



Direzione Ricerca,  
Innovazione e  
Internazionalizzazione

**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO**

**ID**

**VP\_038\_CPS**

## **Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2025/2026**

**TEACHING COMMITMENT:** 54 hours

### **COURSE TITLE**

**Violence in War and Peace**

### **TEACHING PERIOD**

II semester

### **SCIENTIFIC AREA**

Political Science / Peace and Conflict Studies

### **LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH**

English

### **COURSE SUMMARY**

The course will explore the major explanations provided by social sciences' researches for the causes of violence in both situations of conflict and so-called situations other than war, including criminal violence in urban environments, as well as scholarship on the impacts of violence. It will begin with a critical overview of contributions to the study of recent civil wars, exploring three broad root-approaches to understanding violence that intersect multiple disciplines: violence as a result of anarchy; violence as a result of strategic calculation; and violence as a result of individual and group psychology. It will provide particular focus to exploring the causes and dynamics of extreme violence, and consider the literature on the challenges atrocities present to building post-war settlements and peace. The course will then consider how megatrends in the contemporary world, such as climate change, migration and urbanization, are shaping violence and insecurity in peacetime contexts. It explores an emerging literature on the crime-conflict nexus, interrogating the causal factors behind criminal urban violence and teasing out the similarities and contrasts with those encountered in the civil war literature.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The course provides foundations which are central to the "peace and conflict studies" curriculum. The disciplinary standpoint is that of peace and conflict studies. In terms of knowledge students are expected to be able to have a good grasp of the outlined contents, while in terms of application of knowledge students are expected to be able to effectively utilize the content provided by the course in the analysis of real and hypothetical cases.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE**

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## **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

The Visiting Professor should be affiliated with a distinguished university of global reputation. He/she should have a robust scientific background in Peace and Conflict Studies, and should manifest an appreciation for inter-disciplinary research. He/she should have previous experience of international teaching at Master's level, as well as a substantial background in field research, demonstrating the ability to equip UniTO students with the capacity to critically assess the complex interweaving of social dynamics typical of violent conflict.

## **CONTACT REFERENT**

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