

POP88081 — International Conflict A

Module Information	
Module Code	POP88081
Module Title	International Conflict A
Department	Political Science
Module Personnel	Dr Christian Gläsel
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 seminar hours per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This module provides a rigorous introduction to the study of armed conflict, drawing on contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches. It covers the causes, dynamics, and consequences of a range of conflict phenomena — including interstate wars, civil wars, terrorism, and state repression — as well as efforts to prevent or resolve them. Special emphasis is placed on the actors, interests, and institutions that shape conflict at different levels of analysis. Students will engage with some of the most pressing and enduring questions in the study of world politics: Why do wars begin, and why do they end? What drives individuals and groups to take up arms? And what can states and international actors do to promote peace and security? By the end of the module, students will be equipped to evaluate competing theoretical arguments and to engage critically with the empirical research on conflict.
Module Learning Aims	The module is designed to help participants... 1. gain an analytically grounded understanding of the conflict phenomena that dominate the news across time and space; 2. engage critically with competing theoretical frameworks and empirical findings to evaluate their explanatory power;

Module Content	
	3. develop the skills to ask meaningful research questions and design a systematic approach to answer them.
Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of the module, participants will be able to: 1. Discuss and debate conflict-related scenarios in a structured and analytically informed way. 2. Respond to academic texts on conflict in a concise and critical written form. 3. Present and defend a research argument clearly and persuasively in front of an audience. 4. Produce a structured research proposal, including a research question, theoretical framework, and outline of an empirical strategy.
Indicative Reading / Resources	tbd

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Class discussion / participation 20% Oral presentation 10% Two research idea papers – 30% (2 × 15%) Research proposal – 40%
Assessment Details	Assessment is designed to develop students' ability to critically engage with contemporary research in international conflict and to formulate original research questions. Active participation in seminar discussions is expected throughout the module and forms an integral part of the learning experience. Each student will deliver a short presentation introducing one of the required readings and leading class discussion. In addition, students will submit two short research idea papers (500 words each). These assignments require students to identify a theoretically and empirically meaningful research question arising from the course readings and to outline how it could be investigated using appropriate concepts, research designs, and evidence. The final assessment is a research proposal that develops one of these ideas (or an alternative research question) into a coherent research design. The proposal should articulate a clear research question, situate it within the relevant scholarly literature, develop theoretically grounded expectations, and



Assessment

	discuss an appropriate empirical strategy. The assignment is intended to provide a solid foundation for an independent research project or dissertation.
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	