



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

FKVC34, Peace and Conflict Studies: International Ethics, Justice and War, 7.5 credits

*Freds- och konfliktvetenskap: Internationell etik, rättvisa och krig,
7,5 högskolepoäng*
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2013-12-12, spring semester 2014.

General Information

This course in the field Peace and Conflict Studies is offered to undergraduate and exchange students at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Peace and Conflict Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

demonstrate knowledge about theories and practices of international ethics that enable them to critically examine central moral dilemmas in global politics

demonstrate knowledge of research problems, theoretical traditions, with emphasis on cosmopolitan versus communitarian conceptions of justice, ethics and war

demonstrate knowledge of arguments concerning the discourses and practices of ethical foreign policy and moral agency

demonstrate knowledge of just war theory and its utility in theorising humanitarian intervention, conflict and intelligence gathering

demonstrate good knowledge of the main academic literature on international ethics and the ability to interpret its utility in understanding debates on global responsibility, just war and intervention.

Competence and skills

demonstrate the ability to formulate a relevant research problem in the areas covered by the course, and have the ability to theorise, generalise and discuss ethical problems and solutions

demonstrate the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

The course introduces and elaborates on the theories and practices of international ethics, justice and war. In so doing it encourages participants to critically engage with normative debates on the difficult nexus between our cosmopolitan and communitarian obligations to nationals and non-nationals alike. From a pure cosmopolitan perspective we inhabit a single ethical space defined by universal moral principles and codes of conduct, which take priority over our membership of particularistic social or political communities. Pure communitarians, on the other hand, hold that moral agents are situated selves and that their sense of morality and solidarity is confined to their co-nationals. The lectures help the student to identify differences in cosmopolitan and communitarian conceptions of ethical (global and national) obligation generally, and variations in their conceptions of universal justice, war, humanitarian intervention and foreign policy. Central issues to be discussed and compared include redistributive justice across borders, feminist conceptions of global obligation, pursuits of ethical foreign policy and good international citizenship, the moral agency of international institutions as well as expressions of celebrity activism and diplomacy. Furthermore, the course critically engages with conceptions and practices of just war, foreign humanitarian (military) intervention as well as the ethics of modern soldiering. The course stresses the linkages between ethical theory and practice in international relations. The course seminars provide empirical foundation for the ethical discussions.

Course design

The course consists of lectures and seminars. In addition to attending lectures, students are required to participate in seminar discussions, and prepare oral and written presentations on specific topics. Attendance at seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

The assessment is based on the course activities as well as a final individual essay.

Assessment

Students who fail a test have the right to re-examination. An opportunity for re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 60 credits in Peace and Conflict Studies, Political Science or Social Sciences.

Further information

The course cannot be included in a degree together with FKVK02, Peace and Conflict Studies: Bachelor's Course, 30 credits.

Subcourses in FKVC34, Peace and Conflict Studies: International Ethics,
Justice and War

Applies from V14

1301 International Ethics, Justice and War, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A