

# **International Development and Conflict Management**

Bachelor of Arts

Proposed by:

Student Name  
Student UID#  
Local Address  
Phone Number  
Student Email

Sponsored by:

Faculty Mentor's Name  
Department  
Campus Address  
Campus Phone Number  
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## **Introduction**

When I arrived at the University of Maryland, I did not expect the College Park Scholars Public Leadership program to alter how I foresaw my future. Beyond the many current-event debates, studies of global leaders, field trips to the World Bank and National Holocaust Museum, and even casual discussions with both students and the professors outside of class, what made the greatest impact on my future was the program's requirement to participate in a community-based learning project. I decided to establish my very own service project and community organization called SNAK: Spreading Nutrition Awareness to Kids. With the help of three other motivated classmates, I responded to my passion of addressing childhood obesity in the United States by developing a nutrition education program for low-income middle school students.

As a result of our dedication and work, we were invited to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University, a convention developed by former President Bill Clinton for college students like myself with "Commitments to Action" in a variety of pressing global issues. Although my commitment at this convention was to address the obesity epidemic plaguing our country, this experience opened my eyes to a vast range of suffering across the globe, like the innocent human beings who are victims of horrendous crimes because of their religious beliefs or the percentage of children who cannot survive until their fifth birthday because they have limited access to clean water. I learned from expert panelists and fellow students that there are choices we *can* make that will protect the victims of war crimes, improve infrastructure in developing nations to allow for access to water and food supply, ensure worldwide health care and education, and preserve our natural resource supplies. I left this convention not simply with an aspiration to continue fighting obesity but also a refusal to ignore the disasters, afflictions, and

injustices in our world. My new “Commitment to Action” was to spend my future addressing the challenges that afflict the developing world.

After making this decision, I eagerly searched for a means to do so. Unfortunately, the University of Maryland does not have a major that fulfills my academic goals. A minor in the field International Development and Conflict Management exists, but I much preferred to create a major in this subject area. When I came across the Individual Studies Program, I realized my goals were attainable. This program enables me to focus on the field of International Development and Conflict Management and thus allows me to fulfill my greatest passion. To complement my IVSP studies, I am undertaking a second major in Jewish Studies with a specialization in the Middle Eastern Conflict to gain an in-depth study of a region constantly plagued with war and in great need of development efforts.

## **International Development And Conflict Management Defined**

This major in International Development and Conflict Management focuses on the processes that can help developing countries create for themselves sustainable futures. These courses provide an understanding of and response method to the conflict within developing nations as well as an understanding of how to prevent, manage, and recover from such events. The courses in this major will address the variety of social, political, and economic issues that affect living conditions of our world's citizens and also examine the methods for effectively changing and improving the state of these developing nations. International Development and Conflict Management has three distinct and focused areas of study: Governance, Sustainability, and Development.

**Governance** courses (GVPT200, GVPT354, GVPT360, PUA201) study the decisions and decision-making processes by which laws, mandates, and other public programs are formulated and implemented by the leaders of an organization, community, or nation. These courses examine conflict management through effective peace-building; negotiation and mediation; and post-conflict reconstruction between political, religious, or ethnic groups as well as nations and villages. They also focus on political theories of global relations, including the examination of leadership, diplomacy, and policy. Additionally, other courses (ISRL289I, ISRL449G) examine the effects of terrorism in the Middle East as well as the causes and implications of the Middle Eastern Conflict.

**Development** courses (CPSP399P, ECON200, ECON201, PUA698O, PUA359I, GEOG130) examine the social, political, and economic aspects that are involved in the creation and implementation of successful means of development. These courses address factors that influence the rate at which a country develops, such as poverty, population, food supply, and the

challenges caused by discrimination. Courses examine the infrastructures needed to improve the lives of citizens in developing nations as well as opportunities to facilitate new programs providing humanitarian aid and poverty reduction. These courses also consider social determinants of development, such as the stratification of inequality in the developing world.

**Sustainability** courses (HLTH130, NFSC425, GEOG415, AREC365, ENSP399B, ENST100, URSP250) address how the management of communities and their resources will better improve conditions within a nation. Courses examine the potential obstacles of sustainable planning, the problems that face the agricultural sector of developing nations, and the causes and implications of global environmental change and population growth. Resource management courses focus on problems related to the global distribution of food, water, and energy as well as the ethical use of the world's natural resources.

## **Learning Objectives And Future Goals**

I hope that this major in International Development and Conflict Management will help prepare me to be an effective leader and agent of change in the realm of global development. I am planning to study abroad during the spring semester of my junior year in the Netherlands, where I will take courses in international development at the hub of large global organizations such as the International Criminal Court and the judicial capital of the United Nations. This semester, I have started an internship at the Human Development and Capabilities Association, an academic association that addresses the impoverishment, justice, and wellbeing of people throughout the world. I am also the intern for the Human Rights Thematic Group, where I will take a closer look at rights-based methods of poverty alleviation and development. This internship is not only integrating me into a community of concerned human rights activists, but it is also providing me with tangible experience in the field of International Development.

Because my area of specialization within my second major, Jewish Studies, is the Middle Eastern Conflict, my IVSP Capstone Project will examine the development side of the Middle East. Inspired by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* and founder of the Central Asia Institute, I will study the importance of education as a means for development in the Middle East, specifically the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Mortenson emphasized that education, particularly for women, is the best investment for community development. This project will most likely take the shape of a final research paper. In conjunction with my Jewish Studies major, I am developing a fluency in Hebrew and also plan to study Arabic in the future to assist me with my final research.

Following graduation from the University of Maryland, I plan to participate in the Peace Corps, where I can directly apply my experience and education to benefit a community in need.

After completing this experience, I will attend graduate school and most likely study International Law, where I can further my knowledge about issues that face our world. I plan to dedicate my working life to helping people, whether that means working for an international organization, assuring they are abiding by international law and policy, or working in the public sector as an attorney for the federal government. I know that through the Individual Studies Program, I will be able to prepare myself to fulfill this dream.

Sample D

## Coursework By Concentration

\* denotes courses already taken  
(CE) denotes courses currently enrolled.

### Governance

**GVPT354: (3) Peace building, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and International Development** (Prereq: PermReq) A study of the interrelation between violent conflict and socio-economic development worldwide. Students will become familiar with current strategies for designing and implementing conflict-sensitive development strategies

(CE) **GVPT200: (3) International Political Relations** (Prereq: PermReq) A study of the major factors underlying international relations, the methods of conducting foreign relations, the foreign policies of the major powers, and the means of avoiding international conflicts.

**GVPT360: (3) International Negotiations** (Prereq: Recommends GVPT200) A study of the complexities of international negotiation and cross-cultural decision-making. Students will apply advanced computer technology in an interactive simulation involving actual negotiations.

**\*PUAF201: (3) Leadership for the Common Good** This course is designed to provide undergraduate students an introduction to leadership theory and a chance to practice a core set of practical skills relevant to transformational and collaborative leadership.

**ISRL289I: (3) The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Fundamental Questions** (Prereq: none) Using insights and methodologies from a variety of disciplines and comparisons with other conflicts, the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict will examine why the Palestinian–Israeli conflict continues, why it has become so central in world politics and how it connects with other global issues.

(CE) **ISRL449G: (3) Modern Terrorism and Mass Media** (Prereq: PermReq) Modern terrorism relies on the mass media for publicity, recognition, psychological impact, political achievements and more. This course examines relationships between modern terrorists and the mass media, how terrorists use the media (including the Internet and the threat of cyber terrorism) and how democracies can respond. It will be taught from Haifa, Israel by Professor Gabriel Weimann through distance learning. Students will be able to download his lectures at any time from any computer.

### Development

(CE) **CPSP339P: (3) Advanced Practicum: Public Leadership** This is the capstone course for Public Leadership Scholars. To meet the internship requirement, I am interning for the Human Development & Capabilities Association

**ECON200: (4) Principles of Microeconomics** (Prereq: Math placement) Introduces economic models of the behavior of individual consumers and business firms, problems of international trade, the distribution of income, policies for eliminating poverty and discrimination, the problems of environmental pollution, and the impact of different market structures upon economic activity.

**ECON201: (4) Principles of Macroeconomics** (Prereq: recommended ECON200) An introduction to the problems of unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. Emphasis on roles of monetary and fiscal policy in the conduct of macroeconomic policy

(CE) **GEOG130: (3) Developing Countries** (Prereq: none) An introduction to the geographic characteristics of the development problems and prospects of developing countries. Spatial distribution of poverty, employment, migration and urban growth, agricultural productivity, rural development, policies and international trade. Portraits of selected developing countries.

**\*PUAF359I: (3) The Art and Science of Philanthropy** (Prereq: restricted to College Park Scholars: Public Leadership students) This course defines philanthropy as an exploration of how one develops a vision of the social good and then deploys resources (including donations, volunteers, and voluntary associations) to achieve an impact. During the semester, we go through the challenging and exciting process of setting up and running a fund that gives away actual money.

**PUAF698O: (3) Ethics, Development, and Foreign Aid** (Prereq: none) This course will address empirical, conceptual, and ethical dimensions of national and international development policies and of official (bilateral and multilateral) and NGO foreign aid. The class will pose several related questions with respect to development and foreign aid and the role of ethics in aid and development.

### **Sustainability**

**AREC365: (3) World Hunger, Population, and Food Supplies** (Prereq: none) An introduction to the problem of world hunger and possible solutions to it. World demand, supply, and distribution of food. Alternatives for leveling off world food demand, increasing the supply of food, and improving its distribution. Environmental limitations to increasing world food production

**ENSP399B: (3) Special Topics in Environmental Science and Policy: The Ethics and Law of Water** (Prereq: PermReq) This course will apply an interdisciplinary approach to the emerging challenge of freshwater availability, a topic of broad environmental and social significance as the world faces issues of sustainability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**\*ENST100: (3) International Crop Production: Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** Examines the role of crop production in elevating humans out of poverty in developing countries. It will introduce students to the basic principles of plant and soil science underlying the international production of food crops and world food security. The role of multinational agencies such as the World Bank in the promotion of sustainable crop production using environmentally-sound technologies will also be discussed

**GEOG415: (3) Land Use, Climate Change, and Sustainability** (Prereq GEOG123, GEOG306 or Permission of Department) The issues of climate change and land use change as two interlinked global and regional environmental issues and their implications for society and resource use are explored.

**\*HLTH130: (3) Introduction to Public and Community Health** An introduction to the theory and practice of public and community health. The influence of public health professionals on the past, present, and future health status of society through the examination of critical health issues will be described. Programming models, theories and policy development are included.

**NFSC425: (3) International Nutrition** (Prereq: Course in basic nutrition) Nutritional status of world population; consequences of malnutrition on health and mental development; and local, national, and international programs for nutritional improvement.

**URSP250: (3) The Sustainable City: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges** (Prereq: none) An exploration, through an interdisciplinary approach, of a number of issues related to making cities more sustainable in terms of environmental protection, economic opportunity, and social justice. The course assist students to develop skills in critical analysis and systems thinking and to use those skills in analyzing sustainability-related problems and potential solutions, and to expand students' understanding of the political implications of crafting and moving towards a sustainable urban future.

### **IVSP Requirements**

**IVSP317: (1) Progress Report**

**IVSP420: (3) Senior Paper**

**ENGL487: (3) Foundations of Rhetoric** (Writing Craft Course) Principles and approaches to the theory, criticism, and historical understanding of rhetorical discourse

**Credits in 300+ level excluding IVSP requirements:** 30 credits

**Total credits including IVSP requirements:** 66 credits

**Current Status:** 12 credits complete, 12 credits currently enrolled, 42 credits remaining

**Coursework By Semester**  
(includes remaining Jewish Studies classes\*)

**Spring 2011**

HEBR 314: Hebrew Composition*	3
JWST319Y: Yiddish Theatre and Film*	3
ISRL449G: Modern Terrorism and Mass Media	3
GVPT200: International Political Relations	3
GEOG130: Developing Countries	3
CPSP339P: Advanced Practicum: Public Leadership	<u>3</u>
	<b>18</b>

**Summer 2011**

ECON200: Principles of Macroeconomics	4
ECON201: Principles of Microeconomics	<u>4</u>
	<b>8</b>

**Fall 2011**

ISRL289: The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict	3
GVPT354: Peacebuilding, Conflict Reconstruction, & Intl Development	3
Hebrew Text Course (TBD)*	3
AREC365: World Hunger, Population, and Food Supply	3
URSP250: The Sustainable City: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges	3
ENGL487: Foundations of Rhetoric	<u>3</u>
	<b>18</b>

**Spring 2012**

<i>Study Abroad, The Hague University, Netherlands</i>	
Art and Globalization (CORE HA)	3
International Law	3
Introduction to Dutch Culture and Society	3
2additional courses	<u>6</u>
	<b>15</b>

**Fall 2012**

PHIL20: Philosophy of the Arts	3
IVSP317: Progress Report	3
Upper Level Course on Middle Eastern Conflict*	3
ENSP399B: Ethics and Law of Water	3
NFSC425: International Nutrition	<u>3</u>
	<b>15</b>

**Spring 2013**

PUAF698O: Ethics, Development, and Foreign Aid	3
IVSP420: Senior Paper	3
GVPT360: International Negotiations	3
JWST409: Senior Research Seminar*	3
GEOG415: Land Use, Climate Change, and Sustainability	<u>3</u>
	<b>18</b>

## Core Coursework

<b>FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>FE</b>	ENGL101S	Intro to Writing	Spring 2010
<b>FM</b>		Placement Exam	
<b>JE</b>	Exempt		

<b>DISTRIBUTIVE STUDIES</b>			
<b>HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>HL</b>	JWST270	Supernatural in Jewish Lit	Fall 2008
<b>HA</b>	PHIL230	Philosophy of the Arts	Fall 2012
<b>HA/HL/HO/IE</b>	HEBR211	Intermediate Hebrew	Fall 2009
<b>SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>PL/LL</b>	BSCI105	Principles of Biology I	AP Exam
<b>LL/LS/PL/PS</b>	ENST100	International Crop Production	Fall 2008
<b>LL/LS/MS/PL/PS/IE</b>	MATH130	Calculus for Life Sciences I	Fall 2009
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>SH</b>	JWST234	History of the Jewish People	Fall 2009
<b>SB</b>	GVPT170	American Government	AP Exam
<b>SB/IE</b>	GEOG130	Developing Countries	Spring 2011

<b>ADVANCED STUDIES</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>AS</b>	JWST319Y	Yiddish Theater & Film	Spring 2011
<b>AS</b>	IVSP420	Senior Capstone	Spring 2013

<b>HUMAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COURSE#</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>D</b>	GEOG130	Developing Countries	Spring 2011

Name:

Major: International Development and Conflict Management

For Office Purposes Only	Course No.	Course Title	Credits
	AREC365	World Hunger, Population, and Food Supply	3
	CPSP339P	Advanced Practicum: Public Leadership	3
	ECON200	Principles of Macro-Economics	4
	ECON201	Principles of Micro-Economics	4
	ENST100	International Crop Production: Issues and Challenges of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	3
	ENSP339B	Ethics and Law of Water	3
	GEOG130	Developing Countries	3
	GEOG415	Land Use, Climate Change, & Sustainability	3
	GVPT200	International Public Relations	3
	GVPT354	Peace-building, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and Conflict Management	3
	GVPT360	International Negotiations	3
	HLTH130	Introduction to Public & Community Health	3
	ISRL289I	The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict	3
	ISRL449G	Modern Terrorism and Mass Media	3
	NFSC425	International Nutrition	3
	PUAF201	Leadership for the Common Good	3
	PUAF359I	The Art and Science of Philanthropy	3
	PUAF698O	Ethics, Foreign Aid, and Development	3
	URSP250	The Sustainable City: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges	3
			<b>59</b>
		<b>TOTAL UPPER LEVEL CREDITS</b>	<b>30</b>
	IVSP317	Progress Report	1
	IVSP318	Independent Learning Activities	3-9
	IVSP420	Senior Paper	3
	ENGL487	Writing Craft: Foundations of Rhetoric	3
		<b>TOTAL CREDITS WITH IVSP</b>	<b>69-75</b>