Description
This interdisciplinary seminar addresses theory and practice of peace psychology, the psychological causes of violence and nonviolence, nonviolent struggle, non-violence and social change, the role of emotions in peacebuilding, negotiations of political disputes, and the impact of exiled and displaced populations on the psychology of peace and conflict resolution. The seminar also assesses applications of human psychology to the study of international politics. Psychological analyses of foreign policy and decision making, international conflict, and conflict resolution greatly contribute to the understanding of international relations. Students study the psychology of diverse actors of international relations, international relations and foreign policy decision making, role of biases, role of emotions in political decision making, and other psychological factors contributing to better understanding and explanation of international relations and politics. Through field visits with NGOs working in psychological services, health institutions, and discussions with academics, diplomats, and peace negotiators, students learn about the psychology of peace as it impacts conflict resolution and peace processes in Jordan and the Middle East.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate understanding of key components of the psychology of peace and international politics;
- Describe the conceptual and empirical frameworks of the psychology of international negotiation and diplomacy;
- Explain peacebuilding and conflict transformation from a psychological perspective;
- Apply psychological perspectives in the analysis of geopolitics in the Middle East;
- Produce a research paper using psychological theory to assess the future of peace in the Middle East.
Language of Instruction
This course is taught in English. Students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues and regional locales.

Course Schedule

Module 1: The Psychology of Peace, Conflict, and Security
This module introduces main conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the analysis of psychological approaches to peace and international conflicts and conflict resolution. The focus is on peace psychology and the psychology of conflict resolution.

Session 1: The Psychology of Peace: Theoretical Frameworks
This session provides an overview of peace psychology and psychological approaches to conflict resolution. The session also addresses the role of emotions in peace negotiations.

Required Readings:

Session 2: Peace Psychology and Security
This session focuses on the contributions of the field of psychology to international peace building and peacekeeping. Students learn psychological concepts that help politicians and international relations actors create, maintain, and practice international peace and security.

Required Readings:

Session 3: The Psychology of Conflict
This session will provide an overview of the psychological understandings and explanations to international conflicts. Students also learn how psychology conceptualizes international conflicts and factors contributing to them.

Required Readings:

Session 4: The Psychology of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation
This session exposes students to psychological foundations of international conflicts resolutions and psychological components of reconciliation efforts that help resolve international conflicts and create and maintain reconciliation among nations and governments.
Module 2: Psychology in International Relations
This module addresses the role of psychology in international relations. The focus is on psychological factors impacting international relations, in particular emotions, biases, and stereotypes.

Session 1: An Introduction to Psychology in the Context of International Relations
This session provides students with introductory concepts and key elements of psychology within different international relations' domains. This session also analyses the link between psychology and international relations main theories.

Required Readings:

Session 2: Psychological Factors Affecting International Relations
Students will discuss psychological dimensions and factors that play significant role in the field of international relations. Students learn about how psychological factors might affect international relations.

Required Readings:

Session 3: Cognitions, Biases, and Emotions in International Relations
This session addresses cognitive/mental processes, biases, prejudices, discriminations, stereotypes, and emotional states and the role they play in the international relations arena. The focus is on how these may contribute positively or negatively to the field of international relations field.

Required Readings:
This module analyzes the role of psychology and decision making in the context of foreign policy. Students learn about various mental and cognitive processes of decision making and the psychological of political leadership.

**Session 1: Political Psychology and International Relation**
This session introduces main psychological concepts of political activities and their relation to the international relations activities. Students learn the major psychological contributions to politics and international relations.

*Required Readings:*

**Session 2: Psychology of Political Leadership**
This session explores political leaders and their main psychological qualities and characteristics. Students learn the major psychological attributes that make a good politician and/or have characterized main politicians.

*Required Readings:*

**Session 3: Psychology of Foreign Policy Decision Making**
This session analyzes the mental/cognitive processes of decision making related to political context. Students will be introduced to the process of political decision making from a psychological perspective.

*Required Readings:*

**Module 4: The Psychology of International Negotiation**
This module is focused on the analysis of the role of psychological factors in the negotiation process. Students learn about the role of emotions and in peace negotiations.

**Session 1: Psychological Factors Influencing International Negotiation Process**
This session will focus on the international negotiation process between international players and psychological factors that might contribute to the international negotiation processes. Students will learn negotiation skills and strategies designed by the field of psychology to help in the international negotiation efforts.

*Required Readings:*


**Session 2: Psychology of Emotions in Negotiation**

This session will focus on the role of emotions and how they can be used as negotiation strategy in the field of international negotiations. Students will learn about the main emotions and main emotional states that are known to psychology and their importance in the negotiation process.

*Required Readings:*


**Session 3: Psychology and Peace Negotiations**

This session analyzes the psychological elements that play significant role in peace-specific international negotiations. Students will learn how psychology contributes to peace negotiations between nations and governments.

*Required Readings:*


**Module 5: The Psychology of Diplomacy**

This module is focused on the psychology of diplomacy and preventive diplomacy. Students learn about impact of psychology on political communication and meet with diplomats to discuss their experience in the field of diplomacy.

**Session 1: Psychology and Diplomatic Activity**

This session analyzes the psychological factors that play significant role in diplomatic activities, and how these psychological contributions might be used by diplomats to better conduct their diplomatic activities.

*Required Readings:*


**Session 2: Psychology and Preventive Diplomacy**
This session reviews psychological foundations in preventative diplomacy, and the role psychology plays to enhance effectiveness of preventive diplomacy. Students will also be exposed to analyses of psychological knowledge and skills diplomats can use to better produce a preventive diplomacy.

**Required Readings:**

**Session 3: Psychology of Political Communication**
This session analyzes political communication skills based on psychologically sound communication skills. Students study communication skills that psychologists advise politicians to use while communicating politically and communicating political content.

**Required Readings:**

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**
Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation, and presentation of evidence.

**Description of Assignments:**
Students will be assessed in this course through the following dimensions:

**Group Work and Discussion: 25%**
Student-led discussion of a pre-assigned lecture topic: including emphasis on assigned readings, preparation of discussion questions, and presentation of supplemental materials on the topic (interviews, articles, discussions with lecturers, etc.) After the lecture, students will be divided into groups to discuss the thematic lecture and place emphasis on the readings and the main points made during the lecture for 20 minutes. Each group will choose a presenter to present the work of the group for 5 minutes. The presenter will play the role of group facilitator and coordinator to lead the group discussion. The evaluation will be for the presenters. There will be different groups and different presenters for each lecture.

**Lecture Analysis Paper: 25%**
A 2-3 page paper completed by the presenters in tandem with the Group Work and discussion assignment and focused on the following:
1. Based on your readings and the lecture for which you led the discussion, identify the main themes and issues raised in the lecture.
2. In what way does the theme contribute to the concept of psychology of peace?
3. What aspects of the lecture facilitated cross-cultural exchange or understanding?
4. What lessons can be learned and applied from this lecture and accompanying readings to your semester in Jordan and/or your ISP topic?

**Comparative Case Study: 25%**
In 5-8 pages, present a comparative analysis of the various aspects of psychology of peace in Jordan and the Middle East. In your analysis, cover three of the following areas:

- Psychology of peace building and conflict resolution
- Psychology of international relations
- Psychology of foreign policy
- Psychology of negotiations
- Psychology of Diplomatic activity

Field Journal: %15
During your badia homestay experience, keep a journal analyzing Bedouins’ perspectives on the themes of psychology of peace. Compare the Bedouins’ perspectives to Urban perspectives (based on your experience with your host family in Amman), and compared to the UAE.

Participation and Attendance: 10%
Attendance during the thematic seminar is mandatory, and your grade will reflect your involvement in class and outside class.

Students are responsible for the timely reading of materials assigned for each session. In addition to readings, it is also your responsibility to keep up to date with current events. At a minimum, you are required to read the Jordan Times newspaper (in hardcopy form or online http://www.jordantimes.com). It is also recommended that you read a daily newspaper available online in English (for example, Ammon News at http://en.ammonnews.net/)

Assessment:
Discussion Leadership 25%
Lecture Analysis Paper 25%
Comparative Case Study 25%
Field Journal 15%
Participation and Attendance 10%

Grading Scale
94-100% A
90-93% A-
87-89% B+
84-86% B
80-83% B-
77-79% C+
74-76% C
70-73% C-
67-69% D+
64-66% D
below 64 F

Expectations and Policies
- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
• **Respect differences of opinion** (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.