**SUBJECT**

**SEMINAR IV: CONFLICT ANALYSIS**

ECTS CREDITS: 8.00  
SUBJECT CODE: ISEM4  
LANGUAGE IN WHICH IT IS GIVEN: English

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**STUDIES**

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<th>CODE</th>
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<td>GRIN</td>
<td>Grau en Relacions Internacionals</td>
<td>Compuls.</td>
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**TEACHER**

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**PREREQUISITES**
None

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**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**
None

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**SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY**
None

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**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the central problems in the intellectual content and practical applications of the notion of ‘conflict’. Conflict Studies is one of the mainstays of traditional international relations, but the concept of conflict is highly contextualised. The module takes a critical view of the field through first, an examination of a series of core epistemological and normative questions related to concepts of peace and conflicts, and second, through an examination of a related set of contemporary challenges. The purpose of these a is to interrogate and destabilise orthodox approaches to conflict and look for alternative paradigms towards sustainable peace.

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**COMPETENCES**

- On completion of this module, students will be able to identify, describe and critically assess some of the key debates in the field of conflict analysis in contemporary international relations.
- They will understand the limitations of orthodox approaches to conflict analysis, and have an appreciation of the nature of some of the related challenges facing the world today.
- They will also be able to formulate views on the critical literature of the module, express their views effectively in a small group, and develop their own understanding and analysis.

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**CONTENTS**

On War

- Peace and war in world politics
- Contemporary armed conflict – theories, definitions and features
- Framework: the globality of war and geopolitics
- How to analyze an armed conflict?
Parties in Armed Conflict
- Individual motivations for waging war
- The privatisation of war
- Media and war: information or propaganda?
- Humanitarian action in armed conflict situations

Causes for armed conflict
- Causes of armed conflict
- The Global War on Terror (GWOT)
- Natural resources and armed conflict
- Other supposed causes of armed conflict

Security and Defence
- Homeland security as business
- Militarization and arms business
- Securitisation Theory and Migration

Consequences of armed conflict
- On victims of armed conflict
- Selected impact of armed conflict
- A gendered dimension
- Refugees and Internally Displaced
- Disarmament: the impact of certain weapons

War-related legality and legitimacy
- The *ius in bello*: limits and practices
- The *ius ad bellum*: legality versus legitimacy
- Foreign military intervention: reasoning and implementation
- The Dilemmas of Humanitarian Intervention

Culture of peace and armed conflict
- On violence and culture
- Nonviolent action and armed conflicts

Final assignment: Presentation of group work on conflict analysis by students

METHODOLOGY
The course explores key issues in conflict analysis. Students will be required to complete a number of individual and collective assignments. Attendance is compulsory. Many of our activities will involve interaction with institutions and practitioners directly involved in conflict peacemaking activities such as visits to peace-related centres, conferences by conflict stakeholders, NGOs, etc.

Students will be regularly asked to read academic materials and policy papers on conflicts which will be discussed during our academic sessions.
Furthermore, students will be asked to develop conflict mapping skills through individual and group exercises.

**EVALUATION**

The course is evaluated on a continuous basis. The overall grade for this course is based on coursework and class participation (70%) and a mapping final project (30%).

**CRITERIA OF EVALUATION OF RESULTS**

Not specified

**BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**


**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND MATTER COMPLEMENTARY**

None

CREATE BY: Francisco Javier Martí González
DATE OF THE LAST REVIEW: 29/07/2014