This course explores the role that ethnic, national and religious identities play in intractable conflict and identifies pathways to transformation. In this highly immersive course, a multi-disciplinary lens will be utilized to examine the dynamics of protracted social conflicts as well as the politics and psychology behind individual and collective identity. Special consideration will be given to the connection between violent social conflict and identify construction, conflict engagement, rebuilding and transformation.

Participants will learn about various transformative practices that conflict interveners can apply globally for building sustainable peace. The skills learned from this course will be transferable to other social issues that impact divided communities. We will visit historic sites, including mass graves and beautiful walled cities in Croatia and Bosnia, to give context to the remarkable impact and transformation from traumatic conflict experienced in these countries.