

POU44192 — Advanced Topics in Civil Conflict

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Module Information	
Module Code	POU44192
Module Title	Advanced Topics in Civil Conflict
Department	Political Science
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Dr Dino Hadzic
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	22 hours of lectures

Module Content	
Module Description	This module offers an advanced introduction to research on the causes and consequences of civil conflict and internal violence. The module is organized around six broad topics: (1) the relationship between ethnicity and violence, (2) how exposure to violence shapes political and social preferences, (3) the targeting of civilians by states and armed groups, (4) the complex relationship between democracy and political violence, (5) the gendered dimensions of armed conflict, and (6) the long-run political legacies of historical violence. Students engage directly with the primary research literature, developing the skills to critically evaluate competing theoretical arguments and the empirical evidence brought to bear on them.
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to deepen students' understanding of the causes, conduct, and consequences of civil conflict. It exposes students to the major theoretical frameworks and empirical methodologies used in the field, and develops their capacity to evaluate competing explanations for why violence occurs, how it unfolds, and what lasting effects it produces on individuals, societies, and institutions.

Module Content

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the major theoretical approaches to civil conflict, including grievance-, opportunity-, and bargaining-based explanations.
- Analyze how ethnic identity, structural inequalities, and political institutions shape the onset, conduct, and duration of violent conflict.
- Assess how exposure to violence affects individual and collective political and social preferences.
- Explain the strategic logic underlying civilian targeting by states and insurgent groups.
- Evaluate the relationship between democracy, democratization, conflict, and conflict resolution.
- Analyze the gendered dimensions of armed conflict, including women's roles in violence and post-conflict political representation.
- Assess the long-run political legacies of historical violence, including colonial institutions, mass atrocities, and state repression.

Assessment

Assessment Components

1 mid-term essay: 40%
1 end-of-term essay: 60%

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None