

# Peace and Conflict Studies

Peace and Conflict Studies examines the nature of conflict and violence, the possibilities of social change, and the means for resolving and transforming conflict nonviolently. The major draws on Guilford's Quaker heritage by seeking the roots of situations of injustice and oppression, exploring nonviolent social change, emphasizing each individual's search for truth within different levels of community, and focusing on practical problem-solving. Peace and conflict studies melds two related fields of study, conflict resolution and peace studies, in a complementary, creative interaction. It encourages an interdisciplinary, holistic relationship between personal and social change, structured modes of conflict resolution and creative nonviolent activism, careful analysis of structural violence and exploration of spiritual foundations for peaceable living and action.

Students in peace and conflict studies engage in critical analysis in several key components of the field: central concepts in peace research; the interrelation between the personal, local, and global levels of conflict; possibilities of transforming conflict; theories of war and peace; and methods and practices of conflict resolution, reduction, and transformation. Students build skills that help them to solve problems of violence and conflict, to listen carefully and caringly to others in the midst of conflict, and to contribute to organizing groups and actions concerned with social change and conflict resolution and transformation.

## Why Guilford College?

Consistently rated nationally by *The Princeton Review* as well as being one of the 40 colleges in *Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope, Guilford College inspires each student to achieve excellence through an engaging community, rooted in Quaker values, which nurtures creativity and social responsibility.

## What can a Guilford education offer you?

- An urban setting near other colleges & universities with an area student population of over 27,000 students
- A consortium agreement with University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro College, Bennett College, North Carolina A&T State University, Elon University & High Point University provides students with access to courses free of charge
- A college mission statement & core values based on, and consistent with, Quaker testimonies. Guilford's core values are: Community, Diversity, Equality, Excellence, Integrity, Justice & Stewardship.
- A challenging academic program which emphasizes not only academic tracks and the learning process, but also the interconnection between curricular and co-curricular pursuits
- A diverse student population providing a stimulating peer environment
- Excellent study abroad programs in China, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, and Wales

## The academic program in Peace and Conflict Studies

The Bachelor of Arts degree is offered in Peace and Conflict Studies.

A minor is offered in Peace and Conflict Studies.

## Requirements for the Peace and Conflict Studies major

The major consists of a minimum of 32 credit hours (16 of which must be taken at Guilford). Courses must include at least four courses at the 300-400 level and include:

- PECS 110, Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies;
- three *Core Courses*;
- an internship in the junior or senior year that builds on a student's prior course work and incorporates peace and conflict studies analysis with site work;
- a Peace and Conflict Studies Senior Seminar;
- additional courses (to complete 32 credit hours) selected from either additional *Core* or *Extra-Departmental Courses*.

## **Internship Opportunities**

A peace and conflict studies internship involves practical experience that focuses on social change, nonviolent intervention, conflict resolution or transformation, and/or building a culture of peace. The internship includes critical reflection on the student's experience and analysis of activities, experiences, and structures that contribute to the reduction and transformation of violence and/or the maintenance of systems of violence and domination. Students should register for PECS 390 with the chair of Peace and Conflict Studies. Some students complete their internships at a local site in the Greensboro area during a semester while taking other courses; others complete them during the summer or while participating in a Study Abroad Program. Locations where students have interned include: Center for North Carolinians and Greensboro Montessori School.

## **Independent Studies and Senior Theses**

If students have special interests that they wish to pursue that are not covered in peace and conflict studies courses, they may arrange an independent study with an interested faculty member or pursue a senior thesis. We recommend that independent studies be done in the junior or senior year.

## **Where do graduates go?**

### **Graduate School**

University of Bradford (Centre for Conflict Resolution and Africa); University of Peace, Costa Rica (with focus on Peace and Development); University of Florida (anthropology with focus on multicultural conflict); UNC:CH Law School (focus on Human Rights Law); Harvard University—Religion and Society; Emory University—Religious Studies; George Mason University, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

### **Teaching**

NOVA Southeastern Program on Conflict Analysis and Resolution; High School and Elementary schools; VISTA; Teaching ESL through different organizations

### **Nonprofit Social Change / Social Service Organizations**

Program Associates at Friends Committee on National Legislation; American Friends Service Committee; Peace Brigades International; Catholic Workers; Domestic Violence counseling; Mediation and Conflict Intervention Programs; Association for Conflict Resolution; Inmate counseling in prisons

### **Government**

US Department of Justice; Staff for US congressional representative; VISTA Volunteer; Peace Corps Volunteer; United Nations

## **Department Chair**

Vernie Davis, Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and Faculty Director of the Conflict Resolution Resource Center; [vdavis@guilford.edu](mailto:vdavis@guilford.edu)

**For additional information about Peace and Conflict Studies at Guilford College visit [www.guilford.edu/academics](http://www.guilford.edu/academics)**

