## Grading Scale

A – Excellent performance                      D – Fair (below average)  
B – Very good                                      E – Sufficient (meets minimum criteria)  
C – Good (average performance)              F – Fail (does not meet minimum criteria)

**Expectations:** Students are expected to fully participate in the course sessions through dialogue and interaction in class. Students are expected to show up to class on time and on a consistent basis, be well prepared by having read the assigned material before each seminar, and to actively ask questions, take notes, and contribute to the class discussion. **Participation is an essential element of this course. Please note that attendance at all Peace Scholar seminars and excursions is mandatory and must take precedence over other courses and personal commitments.** If you are unable to attend a seminar or excursion due to illness or an emergency, you are expected to notify the course coordinator before your absence. If you do not do so, your grade will be lowered as a result. Cheating and plagiarism are absolutely not tolerated. Any student found cheating on any of the evaluated assignments (exam or paper) will automatically fail the course. No exceptions will be granted to this rule. For more information on what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, please read the ISS guidelines: <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/> Please note that UiO uses the URKUND text recognition program to check for plagiarized content in take-home exams.

## Schedule

Updated 06.19.23

**Note: For visits you are expected to be at the institution we are visiting no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the visit. Addresses and maps for how to get to the various institutions will be posted on pages on Canvas. Please remember that you may dress casually, but please dress professionally. By that, I mean appropriately for a meeting not for a visit to the beach.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic/ Readings/ Lecturer</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Preweek</b>		<b>Introduction to Norway and to Dialogue</b>	
June 20	1:00	Walk along Akerselva to downtown Oslo. Meet at Rønningen.	
June 21	9:00-11:30	Dialogue Workshop – Erik Cleven	
	13:00	Visit: Guided Tour at Nasjonalmuseet, the national museum of art, with a focus on building Norwegian national identity.	
June 22	9:00-11:30	Dialogue Workshop – Erik Cleven	
	1:00	Visit: Ekebergparken Sculpture Park	
June 23	9:00-11:30	Dialogue Workshop – Erik Cleven	
	Afternoon	“Hyttetur” to a cabin in Nordmarka woods Friday and Saturday night. Return after breakfast on Sunday.	
<b>Week 1</b>		<b>State-Society Relations in Norway</b>	
June 26	14:00 – 16:00	Seminar - Erik Cleven	
June 27	14:00	Visit: Næringslivets Hovedorganisasjon (NHO) (Norwegian Confederation of Businesses). Presentation by Rolf Negård, Special Advisor, International Department.	
June 28	14:00 – 17:30	Individual meetings regarding research projects (30-minute blocks)	
June 29	14:00 – 17:30	Individual meetings regarding research projects (30-minute blocks)	
<b>Week 2</b>		<b>“Norwegian identity and Culture”</b>	
July 03	14:00 – 16:00	Seminar Erik Cleven	
July 04	14:30 – 16:00	Visit: Meet Eliana Hercz and Charlotte Cyrus from Dialogpilotene at Majorstuen Church (Dialog Pilots, cooperation between the Church’s Dialogue Center, Oslo, Human-Etisk Forbund (Norwegian Humanist Association), and the mosques Tauheed Islamic Centre, Minhaj-ul-Quran International, Norway, and Islamic Cultural Centre, Norway).	

July 05 14:00 – Guest Speaker: Linda Noor, Director, Minotenk, (Minoritetspolitisk  
16:00 Tenketank; Minority Political Think Tank)

July 07 14:00 –  
16:00 LONG WEEKEND

**Week 3 “Norway as Peace Nation?”**

July 10 14:30 –  
16:00 LONG WEEKEND

July 11 14:00 –  
16:00 Seminar Erik Cleven

July 12 14:00 – Visit: NGO (Norw. People’s Aid, Norw Refugee Council, Norw  
16:00 Church Aid, Norw Red Cross, or Save the Children). (To be confirmed)

**Week 4 “Identity and Conflict”**

July 17 14:00 –  
16:30 Seminar Erik Cleven

July 18 14:30 – Visit: Islamic Cultural Centre and mosque, Oslo. Presentation by  
16:30 Ayusha Umma Awan, leader of ICC Youth (waiting for confirmation)

July 20 14:30 – Guest Speaker: Professor Pia Lane, member of the Truth and  
16:30 Reconciliation Commission (The Commission to Investigate the Norwegianisation Policy and Injustice against the Sámi and Kvens/Norwegian Finns) and professor at University of Oslo. Sami history and identity and the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

July 21 14:00 –  
16:00 Meeting at Fulbright Foundation

**Week 5 “Dialogue in Divided Communities”**

July 24 14:00 – Visit: Henrik Syse, Senior Researcher, Peace Research Insititute  
16:00 Oslo

July 25 14:00 –  
16:00 Seminar Erik Cleven

July 26 14:00 –  
16:00

July 27 14:30 –  
16:00

July 28 14:00 – Guest Speaker: Steinar Bryn, Nansenskolen (The Nansen  
16:00 Academy), Lillehammer, Norway

**Week 6 Student Presentations**

July 31 14:00 –  
18:00 Student Presentations

August 1 14:00 – Student Presentations  
18:00

August 3 Final exam due date

## Reading List

### Pre-week Program

#### Recommended Reading:

Faarlund, Nils. A Way Home. In Reed, Peter, and David Rothenberg (eds). 1993. *Wisdom in the Open Air: The Norwegian Roots of Deep Ecology*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 155-169.

### I. State-Society Relations in Norway

#### Required Reading:

Sejersted, Francis. 2011. *The Age of Social Democracy: Norway and Sweden in the Twentieth Century*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, Chapter 4, pp. 122-172.

Slagstad, Rune. 2012. “The Metamorphoses of Norwegian Reformism.” In *Nordic Paths to Modernity*, edited by Árnason, Jóhann Páll, and Björn Wittrock, 143-166. New York: Berghahn Books

#### Recommended Reading:

Midttun, Atle, and Nina Witoszek. 2020. “The Competitive Advantage of Collaboration – Throwing New Light on The Nordic Model.” *New Political Economy* 25 (6): 880–96.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2019.1657078>.

### II. Norwegian Identity and Culture

#### Required Reading:

Leira, Halvard. 2013. “‘Our Entire People Are Natural Born Friends of Peace’: The Norwegian Foreign Policy of Peace.” *Swiss Political Science Review* 19 (3): 338–356.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12044>.

Østerud, Øyvind. 2005. “Introduction: The Peculiarities of Norway.” *West European Politics* 28 (4): 705–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402380500216591>.

Gaski, Lina. 2008. "Sami Identity as a Discursive Formation: Essentialism and Ambivalence." In *Indigenous Peoples: Self-Determination Knowledge Indigeneity*, edited by Henry Minde, 219-236. Delft: Eburon Academic Publishers.

### **Recommended Reading:**

Neumann, Iver B. 2000. "State and Nation in the Nineteenth Century: Recent Research on the Norwegian Case." *Scandinavian Journal of History* 25 (3): 239–60.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03468750050156532>.

Other articles in the special issue of *West European Politics*, Volume 28(4). Norway: The Transformation of a Political System

### **III. Norway as Peace Nation?**

#### **Required Reading:**

Bandarage, Asoka. 2011. "The 'Norwegian Model': Political Economy of NGO Peacemaking." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 17 (2): 221–242.

Sjöstedt, Roxanna, and Erik Noreen. 2021. "When Peace Nations Go to War: Examining the Narrative Transformation of Sweden and Norway in Afghanistan." *European Journal of International Security* 6 (3): 318–37. <https://doi.org/10.1017/eis.2021.6>.

#### **Recommended Reading:**

Friberg, Jon Horgen. 2021. "Who Wants to Be Norwegian – Who Gets to Be Norwegian? Identificational Assimilation and Non-Recognition among Immigrant Origin Youth in Norway." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44 (16): 21–43. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1857813>.

### **IV. Identity and Conflict**

#### **Required Reading:**

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2003. "The Ontology of 'Political Violence': Action and Identity in Civil Wars." *Perspectives on Politics* 1 (3): 475–94. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592703000355>.

Press, Sharon, and Ellen E. Deason. 2020. "Mediation: Embedded Assumptions of Whiteness? Jed D. Melnick Annual Symposium: Presumptive ADR and Court Systems of the Future." *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution* 22 (3): 453–98.

Sen, Amartya. 2007. *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*. New York; W.W. Norton. Chapter 2, Making Sense of Identity, pp. 18-40.

#### **Recommended Reading:**

Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What Is Ethnic Identity and Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (1): 397–424. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.9.062404.170715>.

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54 (4): 845–77. <https://doi.org/10.1162/002081800551398>.

Maalouf, Amin. 2012. *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong*. New York: Arcade Publishing.

Wilkerson, Isabel. 2020. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. First edition. Business Book Summary. New York: Random House. [Click here](#) for UiO's ebook version.

## V. Dialogue in Divided Communities

### Required Reading:

Calame, Jon, and Esther Ruth Charlesworth. 2009. *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia*. The City in the Twenty-First Century. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. <http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip0825/2008035354.html>. Chapter 6, pp. 103-120.

Cleven, Erik, and Judith A. Saul. 2021. "Realizing the Promise of Dialogue: Transformative Dialogue in Divided Communities." *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* 38 (3): 111–25. <https://doi.org/10.1002/crq.21296>.

### Recommended Reading:

Autesserre, Séverine. 2014. *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*. Problems of International Politics. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Autesserre, Séverine. 2021. *The Frontlines of Peace: An Insider's Guide to Changing the World*. Oxford University Press. [Click here](#) for UiO's ebook version.

Berry, Marie E. 2018. *War, Women, and Power: From Violence to Mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina*. Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cambridge University Press. [Click here](#) to access UiO's ebook version.

Pickering, Paula M. 2007. *Peacebuilding in the Balkans: The View from the Ground Floor*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.