Course Description

What does social conflict mean? What are the composing and dynamic elements of a given conflict? How to identify, capture and conceptualize a conflict? What are the strategies and tools of conflict analysis? How to analyse a given conflict in varying social settings? What particular methods does one need to apply? How to generate a research design concerning social conflict issues?

In order to answer aforementioned questions, the course at hand is organized into three parts. The first part, Definitions, and Phenomena of Social Conflict; provides prominent definitions of social conflict and highlights the current conflict trends in the existing literature. In addition to that effort, insides of and various approaches to ‘conflict analysis’ will be demonstrated.

The second part, Analysing Social Conflict, introduces the analytic tools used in empirical social science research. We will focus on the methods of non-quantitative work, although we will also consider how scholars integrate qualitative and statistical analysis. Particular attention will be paid to the case study methods, such as process-tracing and comparative case analysis.

The third part, Case Examples, will consider several examples of contemporary conflicts. In light of the gained knowledge, the particular aspects of the case examples will be discussed and analysed in a structured and analytical fashion.

Finally, the course concludes with reviewing the seminal case studies, Kalyvas-Wood-Weinstein-Mylonas, on social conflict and political violence in the conventional literature.

Objectives

The course at hand provides conceptual, theoretical and methodological frames for the analysis of intergroup conflict, with particular emphasis on the empirical methods of social conflict.
injury. After successfully completing this course, the participants are expected to have the following knowledge and competencies:

- a vocabulary for describing and discussing social conflict and political violence.
- a broad understanding of the theory and practice of conflict analysis.
- a repertoire of empirical approaches for analyzing social conflict.

and finally,

- an ability to design and operationalize social inquiry on intergroup conflicts in various contexts.

Requirements

**Grading**

Students with module requirements (6 ECTS / 7,5 credits in the local system):

(1) Regular participation—This class will be collaborative and interactive
(2) Reading of the literature (at least two articles for every meeting) including preparation of three questions concerning the baseline (10 %)
(3) 30 min. presentation in a given meeting, and a hand-out (40 %)
(4) Term-Paper_word count should be between 4500 and 5000 NOT including the bibliography (50 %)

*No Certificate for attendance is awarded.*

**Important Dates**

the first meeting: February 15th
the creative week (no class): April 5th
the last meeting: May 17th
the deadline for paper submission: May 27th

Course Outline & Readings

**February 15th. Course orientation—Syllabus review, distribution of the presentations, Q & A.**

**Part I. Definitions and Phenomena of Social Conflict**

This section of the course provides prominent definitions of social conflict and highlights the current conflict trends in the existing literature. Furthermore, insides of and various approaches to ‘conflict analysis’ will be demonstrated.
February 22\textsuperscript{nd}. Defining ‘conflict’

What does social conflict mean? What are the composing and dynamic elements of a given conflict?

\textit{Baseline}


\textit{Suggested further readings}


March 1\textsuperscript{st}. Understanding conflict trends

What are the current conflict trends and how to interpret them?

\textit{Baseline}


\textit{Suggested further readings}


March 8\textsuperscript{th}. Conflict analysis as a multidiscipline

What are the strategies and tools of conflict analysis?

\textit{Baseline}

Part II. Analysing Social Conflict

This section of the course introduces the analytic tools used in empirical social science research. We will focus on the methods of non-quantitative work, although we will also consider how scholars integrate qualitative and statistical analysis. Particular attention will be paid to the case study methods, such as process-tracing and comparative case analysis.

March 15th. Epistemology, research question and research design

How to identify, capture and conceptualize a conflict? What are the epistemological, ontological and methodological foundations of a research design on social conflicts?

Baseline


Suggested further readings


March 22nd. Case selection and case study

What are the essential characteristics of case study research and the key ways in which this approach differs from other research strategies?

Baseline


Suggested further readings

March 29th. Process-Tracing and causality

What is process-tracing? What are the promises of process-tracing as a methodological tool? What are the types of process-tracing? How to apply process-tracing in a given case study?

Baseline


Suggested further readings


April 5th. Movie week (No Class)

Assignment: While watching the given movies, try to identify one or two interesting points and/or puzzles.

Movies

- Pontecorvo, G., 1966. The Battle of Algiers. Italy: Casbah Film-Igor Film.

Part III. Case Examples

This section will consider several examples of contemporary conflicts. In light of the gained knowledge, particular aspects of the case examples will be discussed and analysed in a structured and analytical fashion.

April 12th. Analysing the context of the conflict—Conflict in Venezuela since 2016.

Baseline


Application

April 19th. Analysing the causes of the conflict—Conflict in Yemen since 2015.

Baseline


Application


April 26th. Analysing the dynamics of the conflict—Conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014.

Baseline


Application


Baseline


Application

May 10th. Book review


May 17th. Wrap up – Evaluation of the course, round of feedbacks.