Course information

Negotiation and Conflict, 15 credits
Code: 740G19

Autumn term 2012

Responsible for the course: Tünde Puskás Tunde.Puskas@liu.se
Description of the course

Aim:
After completing the course, students will be able to:
- understand conflicts emerging at local, national and international levels
- analyze complex relationships of negotiation and conflict
- understand and explain the themes and issues which arise in relation to conflicts such as ethnicity, nationalism, race, gender and development
- put together a solid chain of logically consistent arguments
- search for, collect, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information about a concrete example

Content

The course seeks to answer the question How can analysts of society and culture make sense of and analyse conflicts? The point of departure of the course is that all local conflicts in the modern world should be understood in a global context. For this reason, concepts such as “globalisation”, “nationalism/internationalism”, “development” and “politics” play an important role in the course. Aspects of great importance are the critical scrutiny of examples of international conflicts, ethnically framed identity politics, and the role of media and popular culture in different conflict orientated relations.

The course covers several different fields of study, such as international relations, ethnicity, nationalism, race, development and gender studies. The students approach these themes in six different projects. The precise content of these projects varies from year to year, due to different teachers’ expertise and interests. The projects are introduced at the start of the course.

Design of the course

The course starts with a three-week long lecture period. The lectures aim at providing theoretical tools and historical background for the seminars and projects. This part of the course is examined through a written reflection of the literature on the required-reading list. The deadline for handing in this reflection is shown in the schedule on Time Edit.

The project work starts after the introductory period (see the schedule). The projects, in which the teachers act as supervisors, are carried out in groups and require that the students actively search for information and relevant literature, not included in the list of recommended literature (see below). The projects are examined in written form and orally at a forum. The oral presentations also function as an introduction to a discussion. In addition to the written report and the oral presentation each project group will prepare an evaluation of another group’s project work and present it at the forum.

Parallel with the project work there is a series of seminars. These seminars offer the students the possibility of an intensified contact with the subjects presented during the introductory lecture period. Obviously, every student’s active part in seminar discussions is of vital importance.
Examination:

1. Written exam part 1: the student answers two essay questions of those presented at It’s learning in advance. The paper should be at 6 pages long (3 pages per question), Times New Roman 12 pt, line spacing 1.5; with correct references and a complete list of references. Citations must be done in a correct way. The paper should be submitted to tunpu32.liu@analys.urkund.se. The deadline for submission is indicated in the schedule.

    This part of the examination is graded with Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

Criteria for pass are the following:

You should

• show that you understand the complexity of the problem you are discussing
• create correct references and a correct list of references
• have an active relation to the required reading literature

Criteria for pass with distinction are the following:

You should

• treat the required literature in a critical and independent manner
• show that you understand the basic theoretical problems in the literature chosen
• show that you understand the complexity of the problem you are discussing
• construct a solid chain of logically consistent arguments
• create correct references and a correct list of references

Examinator: Tünde Puskás & Sara Ahlstedt

2a. Individual (written) part: A report describing the work the student has conducted within the project group (5 pages altogether) The written discussion should contain a one page clear and nuanced formulation of the problem/aim and the empirical material the group has worked with. The preferred method is some form of text analysis. Each student should describe the specific question she/he worked with within the project on 4 pages. The discussion of literature and material must, in a consistent way, relate to the problem/aim and the theoretical framework. References and list of references must be correct.

Deadline for handing in project reports is in the schedule

2b.

Oral part (in group). The project work is examined at a forum. Each group will have access to another group’s project reports in advance and should prepare an evaluation of these. The idea is to give constructive critique to your colleagues.

Examination part 2 is graded with Pass, Pass with Distinction or Fail.
Criteria for *Pass*

You should:

- develop your argument in clear relation to the problem
- make use of text analysis method
- make correct references and an accurate reading list
- have an active relationship with the relevant literature
- prepare and give constructive criticism on the work that has been assigned to your group

- *Criteria for pass with distinction* are the following:

  - develop an argument in clear relation to the problem
  - treat the required literature in a critical and independent manner
  - construct a solid chain of logically consistent arguments
  - make use of text analysis method
  - make correct references and an accurate reading list
  - prepare and give constructive criticism on the work that has been assigned to your group

Examinator: Tünde Puskás

3. Active participation in seminars and final forum. As participation in discussions is necessary for passing the course, active presence at the seminars is compulsory. You can miss one of them without a penalty.

4. Visiting the lectures is not compulsory but is strongly recommended.

**Overall examination**

The course is graded with Pass with Distinction, Pass or Fail. You must have the grade pass with distinction in examination part 1 and part 2a and a pass in parts 2b and 3 for a Pass with Distinction.

**Evaluation:**

The course is evaluated in the electronic program KURT.

**Plagiarism:**

As is widely known, there are strict rules against plagiarism in the university world. Plagiarism of other sources (i.e. copying other texts from literature, the Internet, works of other students, earlier self-produced works without giving references) is considered cheating. Teachers have an obligation to report every case of suspected cheating to the university disciplinary board. If the board decides that cheating has taken place, the student is suspended from studies for a period of time. This means, among other things, losing the right to student loans.

If suspicions of cheating arise, the head of the course and the tutor will test scripts against the programme *Urkund*.

Due to this, students are advised to always be very particular in giving references and to develop a method of writing that openly shows the origin of ideas, theories, conclusions, thoughts etc.
Re-examination:
The exact times for re-examination are given in the schedule.

Schedule and literature

The schedule is available on Time Edit!

Teachers:

Tünde Puskas (TP), tunde.puskas@liu.se
Magnus Dahlstedt (MD), magda@isv.liu.se
Sara Ahlstedt (SA) sara.ahlstedt@liu.se

Literature:

Required:


All articles and chapters are available on it's learning!

**Recommended literature (method to project work)**


[http://www.discourses.org/OldArticles/Analyzing%20racism%20through%20discourse%20analysis.pdf](http://www.discourses.org/OldArticles/Analyzing%20racism%20through%20discourse%20analysis.pdf)


[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/88871454AED47CC0852570AC0075EA55-our%20talk%20and%20walk.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/88871454AED47CC0852570AC0075EA55-our%20talk%20and%20walk.pdf)