



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **IR1112 Conflicts in the Global Order, 15 credits**

Konflikter i den globala ordningen, 15 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2010-02-12 and was last revised on 2019-03-13 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2019-03-27, spring semester of 2019.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is a single subject core course at first cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Program in Political Science (S1STV) and 2) BA-program in Global Studies (S1GLS)

#### *Main field of studies*

International Relations

#### *Specialization*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

General entrance requirements

#### **Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- account for historical emergence, institutions and regulatory frameworks in the international system that have special relevance for the study of war, peace and safety;
- describe the structure of the global political economy after the Second World War;
- identify structural injustices in the global system and global crises in the capitalist system;
- identify different causes for armed violence, and ways to solve or handle conflicts in the international system;
- account for main theoretical directions in global political economy and how they relate to one another;

*Competence and skills*

- use relevant concepts to describe and reflect on the fundamental features of armed conflicts and international operations;
- use relevant concepts to describe and reflect on the fundamental features of conflicts in the global political economy;

*Judgement and approach*

- critically evaluate different forms of conflict management and conflict solution, on the basis of theoretical perspectives;
- reflect on the prevailing economic world order and its development, on the basis of different theoretical perspectives.

**Course content**

The course covers central concepts, theories and perspective to understand conflicts in the global order. The course consists of two separate components that each has its origin in two separate theory traditions. The first component, with origin in peace and development studies/peace and conflict studies, has its starting point in the three basic concepts of war, peace and safety, and their importance and development within the subject of international relations. Further, the course addresses the different causes to, and expressions of, organised violence, terrorism and conflicts in the international system, among other things in relation to questions about identity, gender, resource assets, globalisation, social and political integration, militarisation and global power structures. The occurrence of conflicts and changed conflict patterns during the period after the Cold War is also discussed in relation to international law and the structure and development of the UN system, as well as to different attempts to create peace and safety, for example through non-violence strategies, conciliation or international interventions.

The other component, with roots in the theory tradition of global or international political economy (GPE/IPE), focuses on global and structural political-economic relations, the emergence of the global economical system and reasons for global inequality, as well as conditions for what is sometimes called structural violence. This part thereby constitutes an introduction to GPE/IPE and critical political economics, as a perspective and frame of analysis to understand our contemporary world order, its conditions and how it has emerged historically. The course component aims partly to introduce and provide an overview of prevailing world order and global political-economic relations as well as its history, partly to introduce and provide an overview of theoretical specialisations and concepts in GPE/IPE. The course provides an overview of the political-economic history of the 20th century with an emphasis on the period after the Second World War, with special focus on contemporary conflicts and crises in GPE/IPE.

Together, the two course components and the theory traditions give contrasting perspectives to understand and analyse conflicts in the global order. These different perspectives/traditions capture several points of contact and thereby promote a deeper understanding of global conflict dynamics.

### **Form of teaching**

The teaching of the course consists of lectures as well as seminars and assignments carried out individually and in groups.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

The course may be given in both Swedish and English.

### **Assessment**

Examination is carried out in the form of one take home exam for the first component, one sit-in exam for the second component, one group assignment that is presented orally and in writing, and one mandatory seminar.

The number of examination occasions can for resource reasons be limited to a minimum of 5 occasions for each examination component.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed.

**Grades**

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

To receive the grade Pass (G) on the course, the grade Pass (G) on all examination components is required. To receive the grade Pass with Distinction (VG) on the course, the grade Pass with Distinction (VG) is required for both the take home exam and the sit-in exam, 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.

**Additional information**