

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The Politics of War and Organised Violence
Status: Definitive
Code: **6108IRP** (128507)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Megan Armstrong	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 33
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 167

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1500 blog post (critical reading reflection)	50	
Presentation	AS2	20-30 minute podcast	50	

Aims

To understand different forms of organised political violence
To engage traditional and critical theories of international security
To understand the role of states and nonstate actors in organised political violence

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Generate a specific analysis of world politics through critical security theories applicable to real-world events.
- 2 Critically reflect upon how the political sociology of war, genocide, and terror impacts domestic and international politics.
- 3 Demonstrate mastery of critical analytic skills through the ability to explain political violence to a non-specialist audience.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 blog post	1	2	
20-30 minute podcast	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Topics discussed could include:

- *What is political violence: theories and concepts*
- *Organised violence in law: laws of war, genocide, and terror*
- *The UN and international security*
- *The evolution of warfare (mechanisation and aviation)*
- *Degenerate war and collateral damage*
- *New Wars, Old Wars*
- *Colonialism, war, and genocide*
- *Genocide throughout human history*
- *The state as agent of terror*
- *The Global War on Terror*

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be divided between one one-hour interactive lecture and one two-hour, student-led seminar per week. Student groups will be assigned weeks 3-6, 8-11 to prepare and lead activities (weeks 1, 2, and 12 will be run by the module leader). Lectures will provide theoretical and analytic grounding for discussing the relevant theme in the seminar. The first assessment asks students to apply critical reading skills to a specific policy or law and present that in the form of a blog. The second asks students to work together to demonstrate their synthesis of the material by explaining an event, policy, law, or organisation to a non-specialist audience through any media of their choosing (e.g. they can stage a press event, a interview, a radio play, etc). Both assessments are geared towards employability aims- students may find themselves in a position of having to write blog format reports, and it is important for employability that students are able to work together towards a

shared outcome.

Notes

This module uses research-led teaching to build students' understandings of organised political violence, specifically war, genocide, and terrorism. It situates political violence along a continuum that blurs the boundaries between discrete forms, and invites students to make sense of violence in historical and political contexts. It will provide students an opportunity to present their learning in the final assessment through the use of podcasts, rather than traditional in-class presentations.