

## **POP88091 International Conflict B**

**Lecturer: Dr. Curran Flynn**

This graduate seminar is about the causes and consequences of conflicts between and within nations, as well as theories of international security. The course begins with a discussion of the frequency of conflict and whether it is inherent in human nature. Following this will be a macro historical exploration of the development of warfare in society, and the use of warfare as a form of bargaining and rationality. Issues related to nuclear weapons and their purpose will also be included. The effectiveness of economic interdependence in restraining states in warfare will be evaluated. Terrorism and its effectiveness will be discussed after the reading week followed by a lengthy discussion on the cause of civil wars as well as possible solutions to end them. Lastly, the rationale and logic of Peacekeeping and Responsibility to Protect (R2P) will be analyzed.

### **Learning aims**

The module aims to allow students to analyze the various facets of conflict in the international system. The module gives students an understanding of the history of conflict and its implications on human nature and the future. Students will examine conflict as a possible rational response to decision making. Tying into this, students will be able to debate the effectiveness of economic interdependence as a method of creating a more peaceful global environment. Understanding nuclear weapons and their purpose in conflict as well as the goals of terrorism are essential to understand conflict beyond the traditional paradigm of armies facing each other. Following this exploration, students will evaluate the causes and possible solutions to civil war as opposed to international conflict. At the end of the course students will be able to debate and the merits of military intervention by third parties in conflicts.

### **Learning outcomes**

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

- Explain the historical development of warfare in international society
- Evaluate the concept of rationality in conflict.
- Critically analyze the importance of regime type in conflict
- Analyze the aims and uses of nuclear weapons and terrorism.
- Examine the causes and possible solutions to civil wars.

### **Assessment Details**

Presentation 10%

Policy Paper - 25%

Reaction Papers 30%

Timed Online Essay - 35%

