Course
Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Anthropology of Conflict and Development (K001293)

Course
Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course size
(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits  5.0
Study time  150 h
Contact hrs  45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

A (semester 2)  English
integration seminar  15.0 h
lecture  30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Schäfers, Marlene  PS05  lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>crds</th>
<th>offering</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences</td>
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<td>A</td>
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Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Anthropology, ethnography, violence, conflict, suffering, governance, armed conflict, war, humanitarianism, development

Position of the course

This course introduces students to the anthropological study of conflict in its intersection with development and humanitarianism. It provides students with conceptual and methodological tools to critically approach and reflect upon sites of conflict and violence in the contemporary world. Violence and conflict will be approached as complex social phenomena that need to be understood from the vantage point of relations of power, domination and resistance. Drawing on an interdisciplinary range of literature, we will consider how violence becomes embedded in political and social institutions, how it impacts bodies and subjectivities, how it shapes everyday lives, how it may be staged and performed. We will investigate how violent conflicts transform both subjects and collectives, and how violence lives on during post-conflict periods. Finally, the course will consider how conflicts gives rise to humanitarian and other developmentalist forms of intervention and how emerging humanitarian regimes decisively shape the politics of conflict in the contemporary world.

Contents

The course is structured in three parts. We begin by engaging key theoretical approaches to violence and conflict, giving particular attention to the intersection of violence, law, and the nation-state. Next, we consider different articulations of violence, including violence as an everyday phenomenon in situations of protracted conflict, how violence shapes bodies and (gendered) subjectivities, and the way in which conflicts may thrive on the performance of violence and its staging in the media. Lastly, we will turn our attention towards humanitarian regimes of developmental intervention and ask how images of violence and suffering are mobilized to legitimize different forms of governance and how such governance crucially influences the course of (armed) conflicts and everyday violence.

Initial competences

Academic level of thinking and working, as proven by the successful completion of a Master of Arts, demonstrating that the student has acquired a primary academic framework that enables him/her to study the field of conflict and development in a

(Approved)
thorough and scientifically sound manner. This course cannot be chosen as a separate course or as a course of choice, unless the course is mentioned explicitly in the list of courses of choice in your curriculum. A good level of understanding, talking and writing of English is required.

Final competences

1. Understand the main theories, concepts and research methods related to the anthropological study of (armed) conflict and development
2. Familiarity with ongoing debates in the anthropological study of conflict and development
3. Ability to situate and critically evaluate discursive formations that legitimize violence, conflict and governmental intervention
4. Ability to apply conceptual insights and research methods developed within anthropology to contemporary conflict situations and humanitarian and developmental intervention
5. Critically compare and assess the relevance of specific research methods in the study of (armed) conflict and humanitarian intervention
6. Ability to critically read and engage with academic texts and their arguments
7. Work together in a group to jointly assess an existing academic debate, distill its main lines of argument, and develop a well-argued position
8. Ability to communicate and present arguments and academic positions to an audience of peers

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture, integration seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students are expected to study the assigned reading material, guided by reading questions, and prepare short response papers. During the class, students are expected to share their preparatory reading and thinking during group discussions. Classes will comprise student presentations, interactive lectures and group discussion to introduce the main concepts and debates, discuss their merits and clarify existing questions and concerns.

Learning materials and price

Syllabus, readings and all other necessary material will be made available on Minerva. In addition, students will rely on their own notes.

References


Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support using Minerva
Students can direct questions via e-mail, inquire after class, or consult the lecturer during a personal appointment

(Approved)
Evaluation methods
- end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
- Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
- Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
- Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
- Examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
- Every student will be asked to participate in one group presentation, which will be graded.
- Each week, students will be asked to submit short reading reports ahead of the class. Failure to submit will result in deduction of points.
- Participation in seminars (presence, participation in the discussion) will be graded.
- Written exam will be open book and assess learnt skills (application of discussed concepts and methods, critical argumentation) rather than factual knowledge

Calculation of the examination mark
- 50%: Written exam
- 20%: Student presentation
- 20%: Weekly assignments
- 10%: In-class participation

(Approved)