

International Conflict Management

UGRA_013007

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability, Global Governance
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	6
Teacher responsible	Irene Morlino - irene.morlino@esade.edu

Course Goals

- Understand key concepts of conflict and peace.
- Learn analytical tools for studying international conflict.
- Examine mechanisms for conflict prevention and management.
- Analyse the roles of NGOs, states, and international organisations.
- Study post-conflict resolution and transitional justice.
- Apply theory to real-world case studies to be able to write a policy brief.
- Develop critical thinking and engage in active discussions.

Previous knowledge

Desired previous knowledge:

- Basic knowledge of the main international institutions and organisations responsible for the management and resolution of international conflicts.
- Basic knowledge of the main historical examples of international armed conflict.

Teaching methodology

This course seeks to offer the students the fundamental concepts, theories, tools, and mechanisms of conflict analysis. Particular emphasis will be placed on the examples, scenarios, and real case studies through which students can enhance their knowledge and be able to discern how real contexts interrelate with the theory in different ways. Students are expected to develop a comprehensive understanding of the diverse conflict dynamics worldwide, with a focus on enhancing their ability to translate and apply concepts and insights to a broad range of empirical phenomena.

Students are expected to read the weekly readings provided on Moodle and skim-read some background texts that will be used to deepen their knowledge of crucial aspects of conflict analysis, management, and resolution.

The first lesson of the week will be devoted to the lecture. The second lesson of the week will be dedicated to class activities and discussions based on the readings and empirical materials.

Throughout the sessions, students' participation and engagement with the subject will be expected and encouraged.

Description

Course contribution to program

This module is designed to contribute to the track of Global Politics through the multi-faceted study of international conflicts. This course combines theoretical and empirical work on international conflict management. The course is divided into two parts. The first part addresses the central concept: conflict. It explores the analytical framework useful for studying conflict, thus laying the foundation for a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics underlying disputes, including civil wars, insurgencies, participation, and mobilisation. Once a comprehensive background has been established, the second part examines peace, its definition, and what it entails. This more empirical part of the course will look at mechanisms of conflict prevention (e.g., early warning systems), the role of intervention, and actors such as International Organisations. It will also examine the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and States in abating violence. It will end by discussing what happens after a conflict, including post-conflict resolution and transitional justice.

The course will engage with various sources, with a particular focus on empirical case studies, which will be uploaded on Moodle over the semester. Specific emphasis will be placed on examples, scenarios, and real case studies, through which students can enhance their knowledge and discern how real contexts interrelate with the theory in different ways. Students are expected to gain a comprehensive understanding of various conflict dynamics worldwide, with a focus on developing their ability to translate and apply concepts and insights to a wide range of empirical phenomena.

Students are expected to read or skim the assigned key texts each week (see Moodle), which will be used to deepen their knowledge of crucial aspects of conflict analysis, management, and resolution. The key weekly readings will form the basis for class activities. Throughout the sessions, students' participation and engagement with the subject will be expected and encouraged. All sessions will provide different questions to stimulate discussion among peers. Students can also consider reading background materials of their choice to deepen their understanding of a specific topic.

Short description

This course seeks to offer the students the fundamental concepts, theories, tools, and mechanisms of conflict analysis. Particular emphasis will be placed on the examples, scenarios, and real case studies through which students can enhance their knowledge and be able to discern how real contexts interrelate with the theory in different ways. Students are expected to obtain a good understanding of different conflict dynamics around the world, and a lot of attention will be placed on strengthening their ability to translate and apply concepts and insights into a wide range of empirical phenomena. Students are expected to read the weekly readings and skim-read some key texts that will be used to deepen their knowledge of crucial aspects of conflict analysis, management, and resolution. Throughout the sessions, students' participation and engagement with the subject will be expected and encouraged. The first lesson of the week will be devoted to the lecture. The second lesson of the week will be dedicated to class activities and discussions based on the readings and empirical materials.

Program Learning Objectives

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- Self-Development
 - Develop the capacity for critical analysis coherent with ethical and deontological conceptions.
- International Relations and Global Governance
 - Apply geopolitical analysis to decision-making by the different actors involved in international relations.
- Economic Analysis
 - Suggest proposals for international conflict resolution and international security management considering the main instruments available and the role of international organisations.

Bibliography

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Content

#	Topic
1	Violence and War, An Introduction How do we define war, conflict, violence, and order? What contestations emerge around definitions of war, conflict termination, and peace? How should we understand (and study) the politics of violent conflict?
2	Analytical Framework - Trinitarian Wars, New Wars, Liberal Wars What is Trinitarian/Clausewitzian war? Are war and violence simply just politics through other means or do violence and war have their own logic? How and why have frameworks for understanding war, conflict and violence shifted from the Cold War to the present? How and why do 'New Wars' scholars assert that the Trinitarian model of war is outdated or of limited utility? Is Kaldor's reinterpretation of Clausewitz a viable and valid reading? Are 'new wars' really new? What is the liberal war framework? Is this a valid and viable framework for understanding past and contemporary war dynamics?
3	Understanding Civil Wars and Insurgencies What are the determinants of protracted violence, internal conflict and civil war? How should we think about theories of greed and grievance? What are the changing patterns of war? Are there such things as new and old wars?
4	Inside Insurgency: Participation and Mobilisation Who fights? Who participates in conflict and in what ways? What are the different actors implicated in the organisation of violence, and how should we study their incentives and motivations?
5	Understanding conflict dynamics: a micro and macro analysis What are the structural

#	Topic
5	foundations of war? What do we mean by micro and macro analysis? How do we disentangle the incentive structures of different stakeholders? What is the relationship between macro-historical conditions and the material and political agendas of conflict elites?
6	Conflict management and peacebuilding How do wars end? How can insurgent organisations be persuaded to lay down their arms? Why is lasting peace so difficult to achieve?
7	Tools for Conflict Management: Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Early-Warning System What are the primary tools for Conflict Management? What are the mechanisms put into place (e.g., early-warning systems)? What is the role of International Organisations (UN, EU)?
8	Tools for Conflict Management: humanitarian-development-peace nexus What is development aid? And Humanitarian aid? Who belongs to civil society? What is the 'Triple Nexus' and is it a viable framework for improving peacebuilding? Can and should humanitarian actors engage in conflict management and peacebuilding activities?
9	Order, peace, stability, peacebuilding What is a peace process? What kind of peace are we talking about? What role do states play in abating violence? How do states build trust in institutions after war? How can institutions contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts without incentivising violence? What are the differences between peace and stability?
10	Post-Conflict Resolution and Transitional Justice What avenues exist to provide remedy and repair after the violence of war? What are the possibilities for justice? To what extent can laws, rights and institutions create opportunities for peace and healing? Who can access justice after war?

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Final exam	Ordinary round	50.00%
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Class participation	Ordinary round	20.00%
Final individual project	Policy memo	Ordinary round	30.00%

PROGRAMS

113S-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
113S Year 1 (Optative)

G114S-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
G114S Year 1 (Optative)

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)
GBL24 Year 2 (Optative)

GBL25-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)
GBL25 Year 3 (Optative)

GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL20 Year 3 (Optative)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL23 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL19-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL19 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL23 Year 2 (Optative)