



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

IK2231 Perspectives and Theories in Conflict Resolution, 15 credits

Perspectives and Theories in Conflict Resolution, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-10-30 and was last revised on 2023-11-14 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is an elective course in the second cycle.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS), 2) Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance (S2IAG) and 3) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

Main field of studies

Global Studies

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A completed core course of 15 higher education credits in the second cycle within the field of global studies. Alternatively a completed undergraduate degree in social sciences, or the equivalent competence.

Language requirements: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- present and summarize arguments and findings made in conflict resolution research;

Skills and abilities

- conduct a conflict analysis of an international conflict, including identifying key actors, interests, and underlying and triggering conflict causes;
- identify and analyse conflict resolution attempts, including discussing the interests and strategies of different actors and the outcomes of the attempts;
- identify and apply relevant concepts and theoretical debates in conflict resolution to specific cases of violent political conflict and specific challenges in the field of conflict resolution;

Judgment and approach

- identify and reflect over key dilemmas encountered in conflict resolution;
- evaluate and critically discuss perspectives and arguments made in relation to key dilemmas in conflict resolution.

Course content

The course deals with the analysis and resolution of political and violent (or potentially violent) conflicts. Causes and dynamics of conflicts are discussed, as are actors, interests and structures. Moreover, the course looks at strategies and approaches for managing, resolving and transforming conflicts, and analyses the challenges and outcomes of such strategies. Key dilemmas and debates in conflict resolution are critically discussed, including the tensions between peace and justice, and between international interventions and local actors. The course combines theoretical and conceptual perspectives with the study of concrete cases and methods of conflict analysis and resolution.

Form of teaching

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The examination will take the form of three student papers and the presentation of and commenting on papers in a conference. To pass the course students also need to participate in three literature seminars. The written papers will be graded with Fail, Pass

or Pass with Distinction. The participation in the conference will be graded with Fail or Pass. Students who are not able to take part in the mandatory seminars or the conference will be given complementary tasks.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To pass the course, all elements have to be completed and receive at least a Pass (G). To receive Pass with Distinction (VG) on the course, at least two of the student papers need to receive this grade, in addition to the criteria for a Pass grade.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.