



136106 – Conflict and Development

Proposing Professor: Arlo Poletti

Teacher: Francisco Herreros

Dates	Timetable	Topics	Room
24/03/26	10.00 – 12.00	Democratic and other peace theories. Economic Explanations of War	Room "Poggi" I Floor
27/03/26	10.00 – 12.00	Economic Consequences of War	Aula 11
31/03/26	10.00 – 12.00	Civil Wars. Economic Origins and Development Consequences	Aula 19
1/04/26	14.00 – 16.00	Conflict, development and trust	Meeting room, II floor

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

This course explores the complex interplay between conflict, violence, and socio-economic development, focusing on the causes, consequences, and potential resolutions of various forms of conflict. The course draws on an extensive body of literature and real-world examples to examine how violence and warfare shape, and are shaped by, economic, political, and social systems.

The course emphasizes both conceptual understanding and methodological rigor. It addresses key topics such as democratic peace theory, the economic consequences of war, the roots and impacts of civil wars, and the role of social trust in post-conflict development.

Structure and Goals

1. Conceptual Overview: Introduce key theories and debates in the study of conflict and development, such as the democratic peace theory, economic explanations for war, and the greed vs. grievance framework for civil wars.
2. Applied Learning: Equip students with the tools to analyze real-world conflicts through the use of datasets, case studies, and empirical methods.
3. Historical and Contemporary Insights: Provide a comprehensive view of historical trends in violence and conflict.
4. Critical Appraisal: Develop students' ability to critically evaluate the social and economic consequences of conflict, as well as strategies for fostering trust and development in post-conflict settings.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the types and causes of conflict and their relationship to development.
2. Learn about the economic and political consequences of warfare using theoretical and empirical approaches.
3. Evaluate the role of trust, social capital, and governance in rebuilding post-conflict societies.

TARGET STUDENTS

The seminar is designed for students in bachelor's and master's degree programs particularly LT Sociology and International Studies and LM GLOCAL and SSR students.

REGISTRATION

Registration is compulsory and must be done online at <https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito> by 19/03/2026 (minimum number of enrollment(s) for activation: 10 - maximum number: 20)

Please take note of the SANCTIONS PROVIDED for those who do not show up for the first and/or next meeting without having given proper notice. See <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito>

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

It is necessary to accrue 8 hours of in-person attendance to the meetings and to participate actively in class discussions. Readings, provided by the teacher, are mandatory for the evaluation.

Learning verification will take place through the active participation in class discussion and an essay. Passing the activity will allow the acquisition of 1 training credits.