



Module Title: Conflict Studies 2

Module Code: SOU44012

Module Name:

- **ECTS Weighting: 10**
- **Semester/Term Taught: Hilary Term**
- **Contact Hours: 22**
- **Module Personnel: Dr Larissa Meier**

Module learning aims and content:

There is a growing consensus that societal conflicts are on the rise. But what exactly constitutes a conflict—and what does not? What kinds of political conflicts are we currently facing? And how can we explain how conflicts emerge and develop? This module explores these questions. In the first part, we examine various theoretical approaches to conflict. We ask what roles structural inequalities, intergroup dynamics, narratives, and emotions—alongside other socio-political conditions and processes—play in the emergence and shaping of conflict. Each theory is illustrated through one or more contemporary examples. Contemporary manifestations of conflict covered in the module include social movements, political polarization, state oppression, civil wars, revolutions, and more. Rather than drawing rigid boundaries between different types of conflict (e.g., violent vs. non-violent), the module focuses on understanding how similar social and political processes unfold across diverse forms of conflict.

Module Learning Outcomes:

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

- Define and critically assess key concepts and theoretical approaches to conflict in the social sciences.
- Identify and explain the socio-political processes that contribute to the emergence and development of conflict.
- Compare and contrast different forms of conflict across diverse regional and political contexts.
- Apply theoretical insights to contemporary manifestations of conflict
- Discuss the policy and societal implications that follow from different theories of conflict and their practical applications.



Recommended Reading List:

There is no single textbook assigned for this module. Instead, students are expected to engage thoroughly with the assigned articles and book chapters for lectures and seminars. All of the main readings for this module are provided as PDF documents on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to identify themes or questions that particularly interest them and use the further readings, alongside independently searched material, to explore these areas in greater depth.

Module Pre-Requisite:

Module Co-Requisite:

Assessment Details:

- Student presentation and participation in seminar (20%)
- End of term essay (70%)
- Tutorial Discussion (10%)