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 your active participation 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 are 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 you find most interesting and engaging. The best way to achieve that is to have you guide as much of the discussion as possible. Therefore, please attend the meetings having completed the week’s readings and be prepared to engage with your peers.

**Assessment**

You will be assessed through three components: attendance/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:

**Attendance/Participation (20% of final mark):** attendance and participation is essential to doing well in this module. Therefore, I will take attendance at the beginning of each meeting. You should be ready to discuss the readings and engage with your peers.

**Response Papers (40% of final mark):** you are required to submit four response papers throughout the semester. Each paper should be at most 500 words long (not including the list of references) and each will be worth 10% of the final mark (for 40% total). The fifth response paper is optional. Should you 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, and you are free to write multiple response papers on the same general topic (i.e., bargaining and conflict, terrorism, civil war, etc.). At least two of the response papers should be submitted by **11:59pm on November 5, 2021**. The remaining response papers should be submitted by **11:59pm on December 3, 2021**. However, should you decide to do so, you can submit the response papers as early as you wish so long as you meet the minimum of two submissions by **November 5**. In these response papers, you should:

1. Pose a research question. This will usually entail identifying a gap in the literature. In other words, you should develop a research question that is connected to existing literature but has not yet been answered. In doing this, you will provide a **brief** literature review, i.e., only summarize existing literature to the extent you have to in order to identify the gap and pose the research question.
2. Develop your theoretical intuitions about what kind of relationship the study would uncover. This discussion should naturally produce one or two hypotheses. I recommend against posing more than two hypotheses given space constraints.

3. Describe how you would answer that question. This will entail a brief description of the data you would use (or would need), how you would operationalize key variables, and what kind of research design you would adopt. What you propose can be ambitious but should also be feasible for you 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 December 17, 2021. 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 you to carry out. You can take a previous response paper and develop it into your research paper, although you are not required to do so. The structure of the paper should resemble that of the response papers except each section should be more developed, i.e., more extensive literature review, more developed theory/hypotheses, more involved discussion of data and research design, etc.

Note that for late submissions I will deduct five points per day. Under no circumstances will the paper be accepted after the end of the term. You can find examples of good response papers and a research paper on Blackboard in the “Examples” folder.

Module Content on Blackboard

I have uploaded the following content to Blackboard:

- Syllabus: can be found in the “Syllabus” folder.
- Examples of response papers and research paper: can be found in the “Examples” folder.
- Each week’s readings: can be found in the appropriately named folder. For example, readings for bargaining and conflict are in the “Week 2: Bargaining and Conflict” folder.
- Turnitin assignments for response papers and research paper: can be found in the “Assessment” folder.

As is the case every year, some students are not yet officially registered/enrolled in the module and so will not have access to Blackboard until a later date. If that case, here is a link to a Dropbox folder containing the relevant content:
Also, if you have not been able to register/enroll by an assessment deadline (or want to submit early), you should email me your work directly. After you have gained access to Blackboard, I will ask you to go back and upload your work to Turnitin as a plagiarism check.

**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). 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).

**Disability-Related Accommodations**

Students who require any disability-related accommodations are encouraged to register with the Trinity Disability Service (https://www.tcd.ie/disability/).

**Term Outline**

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**Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1 (16 September): Introduction**

**Week 2 (23 September): Bargaining and Conflict**


**Week 3 (30 September): Borders and Conflict**


**Week 4 (7 October): Economic Interdependence and Conflict**


**Week 5 (14 October): Terrorism and Elections**


Week 6 (21 October): Terrorism and Leadership


Week 7 (28 October): Reading Week

Week 8 (4 November): Civil War Motivations


Week 9 (11 November): Civil War Dynamics


Week 10 (18 November): International Intervention and Peacekeeping


**Week 11 (25 November): Repression**


**Week 12 (2 December): Human Rights**


