

Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo

Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans

Gain firsthand knowledge of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the struggle for human rights.

Coursework

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/HRR for details.

Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans Seminar

PEAC 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines the aftermath of conflict and current efforts for peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Balkans. The course focuses on the breakup of Yugoslavia, the wars of the 1990s, and current post-Yugoslav realities. Lecturers are drawn from academic institutions such as the Faculty of Media and Communications at Singidunum University in Belgrade, University of Belgrade, Islamic Faculty in Sarajevo, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sarajevo, the University of Prishtina, as well as from local organizations such as the Center for Peacebuilding in Sanski Most (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Dah Theatre (Belgrade, Serbia), the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia, and FOL in Prishtina/Kosovo.

Seminar topics typically include:

Theoretical Frameworks and Introduction to the Former Yugoslavia

An introduction, analysis, and discussion of key terms such as peacebuilding and reconciliation and the main themes of study in the semester, including peace and conflict studies and social memory studies. An introduction to the former Yugoslavia and its legacy and memory in today's Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

The Breakup of Yugoslavia and the Wars of the 1990s

Scholarly debates examining the breakup of Yugoslavia: Why did Yugoslavia cease to exist? Why was the breakup of Yugoslavia so violent?

Serbia after Milosevic

Introduction to Serbia in the 1990s: the legacies of war crimes, NATO bombing, sanctions, and hyperinflation; political and social changes in Serbia after the fall of Milosevic; civil society and political activism; responsibility as a political category; LGBT and queer activism in Belgrade.

Bosnia-Herzegovina Post-Dayton

Postwar politics in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH): the legacy of war crimes and ethnic cleansing; the challenges of peacebuilding, justice, and reconciliation; the role of the international community in postwar BiH; Islam in Bosnia and in Southeast Europe.

Kosovo: A Look from Serbia and from Kosovo

Serbian and Albanian points of view of Kosovo after the war; majority-minority relations in Kosovo; the role of international intervention in Kosovo following the NATO bombing and today; Kosovo's declaration of independence: challenges of state building.

Peace and Conflict: Theory and Practice in the Balkans

Comparative analysis, synthesis, and discussion; analyzing the presence of the Yugoslav past in the post-Yugoslav successor states; memory and denial; the role of the international community; EU accession and enlargement processes.

Educational Excursions

The program incorporates educational excursions within Serbia and to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, allowing students to witness the effects of conflict and its aftermath in different settings in the region. Excursion sites may include Novi Sad, Vukovar (Croatia), Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Sanski Most, Mostar, Srebrenica, Prishtina, Gracanica, and Mitrovica.

Intensive Language Study: Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian

SERB 1000-3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Introduction to the Cyrillic script. Students are placed in beginning or intermediate classes based on in-country evaluation.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours
This course in research methods prepares students to conduct field-based research for their Independent Study Project, with a focus



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Belgrade

Language Study Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian

Homestay Belgrade, 7-11 weeks

Other Accommodations Guest houses or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

on cross-cultural experiences and ethical concerns. Material includes cross-cultural learning and research skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and analyzing data.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, or Kosovo. **Sample topic areas:** Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina; youth perceptions of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); human rights activism in Serbia and LGBT issues; dealing with the past; street art and street activism in Belgrade.

Possible Internships

Students may have the opportunity to pursue internships that allow them to take more active roles in the issues they are researching. **Sample internships:** Dah Theatre in Belgrade; Center for Peacebuilding in Sanski Most.