

Course manual Political activism, violence and conflict

Title Course

Political activism, violence and conflict

Course Catalogue Number

73230216LY

Credits

12 EC

Entry requirements

Completed first year of the bachelor's degree programme in Political Science and at least 42 EC from the second year of the bachelor's degree programme in Political Science, including a Core module and Research methods.

Instruction language

English

Time Period(s)

2019/2020, semester 2, period 2 and 3

Location

Due to the measures taken by the University of Amsterdam to curb the spreading of the Corona virus, Period 2 (April/May) will take the form of digital seminars, online discussions and assignments. There will be no physical sessions on location. The time of the sessions remains as planned. (Monday 11-13, Thursday 9-11: see overview) Period 3 will be characterized by individual supervision, on appointment with the supervisor.

Lecturer(s) and supervisors

V.C. Marapin, M.Sc., v.c.marapin@uva.nl (Coordinator and supervisor)

Prof. Dr. M.E. Glasius, lecturer

Prof. Dr. M. de Goede, supervisor

Dr. U. Daxecker, supervisor

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Be capable of independently designing, planning and implementing a research project
- Demonstrate understanding of the complex interplay between – and influence of – processes of mobilisation and activism on violence and conflict on, and vice versa, in a variety of different contexts
- be able to frame independent theoretical questions pertaining to activism, violence and conflict, based on theories from international relations, sociology or comparative politics
- Have developed an understanding of the possibilities and limitations of different research methods based on online sources

Course Content

This course, characterised by a qualitative approach, will prepare students to write a BA dissertation (in either English or Dutch) about social and political activism, violence and non-violence. During this course, students may investigate the rise and decline of social movements and different forms of violent and non-violent activism in interaction with the state and with transnational political actors. Students are free to write a dissertation around these thematic topics of their interests. Students will also be particularly guided and supervised with regards to the common pitfalls of BA dissertation writing: namely the formulation of a research question, case study selection, appropriate sources and methods, the structuring of their dissertation's narrative, and the avoidance of slippery slopes and other logical fallacies.

Teaching methods/learning formats

Individual research, online lectures and discussions, peer review, individual supervision, writing BA thesis. Further information on how the online seminars will be structured shall be communicated through Canvas.

In order to track process, weekly check-ins will be held via Canvas from April 20th till June 15th.

Course Evaluations & Adjustments of the Course

Due to a change in the coordination of the course, as well as current measures taken regarding the Coronavirus, changes have been made in the setup, literature and assessment of the course, since last year.

- All seminars will be held digitally, through discussion or video lectures, or a combination of both. Active participation is necessary for this format, and helps ensure a good understanding of the materials
- Changes in literature have been made, as well as in thematic outlook; the focus is on social and political activism, violent and/or non-violent, which allows for more individual interests to surface and take form
- Through changes in coordination, there will be more than one supervisor; selection will be based on individual topics and choice of methods, and supervision will start once the definitive thesis proposal is approved. The coordinator will still oversee the weekly check-ins via Canvas.

Manner & Form of Assessment and Assessment Requirements & Criteria

The final grade consists of two parts:

90% Bachelor thesis (8000 words, 20% margin)

10% Independent work and deadline management, based on participation in online discussions, and timely submission of preparatory assignments and review assignments.

The thesis will be assessed by the first supervisor and second reader, the grade will be communicated to students using the evaluation form. In case of a fail for the thesis, one repair option will be given, with instructions from the first supervisor.

Examination scheme

Assessment form	Deadline	Weight (%)	Minimal grade (Yes/No)	Compensable (Yes/No)	Resit (Yes/No)
Bachelor thesis	June 22 nd 2020	90%	Yes	No	Yes
Independent work and deadline management		10%	No	No	No

Inspection of exams/assignments, feedback

In order to prepare for the successful writing of the thesis, and as part of the ‘participating element’ 5 preparatory assignments are to be submitted. Timely submission and complete assignments will receive feedback from the coordinator, and/or via peer review.

Assignment 1: preliminary research question and conceptual framework	Deadline: April 9th 2020 23.59
Assignment 2: definitive thesis proposal	Deadline: April 23rd 2020 23.59
Assignment 3: Share initial findings	Deadline: May 14th 2020 23.59
Assignment 4: peer feedback on findings	Deadline: May 18th 2020 23.59
Assignment 5: first draft Bachelor thesis	Deadline: May 25th 2020 23.59

Weekly check-ins

Due to the nature of the online format, a ‘weekly check-in’ will be held on Canvas Discussions, as a platform led by the coordinator to track process, and share progress, tips, ask questions, and motivate/stimulate others. The coordinator will be online during these check-ins.

Check-ins will be held via Canvas from April 20th till June 15th, on Mondays from 11-13 (open to change).

Rules regarding Fraud and Plagiarism

The UvA has strict regulations in place governing fraud and plagiarism. Students who have committed fraud or plagiarism may have their enrolment terminated and be no longer allowed to finish their study programme. Therefore, it is important to know which academic rules you must follow.

Please familiarize yourself with the regulations and be mindful of the consequences.

<http://student.uva.nl/en/content/az/plagiarism-and-fraud/plagiarism-and-fraud.html>

Literature/materials

See programme per session

Recommended readings:

- Bryman, A. (2012). Social Research Methods, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Thesis Manual Bachelor Political Science 2019-2020
<https://student.uva.nl/polsc/content/az/thesis/thesis.html?1584637862222>

Date Final Grade

The deadline for submitting the Bachelor Thesis is Monday June 22nd 12u (noon).

Final grades will be communicated within 15 working days after the deadline.

Programme¹

Session 1 Monday 30/3: introductory session: Contentious politics, violence and non-violence

- Tarrow, Sidney (2011). *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*, 3rd updated edition, Introduction + Ch.1, pp.1-34. <https://voidnetwork.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Power-in-Movement.-Social-movements-and-contentious-politics-by-Sidney-Tarrow.pdf>
- Della Porta, Donatella (2008) Research on Social Movements and Political Violence, *Qualitative Sociology*, 31, 221-230.
- Zukerman Daly, Sarah (2011) 'The roots of coercion and insurgency: exploiting the counterfactual case of Honduras', *Conflict, Security & Development*, 11:02, 145-174.
- Demmers, Jolle (2012). 'Mobilization for Collective Violent Action', Ch.4, *Theories of Violent Conflict*, Routledge, 77-99.

Session 2 Thursday 2/4: How to do research (online)

- Bryman, Alan *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th ed. – Chapter 29 Writing Up (Full text on Researchgate)
- Taylor, Dena (n.d.) 'The Literature Review: A Few Tips On Conducting It' <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/types-of-writing/literature-review/>
- Gerring, John (2009). 'The Case Study: What it is and What it Does', Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*.
- Thies, Cameron (2002). 'A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations', *International Studies Perspectives* (3) 351–372.
- Collier, David (2011). 'Understanding process tracing' *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 823-830, with the story of Silver Blaze at <https://sherlock-holm.es/stories/pdf/a4/1-sided/silv.pdf>

Recommended:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990). 'How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics', *Political Analysis* 2, 131-150.
- Bryman, Alan *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th ed. Chapter 23: Documents as Sources of Data (Full text on Researchgate)
- Bryman, Alan *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th ed. Chapter 28: E-research (Full text on Researchgate)

Session 3 Monday 6/4: Social Movements

- Benford, Robert D and Snow, David A (2000) Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment, *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, pp611-639
- Yates, Luke (2015). 'Rethinking Prefiguration: Alternatives, Micropolitics and Goals in Social Movements', *Social Movement Studies*, 14(1) 1-21.
- Jabola-Carolus, Isaac, Luke Elliott-Negri, James M. Jasper, Jessica Mahlbacher, Manès Weisskircher and Anna Zhelnina (2018). 'Strategic interaction sequences: the institutionalization of participatory budgeting in New York City', *Social Movement Studies*, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14742837.2018.1505488>
- Almeida, Paul D. (2018). "The role of threat in collective action". Pp. 43–62 in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, edited by D Snow, S Soule, H Kriesi, and H McCammon. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

¹ The programme and format may be subject to change. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible to students via Canvas.

- Olesen, Thomas (2014). 'Dramatic diffusion and meaning adaptation: The case of Neda' in Donatella della Porta and Alice Mattoni, eds. *Spreading Protests: Social Movements in Times of Crisis*

Session 4 Thursday 9/4: Violence and Conflict

- Kalyvas, Stathis (2009). 'Civil Wars', Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199566020.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199566020-e-18?print=pdf>
- Bosi, Lorenzo and Donatella della Porta (2012). 'Micro-mobilization into armed groups: Ideological, instrumental and solidaristic paths', *Qualitative Sociology*, 361–383.
- Autesserre, Severine (2009). 'Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention', *International Organization* 63(02) 249-280.
- Krause, Jana (2020). 'Restrained or constrained? Elections, communal conflicts, and variation in sexual violence' *Journal of Peace Research*, 57(1) 185–198.

***April 9th: Assignment/Deadline: Preliminary research question and conceptual framework**

Session 5 Thursday 16/4: Peer review session proposal

***Thursday 23/4: Assignment: Definitive thesis proposal**

Session 6 Thursday 30/4: Share chosen research methods and empirical component, and review two others (online)

Thursday 14/5: Assignment: Share powerpoint presentation of first findings (online)

Monday 18/5: Assignment: Review on powerpoint presentation of first findings (online)

***Thursday May 25th: Assignment Deadline: First draft (via Canvas)**

Individual supervision from May 25th till June 18th, via appointment with first supervisor.

DEADLINE FINAL VERSION BACHELOR THESIS MONDAY JUNE 22nd 12u.

Overview seminars, assignments and deadlines

Date / Time	Seminar	Form (online)	Assignment
30/3: 11-13	Seminar 1	Lecture	
2/4: 9-11	Seminar 2	Lecture	
6/4: 11-13	Seminar 3	Lecture	
9/4: 9-11	Seminar 4	Lecture / Deadline	Preliminary question
16/4: 9-11	Seminar 5	Peer review session preliminary questions	
20/4: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
23/4:		Deadline	Definitive proposal
27/4: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
30/4: 9-11	Seminar 6	Peer review session methods and data	
May 2020			
4/5: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
11/5: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
14/5: 9-11		Deadline / Share findings	Share findings
18/5: 11-13	Weekly Check-in	Deadline / Review findings	Review findings
25/5: 11-13	Weekly Check-in	Deadline	FIRST DRAFT
June 2020		Individual supervision meetings	
1/6: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
8/6: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
15/6: 11-13	Weekly Check-in		
22/6:		DEADLINE 12u	FINAL THESIS