

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	MA International Relations
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Insurgency, Civil War, and Terrorism
Course Code:	INR 7306

Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140

Credits:	20 UK CATS credits
	10 ECTS credits
	4 US credits

Course Description:

The course addresses contemporary issues of political violence and conflicts involving sub-state and non-state actors. We discuss the history of insurgency, from postcolonial movements to anti-globalisation insurgencies and beyond, and critically examine the controversies around their political legitimacy and tactics. We also examine debates around understanding terrorism and explore strategies of counterterrorism. The course also introduces students to debates about the causes of civil wars, and examines the motivations for fighting, civilian targeting, and mass violence, along with state and where appropriate inter-state or international responses.

Prerequisites:

MA students only

Aims and Objectives:

To understand major historical trends in insurgency, civil wars and terrorism in the 20th and 21st centuries using both theory and case studies
To critically examine different types of non-state and sub-state violence
To assess different causes of insurgency and civil war
To evaluate different explanations for the motivation of terrorists
To evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies of counterinsurgency
To critically engage with the global War on Terror and its relationship with the contemporary dynamics of terrorism and insurgency
To understand the legacy of colonialism and global inequality in the study of Insurgency, Civil War, and Terrorism

Programme Outcomes:

B; C; E; G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develop critical and innovative interpretations of empirical evidence regarding and case studies in insurgency, civil war and terrorism.
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply knowledge from the discipline of International Relations to the context of insurgency, civil war and terrorism.
- Engage with and evaluates complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence regarding insurgency, civil war and terrorism while critically reflecting on related theories and methods.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information regarding insurgency, civil war and terrorism, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective communication of this material.

Indicative Content:

Insurgency and civil wars

- History
- Causes
- Types of violence

Terrorism

- Dynamics
- Responses
- Counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism
- Strategies
- outcomes

Critical approaches to civil wars, insurgency and terrorism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine

concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

Mumford, A. (Ed.) 2020. The Theory and Practice of Irregular Warfare. Routledge.
 Chenoweth, E. et al. (Eds.) 2019. The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism. Oxford University Press.
 Peet, J. and L. Sjoberg 2019. Gender and Civilian Victimization in War. Routledge.
 Heuser, B. 2017. Insurgencies and Counterinsurgencies: National Styles and Strategic Cultures. Cambridge University Press.
 Hoffman, B. 2017. Inside Terrorism. 3rd ed. Columbia University Press.
 Gurr, T.R., 2015. Why men rebel. Routledge.

Journals

Civil wars
 Small wars and Insurgency
 Terrorism and Political Violence
 Journal of Strategic Studies
 Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism
 Critical Studies on Terrorism
 Behavioural Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression

Web Sites

[Click here to enter text.](#)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Added to Course aims	Oct 10, 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total hours updated	April 2024	
