

## Conflictstudies (K001404)

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

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Vlassenroot, Koen

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

6

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

6

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

6

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies](#)

6

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Political Sciences](#)

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Conflict, war, violence, international relations

**Position of the course**

This course is a basic course and aims to familiarize students with the different debates and perspectives of contemporary conflict analysis. On the basis of case studies, the course also aims to gain insight into the various causes, dynamics and consequences of conflicts.

**Contents**

This course provides an overview of a number of armed conflicts from a historical perspective, and introduces students to the theorizing of contemporary forms of violent conflict. It will look at the various causes of violence and conflict as well as the way in which conflicts unfold. Attention to case studies should allow a better understanding of the origin, dimensions and dynamics of violence and conflict. An introduction to the broad domain of conflict analysis and the dominant explanatory models and analytical frameworks of conflicts are presented.

Specific topics that will be covered include:

- violence and conflict since 1945: overview and evolutions;
- causes, functions, dimensions and dynamics of violence and conflict;
- the role of decolonization, Cold War, ideology, ethnicity, nationalism, globalization and economy;
- overview and analysis of current conflicts

**Initial competences**

No specific initial competences required

**Final competences**

- To have insight into the historical evolution, nature and extent of violent conflicts;
- To have a general insight into the conceptual framework used within the conflict analysis;
- Being able to situate contemporary conflicts historically, politically and

geographically;

- Have a better understanding of the different causes of violent conflict;
- Understand the actors of violence and conflict, their motivations and their strategies;
- To have a general basic knowledge of the different interpretations and angles of violent conflicts;
- To have a general understanding of the consequences of violent conflicts.

#### **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**

##### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- An overview of the literature on violence and conflict, as well as the explanatory models explained in lectures;
  - In the lectures, a number of specific case studies will also be discussed;
  - During the group work, the acquired knowledge is then applied to a specific case study, which the students have to analyse in groups and then present.
- In the case of a return of a COVID pandemic, teaching methods can be adapted if necessary.

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

Kaplan, R.D., The Coming Anarchy. How Scarcity, Crime, Overpopulation, Tribalism, and Disease are Rapidly Destroying the Social Fabric of our Planet, in: The Atlantic Monthly, February 1994.

Kaldor, M., New and Old Wars. Organised Violence in a Global Era, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999.

Cramer, C., Civil War is Not a Stupid Thing. Accounting for Violence in Developing Countries, London: Hurst and Company, 2006.

Reno, W., Warfare in Independent Africa. New Approaches to African History, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Online course coaching

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

- Group work: study and analysis of specific case. Focus on accurate but focused presentation and elaboration of arguments.
- In the case of a return of a COVID pandemic, examination and evaluation modalities can be adapted if necessary.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

- 15/20: written exam
- 5/20: group work

