



Armed Conflicts and Humanitarian Action
University of Warsaw (UW), Poland

Module	Learning Outcome	Content
<p>Module I: Transformation of war – characteristics of contemporary armed conflicts (4 ECTS)</p> <p>The aim of this course is to offer the students possibility to learn and understand the specificity and main characteristics of contemporary armed conflicts. During the course main theories concerning the sources for military conflicts, their geographical distribution and factors decisive for conflicts' features will be discussed. The students will also familiarize themselves with the main evolutionary trends in contemporary armed conflicts, like the Revolution in Military affairs and its implications, privatisation of violence (incl. growth in private security/military services), the role and impact of the media on conflicts' conduct and forms. They will also have an opportunity to discuss the (near) future trends in warfare, particularly those related to technological progress (advancement in robotics, cybernetics and biotechnologies).</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has highly specialised knowledge and a critical understanding of theoretical concepts and theories concerning contemporary armed conflict. ● Has a critical understanding of personal security risks in humanitarian fieldwork, as well as opportunities and threats of current trends within organised violence. ● Has highly specialised knowledge of the diversity of actors and stakeholders, their interaction and competition in contemporary armed conflicts. ● Has a thorough knowledge of the operational processes and changes in the political and military structures in the international dimension and a critical understanding of the social, legal and security environment in conflict situations. ● Has specialised skills to conceptualise, interpret and critically analyse contemporary armed conflicts, including humanitarian interventions. ● Has the ability to interpret and critically analyse data, information and experience concerning a certain armed conflict or military intervention in order to develop a contextual understanding of the geographical workfield, the community, perspectives, policies, issues and possible solutions. ● Has the ability to formulate independent views, support them with elaborate arguments, using a broad range of approaches and theoretical perspectives, formulate coherent conclusions and make a synthetic summary of these conclusions, using a specialized language of conflict and conflict resolution studies, on topics related to contemporary armed conflicts and their humanitarian aspects. ● Has studied a research topic in depth, and conducted and completed a medium-length research project largely self-directed. ● Has demonstrated the ability to position one's own research findings in the broader context of conflict studies. Has developed an open attitude towards acquiring new knowledge and understanding about professional and academic developments in conflict studies. ● Learns from past experiences, identifies opportunities to overcome humanitarian dilemmas and proposes new work methods for increased efficiency, effectiveness and stakeholder accountability in complex and unpredictable humanitarian environments during armed conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concept of war generations ● Concept of New Wars (M. Kaldor and others) ● Concept of Risk-Transfer War ● Concept of war amongst the people ● Concept of resource wars ● Privatisation of war (incl. issue of Private Military Companies) ● Media role in conflicts ● Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) ● Automation (robotisation) in warfare (future of unmanned systems like UAVs etc.) ● Cyberwarfare ● Biotechnologies and war
<p>Module II: Contemporary peace and stability operations (4 ECTS)</p> <p>The course will give students the possibility to learn and understand the concept of peace operations and stability (stabilisation) operations, including main differences and similarities between these two categories, as well as knowledge about their types and characteristics. The course will also offer knowledge about main organisational and technical aspects of such operations (i.e. models of force generation, institutional framework, command & control mechanisms, financing etc.). It will also familiarise students</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has highly specialised knowledge and a critical understanding of theoretical concepts and theories on peace and stability operations. ● Has a critical understanding of personal security risks in humanitarian fieldwork, as well as opportunities and threats of current trends in peace and stability operations, with special attention to their humanitarian dimension. ● Has highly specialised knowledge of the diversity of actors and stakeholders involved in contemporary peace and stability operations, their interaction and competition, as well as understanding of the importance of coordination between their activities. ● Has a thorough knowledge of the operational processes and changes in political, military, economic and social structures and institutions in the international dimension; has a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of political and economic decision-making in these entities at the nation state level and on the international scale in context of peace and stability operations. ● Has a critical understanding of the social, legal and security environment in context of peace and stability operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peace operations (genesis, main forms and categories, actors involved) ● Stabilisation operations (main forms and categories, actors involved) ● Search and rescue/evacuation operations ● Militarisation of humanitarian aid – ● Civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) ● Concepts of insurgency and counterinsurgency (COIN)

<p>with basic evolutionary trends in peace and stability operations (incl. multinationalisation, issue of the place of coercive elements in peace and stability missions, development of counterinsurgency strategies, growing significance of military assistance to host countries). All issues will be discussed with the reference to cases of recent peace and stability operations organised by UN, NATO and EU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has demonstrated the ability to formulate adequate and ethically sound recommendations for involvement in conflict resolution through peace and stability operations. ● Has specialised skills to conceptualise, interpret and critically analyse peace and stability operations on the basis of a variety of sources, generating new interdisciplinary expertise to help solve complex humanitarian problems. ● Has the ability to formulate independent views on peace and stability operations, support them with elaborate arguments, using a broad range of approaches and theoretical perspectives, formulate coherent conclusions and make a synthetic summary of these conclusions, using a specialized language of conflict resolution studies. ● Has studied a research topic in depth, and conducted and completed a medium-length research project largely self-directed. ● Has demonstrated the ability to position one's own research findings in the broader context of conflicts and conflict resolution studies. ● Learns from past experiences in conflict resolution, identifies opportunities to overcome dilemmas concerning peace and stability operations, with a clear application of humanitarian principles and standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Force generation in peace and stability operations ● Burden sharing in the missions
<p>Module III: Protections of civilians in armed conflicts (4 ECTS) The aim of this course is that students learn and understand the concept of protection of civilians in armed conflicts, and the dilemmas involved, from legal, political and practical perspectives. It provides the students with tools to analyse and evaluate the protection needs of civilians with special emphasis on women, children, IDPs and refugees. Specific case studies are discussed extensively.</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a good understanding of basic concepts of International Humanitarian Law relating to civilians in armed conflicts, humanitarian principles and standards, and the problematic nature of the dilemmas involved. ● Has a thorough knowledge of the diversity of actors and stakeholders involved in the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and the impact of various humanitarian action interventions on the needs and rights of crisis-affected people. ● Has a clear understanding of different types of threats to civilian population during armed conflicts and protective measures provided for in International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. ● Has shown the ability to critically analyse the context of a certain humanitarian crisis and apply legal instruments relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. ● Has demonstrated to be able to identify the relevance of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law to address the problems faced by civilians during armed conflicts. ● Has demonstrated the skills to argue for the benefit of civilians and to apply mechanisms and methods ensuring their better protection. ● Has shown to be able to transfer acquired knowledge to real life situations, in particular in a form of largely self-directed short research project. ● Has demonstrated the capacity to learn from past experience of armed conflicts and their impact on the situation of the civilian population, and to apply humanitarian principles and standards to dilemmas in complex and insecure contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concept of protection in armed conflict ● Protection against the effects of hostilities ● Protection against arbitrary treatment by the enemy ● Notion of civilians ● IDPs & refugees ● Women & children
<p>Module IV: Prevention of human rights atrocities (4 ECTS) The course is an excellent opportunity to familiarize students with the category of genocide and atrocity crimes. We analyze legal definitions, as well as their course (Stanton, Harff's models) in a comparative perspective. Students learn and evaluate the effectiveness of measures to prevent mass violations of human rights and respond to, including the use of armed force, as well as the process of restoring the observance of human rights.</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a thorough knowledge of the sources and developments of the international legal regulations on the gravest international crimes: war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, their scope, causes and consequences as well as connections between massive violations of human rights and security. ● Has specialised knowledge of national and international instruments and mechanisms for prevention and response to human rights atrocities. ● Has a critical understanding of the humanitarian principles and standards and the problematic nature of the dilemmas involved. ● Has demonstrated the ability to formulate adequate and ethically sound recommendations for humanitarian action, in particular in the area of prevention of human rights atrocities. ● Has demonstrated the skills to identify, critically analyse, classify and assess cases of international crimes. ● Has specialised skills to critically analyse and assess contemporary instruments and mechanisms for prevention of international crimes, and to promote the best and safest response in humanitarian emergency contexts. ● Has shown to be able to work in a professional environment demanding competences in the area of prevention of human rights atrocities and international crimes, as well as restoration of the rule of law and respect for human rights. ● Has demonstrated to be sensitive towards cases of massive human rights abuses and aware of their consequences. In response applies clear ethical standards informed by the humanitarian principles, values and professional code of conduct. ● Has developed an open attitude towards acquiring new knowledge and is ready to undertake further stages in education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Concept of Genocide and Mass Atrocities ● Holocaust: definitions and antecedents ● Comparative Genocide ● Mass atrocities indicators ● Perpatrators and victims ● Responsibility to Protect ● Risk Assessment and Early Warning ● Preventive instruments ● Prevention and international institutions ● The preventive role of actors in the field

<p>Module V: Reconciliation in a post-conflict society (4 ECTS)</p> <p>The aim of this module is that students learn and understand the concept of reconciliation, new trends and key challenges in international and transitional criminal justice and in other models of reconciliation. It provides students with knowledge about main instruments to achieve reconciliation, including international criminal tribunals, truth commission, lustration organs. The role of punishment, documentation of atrocities, apology and reparation is also discussed.</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a thorough knowledge of the main institutions of international system of justice, describes principles of their functioning and analyses their legal basis. ● Has a critical understanding of the various models of reconciliation in post-conflict societies, including threats and opportunities related to them, and their possible impact on the needs and rights of crisis-affected people. ● Has proven to be able to identify and critically analyse problems associated with the execution of justice in the cases of violation of international obligations, and formulate adequate recommendations for response. ● Has the ability to solve the legal case studies concerning the liability of both the individuals and the state and non-state actors with a clear application of humanitarian standards and principles as well as respect for the needs of crisis-affected people. ● Has shown to be able to transfer acquired knowledge to real life situations, in particular in a form of largely self-directed short research project. ● Compares different models of justice and their impact on reconciliation, is able to critically assess their results within a given society, formulates opinions on models of reconciliation with reference to lessons learned in other countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International criminal justice ● Transitional justice ● Models of reconciliation ● Truth commission ● Lustration ● Punishment ● Reparations
<p>Module VI: Methodology and methods in humanitarian studies (5 ECTS)</p> <p>The objective of the course is to introduce students to research methods of social science applicable in both academic study of humanitarian action and the practice thereof. Skills and knowledge obtained during this course should in particular be useful in designing and conducting evaluation studies of humanitarian intervention, completing need assessments in the field, analysing policy objectives, and collaborating with specialised research agencies.</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has developed specialized knowledge and a critical understanding of research methods appropriate for the humanitarian field. ● Has demonstrated the ability to identify and justify research methods that are ethically appropriate for scientific research in the humanitarian work field. ● Has demonstrated the ability to implement research methods for humanitarian research in a controlled setting. ● Has developed the capacity to reflect on the use of a method and the knowledge gained thereof in terms of ethical aspects and the researcher's position. ● Has studied a research topic in depth with an application of relevant methodology, learns from past experiences in order to be prepared for a bigger humanitarian research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designing empirical research in humanitarian studies ● Qualitative, quantitative and mixed data analysis ● Ethics in humanitarian research ● Doing interviews ● Studying official data ● Performing content analysis ● Observing ● Workshop sessions
<p>Module VII: Establishment of a humanitarian organisation - administrative issues (2 ECTS)</p> <p>The overall objective of the module is to introduce the students to key legal concepts of nongovernmental organisations and enable them to apply this knowledge to practical cases.</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a thorough knowledge of different legal forms in which humanitarian assistance can be provided, indicating main advantages and disadvantages of each solution, including issues of registration and taxation. ● Has a good knowledge of the main institutions essential for the functioning of a humanitarian organisation. ● Has a good understanding of differences between humanitarian and development assistance and their legal implications, under both national and international regulations. ● Is able to establish a basic organisational framework of a humanitarian organisation according to Polish law, be able to fill basic registration documents. ● Is prepared to follow procedural steps in order to establish a humanitarian organisation, be aware of the necessity to update one's knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Management of an NGO – practical aspects ● Legal requirements to establish foundations and associations on the examples of Polish and UK Law ● Legal aspects of fundraising activity of an NGO ● How to monitor the activities of an NGO? ● Governance of an NGO – different models ● NGO standards ● Management of an NGO – practical aspects
<p>Module VIII: Labour law in humanitarian action (3 ECTS)</p>	<p>At the end of the course, the student:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designing empirical research in humanitarian studies

<p>The aim of this module is that students learn about legal frameworks of providing humanitarian action abroad with focus on labour law and tax law. It provides students with knowledge about main legal instruments referring to applicable labour law, jurisdiction in labour cases, characteristic of the situation of posted workers. In addition students will learn about main regulations concerning taxation of humanitarian action with a focus on possible exemption.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has a thorough knowledge about law applied to labour relations, with special focus on international instruments concerning choice of applicable law, jurisdiction and situation of posted workers; has and understanding of linkage between labour law and human rights law. ● Is aware of financial obstacles to provision of humanitarian assistance, including different types of taxes; is able to indicate main conventions concerning taxation of humanitarian assistance and average sums deducted by different actors. ● Has demonstrated the ability to indicate main legal instruments applied to transfer of humanitarian assistance, can adapt a budget to different legal conditions in order to comply with national regulations, and is able to justify exemption of humanitarian assistance from national taxation law. ● Has developed an open attitude towards acquiring new knowledge and understanding about professional developments in humanitarian action, is sensitive to different labour conditions and different cultures of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualitative, quantitative and mixed data analysis ● Ethics in humanitarian research ● Doing interviews ● Studying official data ● Performing content analysis ● Observing ● Workshop sessions
---	---	---