



Faculty of Social Sciences

## FKVA12, Peace and Conflict Studies: Level 1, 30 credits

*Freds- och konfliktvetenskap: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng*  
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2012-04-12 and was last revised on 2021-06-16. The revised syllabus applies from 2021-08-03, autumn semester 2021.

### General Information

The course constitutes the first semester studies in the main field of study peace and conflict studies. The course is given as a freestanding course as well as in the Bachelor's programme in Peace and conflict studies.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

*Main field of studies*

Peace and Conflict Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student should

#### Knowledge and understanding

demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of peace and war from a multidisciplinary approach show knowledge of central issues within peace and conflict studies and basic methods and techniques

#### Competence and skills

demonstrate the ability to choose and use relevant tools to solve provided analytical problems demonstrate the ability to compile and communicate results of a learning process in both written and oral form demonstrate the ability to carry out basic information searches and have knowledge of simple reference management

demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for and plan their own study and learning process demonstrate the ability to cooperate with others in order to implement joint aims.

## **Course content**

The aim of the course is to give a theoretical and empirical introduction to peace and conflict studies. The course includes four modules.

### **Module 1 Past and Future Wars (7.5 credits)**

The phenomenon of war goes through fast and basic changes since the end of the cold war. New political patterns, technical applications and socio-economic structures play a deciding role in these dynamics. In this module, the fundamental features of the thinking around wars and international conflicts are treated under the latest 200 years with a focus on the contemporary debate about the changes of warfare. Central issues that are taken up concern international military interventions, origins and processes of national conflicts, the relationships between war and media coverage and the development of new forms of warfare.

### **Module 2 Theories of War and Armed Conflict (7.5 credits)**

The origins of armed conflict can be understood and explained in various ways depending on which theoretical perspectives or explanatory approaches that are used. Conflicts can also be studied based on several levels of analysis such as individual, state or system level. The aim of the module is to give an overview of central theories and assumptions around the causes of in and intergovernmental conflicts. Different theoretical arguments will be applied on empirical cases of conflict and armed political violence to highlight central theoretical arguments as well as clarify the connection between theory and empirics.

### **Module 3 International Law and Armed Conflicts**

The course module aims towards providing an overview of the different functions of international law in armed conflict. It consists of an introduction of the structure, limits, and possibilities of international law. Also a shorter introduction will be given to judicial method and argumentation. The course focuses on the areas of international law that are relevant before, during, and after armed conflict. Within this setting, particular emphasis is placed on the FN charter, the regulations regarding the international use of force, humanitarian law, human rights, individual legal responsibility for crimes committed in relation to armed conflict (for example ad-hoc tribunals and the permanent international criminal court in the Hague), migration rights and transitional justice.

### **Module 4 Conflict Resolution (7.5 credits)**

The module intends to give an overview of the research field conflict solution. The course treats various types of strategies for conflict solution such as negotiation, conciliation, crisis management and conflict preventive. These strategies are discussed from different actor perspectives such as states, international organisations and non-governmental actors. The module highlights also various types of reconciliation processes and peace building. Because this is required a long-term work with to build departments and meeting places for communication and dialogue in the local society. Reconciliation and the actors of the civilian society become important parts in

this work. Educational projects and religious societies and women's role for peace will be treated particularly.

## Course design

The teaching is given as lectures and teaching sessions and course introductions, seminars and group work. Participation in course introductions, seminars and group work are compulsory. All teaching assumes that the student participates actively. The student should to the lectures have prepared reviews- and analysis assignments according to instructions.

## Assessment

The examination takes place partly in the form of assignments under the time of the module, partly through written examination at the end of respective module. In connection with the course, three examination sessions are offered: one regular examination and two re-examinations.

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in introductions to modules, seminars and group exercises. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*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.

As grade, one of the terms A is used, B, C, D, E or failed. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. Grade for failed results is denoted with failed.

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.

Grade on module is decided by the result of the written test. The grade in the whole course is decided through a joining of the grades on the three modules that are included in the course. The grades A-E are converted to numerical values that are divided with the number of modules and be rounded off according to mathematical principles.

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**

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Civics 1b/1a1+1a2, English 6.

### **Further information**

This course replaces FKVA11, Peace and Conflict Studies: Basic course, 30 credits.

## Subcourses in FKVA12, Peace and Conflict Studies: Level 1

### Applies from H21

- 2101 Past and Future Wars, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2102 Seminars: Past and Future Wars, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 2103 Theories on War and Armed Conflicts, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2104 Seminars: Theories on War and Armed Conflicts, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 2105 International Law and Armed Conflicts, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2106 Seminars: International Law and Armed Conflicts, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 2107 Conflict Resolution, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2108 Seminars: Conflict Resolution, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

### Applies from H19

- 1901 Past and Future Wars, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1902 Seminars: Past and Future Wars, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1903 Theories on War and Armed Conflict, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1904 Seminars: Theories on War and Armed Conflict, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1905 International Law, Armed Conflicts and the UN, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1906 Seminars: International Law, Armed Conflicts and the UN, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1907 Conflict Resolution, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1908 Seminars: Conflict Resolution, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass