PO8050: International Conflict

Department of Political Science
Lecturer: Dino Hadzic
Meeting Schedule: Thursdays 9.00-11.00am in Arts C6.002
Office: TRiSS C6.004
Office Hours: Fridays 10.00am-noon during teaching weeks
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This module is an introduction to the causes and consequences of violent conflict between and within countries. It will be taught in seminar style where active participation by the students is essential to successful learning outcomes. In that vein, I will lecture intermittently, usually at the beginning or end of the meeting period in order to synthesize that week’s readings (all of which will be available on Blackboard). I will also prepare discussion questions before every meeting in order to stimulate discussion and keep the conversation going in case it stalls. However, I ultimately want the discussion to cover those parts of each week’s readings/topic that students find most interesting and engaging. The best way to achieve that is to have students guide as much of the discussion as possible. Therefore, please arrive to the meetings having completed the week’s readings and prepared to engage with your peers.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed through three components: participation, four response papers (and an optional fifth one), and a final research paper. All written work should be submitted through Turnitin on Blackboard. More details for each component are provided below:

Participation (20% of final mark): participation and attendance is essential to doing well in this module. Students should arrive to the meetings ready to discuss the readings and engage with their peers. In particular, when doing each week’s readings, students should think about feasible research extensions to what is covered that week.

Response Papers (40% of final mark): students are required to submit four response papers throughout the semester. Each paper should be at most 500 words long and each will be worth 10% of the final mark (for 40% total). The fifth response paper is optional. Should a student decide to submit five response papers, only the best four will count toward the final mark. Each paper should be related to a topic covered in the module. At least two of the response papers should be submitted by 11.59pm on October 28, 2019. The remaining response papers should be submitted by 11.59pm on November 25, 2019. However, should a student decide to do so, they can submit the response papers as early as they wish so long as they meet the minimum of two submissions by October 28. In these response papers, the student should:

1. Identify a research question.

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1This module is based on and adapted from a previous one developed by Thomas Chadeaux. I am indebted to him for helping me put this syllabus together.
2. Describe how they would answer that question. What they propose can be ambitious but should also be feasible for the student to execute.

For these response papers, please do not write a summary of a particular week’s readings. Instead, the purpose of the response papers is to begin brainstorming ideas for potential research projects, the research paper for this module, or perhaps even the dissertation. Note that for late submissions I will deduct five points per day. Under no circumstances will response papers be accepted after the end of the term.

**Research Paper (40% of final mark):** the research paper is due by 11.59pm on November 29, 2019. It should not exceed 2,000 words in length, including footnotes but not the list of references. I have no preference for any particular citation style, but please make sure you use citation procedures consistently throughout. You should double-space the essay and provide the word count at the beginning. The paper should outline a research design for a larger project, be creative, and also feasible for the student to carry out. The paper should follow a clear structure:

1. What is the motivating question?
2. How does the project relate to existing work?
3. What are the hypotheses? These should flow naturally from good theory.
4. What relevant data are available, or could feasibly be collected?
5. What methods would be used to test the hypotheses? This could include any combination of comparative case studies, interviews, statistical analysis, etc.

Because the research paper is due at the end of the term, I will not accept late submissions.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, representing someone else’s work as your own, etc.) will not be tolerated. In that vein, please follow best practices as described in the College Calendar [https://libguides.tcd.ie/friendly.php?s=plagiarism/calendar](https://libguides.tcd.ie/friendly.php?s=plagiarism/calendar). Also, please complete the university’s online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism as soon as possible [https://libguides.tcd.ie/friendly.php?s=plagiarism/ready-steady-write](https://libguides.tcd.ie/friendly.php?s=plagiarism/ready-steady-write).

**TERM OUTLINE**

Week 1 (12 September): Introduction 3

Week 2 (19 September): The End of War? 3

Week 3 (26 September): Bargaining and Conflict 3

Week 4 (3 October): Economic Interdependence and Conflict 4

Week 5 (10 October): Terrorism I 4
Week 6 (17 October): Terrorism II

Week 7 (24 October): Reading Week

Week 8 (31 October): Civil Wars I

Week 9 (7 November): Civil Wars II

Week 10 (14 November): International Intervention and Peacekeeping

Week 11 (21 November): WMDs

Week 12 (28 November): Conflict Outcomes

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

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