

POU33091 — Political Violence A

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Module Information	
Module Code	POU33091
Module Title	Political Violence A
Department	Political Science
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	Dr Dino Hadzic
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	22 hours of lectures and 5 hours of tutorials

Module Content	
Module Description	This module examines how, and to what end, violence is practiced. We address directly some of the biggest and oldest questions in the study of comparative politics: why are some societies prone to civil conflict, while others are not? When do political actors resort to violence over a peaceful solution to conflict? Why do individuals participate in collective violence? How, if at all, do the perpetrators of political violence justify their actions? And how, and under what conditions, does violence end?
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to build students' understanding of the causes, nature, organization, justification, and resolution of violent conflict.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: • Understand how, and under what conditions, the social construction of identity can contribute to civil conflict. • Appreciate how other structural factors, such as poverty, lead to civil conflict.

Module Content

	• Evaluate how different research methodologies generate different types of insights into the causes of civil conflict. • Explain variation in the organization, purpose, and production of violence by insurgencies and states. • Identify the psychological processes that underlie participation in violence. • Assess the necessary factors that affect the likelihood of conflict resolution in a divided society.
Indicative Reading / Resources	

Assessment

Assessment Components	Participation: 5% 1 mid-term essay: 35% 1 end-of-term essay: 60%
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	