Conflict, war, global south, international relations

This course is a basic course. Its purpose is to provide an overview of violence and conflict in the global south since decolonization and to familiarize students with the different currents and approaches in the field of contemporary conflict analysis. Based on specific case-studies, this course aims at generating an understanding of causes, dynamics and consequences of conflicts in the global south.

This course starts from an historical perspective on violence and conflict in the global south. Both the different causes and sources of violence and conflict, and the way conflicts develop and transform, will be studied. Specific attention will be paid to the change in the nature of conflict and to their distinct historical contexts. Case studies should allow students to gain a better understanding of the origins, dimensions and dynamics of violence and conflict. In addition, an introduction to the larger field of conflict analysis and to the dominant paradigms, theories and analytical frameworks will be provided.

Specific themes that will be discussed include:
- violence and conflict since 1945: general presentation and trends;
- causes, functions, dimensions and dynamics of violence and conflict;
- the role of decolonization, Cold War, ideology, ethnicity, nationalism, globalization and economics;
- actors of violence and conflict;
- consequences (social, political, economic, environmental) of violence and conflict.

Initial competences
No specific initial competences required

Final competences
- have an insight into the historical evolution, scope and size of violence and conflict in the global south;
- have a general understanding of the conceptual framework of conflict analysis;
- situate current conflicts in their historical, political and geographical context;
- have a better understanding of the different causes of violence and conflict in the global south;
- understand the actors of violence of conflict, their motivations and their strategies;
- have a general knowledge of the different interpretations and paradigms of violence and conflict in the global south;
- have a general understanding of the consequences of violence and conflict.

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
On campus lecture, microteaching, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
- The students will receive through lectures an overview of violence and conflict and the different perspectives and analytical frameworks;
- A number of specific case-studies will be presented during these lectures;
- Building on the generated knowledge, students will be able to deepen their understanding of violence and conflict through micro-teaching and group discussions;
- Through individual study, the students will apply their generated knowledge and analyse and evaluate a specific case-study, which has to be presented in a written paper.

Learning materials and price
The students are expected to take notes, and will be aided in this through the lecture presentations, relevant literature, which will be distributed through the Minerva portal.

References

Course content-related study coaching
- Online course coaching;
- Mid-time feedback moments for the students’ individual work.

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
- Micro-teaching: the students will be evaluated on the bases of their active participation in the discussions; these discussions are based on the lecture of articles and summaries, and aim at a nuanced and thorough presentation of arguments. Focus on the format and quality of presented arguments.
- Individual work: students will individually apply the generated knowledge and write an

(Draft -- caution, this is not the final version)
essay.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 12/20: written exam
- 2/20: micro-teaching
- 6/20: individual work