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Sample module-themed coursework with
Sesame Street examples

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2022

International Conflict

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Course: Lifespan development, child development, seminar, Global Child Advocacy

Overview & Rationale:

In this module, students will consider how international conflict and associated traumas impact children. Using clips from versions of Sesame Street that air in countries experiencing violence and other children's media, students will consider the impact of violence/trauma on neurological, cognitive and socioemotional functioning.

Potential Classes:

- Child Development
- Cross-cultural Psychology
- Upper level Seminar

Readings:

Kadir A, Shenoda S, Goldhagen J (2019) Effects of armed conflict on child health and development: A systematic review. PLoS ONE 14 (1): e0210071. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0210071>

Roos Haer (2019) Children and armed conflict: looking at the future and learning from the past, Third World Quarterly, 40:1, 74-91, DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2018.1552131

Shah, H., & Mishra, A. K. (2021). Trauma and children: Exploring posttraumatic growth among school children impacted by armed conflict in kashmir. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 91(1), 132-148. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000523>

Wessells, M. G. (2016). Children and armed conflict: Introduction and overview. Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 22(3), 198-207. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pac0000176>

Video Clips:

- [Devastating Impact of War on Children's Mental Health](#)
- [Yemen Humanitarian Crisis](#)
- [The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development](#)
- Watch portion of [50 Years of Sunny Days](#): start at 59:00 - 1:07:00

During class:

- A. Discuss Impact of Armed Conflict on Children
 1. Discuss the [concept of toxic stress and its impact on brain architecture](#)

2. Discuss the various ways in which armed conflict can impact children - witnesses to violence, relocation, recruitment of child soldiers.
3. View and Discuss PPT providing overview of armed conflict and child development

B. Strategies for Helping Children Cope with Trauma from Armed Conflict

1. Discuss [mission of Sesame Street](#)
2. Have students prepare a brief presentation on strategies that can be used to help children cope with trauma related to armed conflict. How would they use the Sesame Street platform to deliver these strategies to children? What Sesame Street characters might be the most useful for reaching children with this information?
 - a. [Good Resource](#)

C. Implement a 3-2-1 exit ticket:

three facts I learned today

two facts I already knew

one question I still have about the impact of armed conflict on children