



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course Unit Title	Code
ANATOMY OF WAR	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: doc. dr. Deividas Šlekys Other(s):	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius university, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius, tel. +370 52514130, e-mail: tspimi@tspmi.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Elective

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language (s) of instruction
Face-to-face	6 (spring) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: -	Co-requisites (if any): -

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	135	32	103

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
The course aims to provide comprehensive knowledge related to concepts and arguments concerning perception and practices of war in 21 st century, putting more emphasizes on conflicts, where Western powers is less involved; to develop abilities to analyze military conflicts from variety of perspectives; as well as analytical and critical thinking, interpersonal and communication skills.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to analyze contemporary conflicts by using different conceptual approaches.	Seminar discussions; individual work, use of online teaching tools (Perusall)	Seminar assessment, examination
Students will be able to explicate various socio-economic, legal debates concerning conduct of war and post-war situation.	Seminar discussions; problem-based learning, world café discussions, individual work, use of online teaching tools (Perusall)	Seminar assessment, examination, interactive exercise
Students will be able to draw on current research data when providing analyses of modern military conflicts and their consequences.	Seminar discussions, individual work, use of online teaching tools (Perusall), problem-based learning, world café discussions,	
Students will be able to search for material / information about the indicated event, to critically analyze and ethically evaluate it, to present it in systematic and original way.	Problem based learning, world café discussions, individual work	Seminar assessment, interactive exercise
Students will be able to define major conceptual debates in the field of war studies; understand how military theory has evolved through time.	Seminar discussions; problem-based learning, world café discussions, individual work	Seminar assessment, examination, interactive exercise
Students will be able to explain, interpret dynamics of various conflicts and their consequences in accordance with theories of war and warfare.	Seminar discussions; problem-based learning, world café discussions, individual work, use of online teaching tools (Perusall)	
Students will be able to present their results; will be able to apply respectful interpersonal dialogue and practice constructive collaboration, to participate and engage in discussions, debates and to provide concise and measured answers.	Problem-based learning, world café discussions, individual work	Seminar assessment

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study: hours and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Perceptions of war • How to study war?			2				2	6	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars • Michael Howard, “Military history and the history of war”, Williamson Murray, Richard Hart Sinnreich (sud.) kn. <i>The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp 12-20 ; • Margaret MacMillan, <i>War: how conflict shaped us</i> . New York: Random House, 2020, pp. 18-41 .
2. Causes of war • To discuss interrelationship between various causes of the wars: geopolitical, economic, cultural, ethnical, religious, etc.			4				4	8	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars • Azar Gat, <i>The causes of war and the spread of peace: but will war rebound?</i> , New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 40-95 . • Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, <i>Causes of war</i> . London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, pp. 28-54 .
3. Conduct of war I • Conduct of conventional and traditional warfare; state-centric war phase			6				6	10	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars • Aaron Edwards, <i>War: A Beginner's Guide</i> . London: Oneworld Publications, 2016, pp. 48-65 . • Rob Johnson, „The Changing Character of War“, <i>The RUSI Journal</i> , 2017, 162:1, pp. 6-12 ; • David Kilcullen, <i>The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 115-166 .
4. Conduct of war II • Unconventional warfare; elements of new wars paradigm; participation of non-state actors (warlords, tribal groups, terrorists, private security companies)			6				6	10	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars • Mary Kaldor, <i>New and old wars</i> . Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006, pp. 1-14 ; • Alex de Waal, “The Nazis Used It, We Use It”, <i>London Review of Books</i> , Vol. 39 No. 12, 15 June 2017, pp. 9-12 ; • Jeffrey S. Bachman, „Four Schools of Thought on the Relationship Between War and Genocide“, <i>Journal of Genocide Research</i> , 22:4, 2020, pp. 479-501

5. Life in wartime			4				4	8	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyday practices and life in zones of war. • Civilians in war zones 									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander B. Downes, <i>Targeting civilians in war</i>. Cornell University Press, 2008, pp. 13-41. • Mark Lattimer, Philippe Sands, <i>The Grey Zone: Civilian Protection Between Human Rights and the Laws of War</i>. Oxford, London: Bloomsbury, 2017, pp. 54-72
6. Diplomacy in time of war			4				4	8	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict resolution • Peace negotiations and ending of wars 									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabel Bramsen, Poul Poder and Ole Wæver (ed.), <i>Resolving international conflict: dynamics of escalation, continuation and transformation</i>. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2019, pp. 5-40. • Aaron Edwards, <i>War: A Beginner's Guide</i>. London: Oneworld Publications, 2016, pp. 127-147.
7. Transitional justice			4				4	8	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and consolidating peace • Bringing justice and issues of war crimes. 									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcos Zunino, <i>Justice framed: a genealogy of transitional justice</i>. Cambridge; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 21-58; • Matthew Talbert & Jessica Wolfendale, <i>War crimes: causes, excuses, and blame</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019, pp. 25-48.
8. Memory and war?			2				2	6	Reading and analysis of given literature, primary sources. Assignments given during seminars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemoration of war; politics of memory 									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne E. Lee, "Warfare and Culture", kn. Wayne E. Lee (sud.), <i>Warfare and Culture in World History</i>. New York: New York University Press, 2020, pp. 1-18. • David A. Messenger, <i>War and Public Memory: Case studies in twentieth century Europe</i>. Tucaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2020, pp. 7-22.
Interactive exercise								24	Preparation for interactive exercise
Final exam								15	Preparation for the final exam
Total			32				32	103	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Participation in seminars	40	During semester	For each seminar students will have to read the assigned literature and to prepare to participate in discussions related to this literature. Their participation will be assessed based on the following criteria: ability to critically reflect on the assigned literature, to understand and explain the idea of the author, ability to provide structured and clear arguments, constructive comments, ability to reflect on one's own and colleagues' thoughts, to raise and answer questions. To conduct the tasks assigned by the lecturer during the seminar (e.g.,

			Impromptu debate, analysis of a particular policy paper individually or in small groups, etc.).
Interactive exercise	25	Mid-term	<p>Interactive exercise will require from students to read provided texts, analyse visual material. Each part of exercise will require answering some questions in written. After reading and analysis of all material students will be required to write an essay.</p> <p>The assessment will be based on the student's capability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to write in a clear, structured, logical manner (4% of grade); • to identify and reference relevant literature and/or other sources (7% of grade); • to spot issues/ clearly explain arguments (7% of grade); • to provide original personal insights and to base them on reasonable and convincing argumentation (7% of grade). <p>Students should be aware, that work on this exercise will require some time (3-4 days), therefore they should plan accordingly.</p>
Examination	35	At the end of the semester	<p>During the examination, students must complete two tasks:</p> <p>1) The first task (15% of grade) consists of answering a short open-ended question in written. Students will be given two questions from which they will have to choose one and answer it. Evaluation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity of statements and conclusions; • Precise answer to the exam question; • Style: clarity, brevity, simplicity; • Knowledge and use of subject literature. <p>2) The second task (20% of grade) consists of a critical analysis of an expert comment / article (up to 2 pages) or a TV report (up to 10 minutes). Students will be required to critically evaluate and analyse the material in written by applying particular theoretical insights, ideas they have read, listened to, and discussed during the seminars. The answers will be assessed by following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response structure: introduction, teaching, conclusions; • Style: clarity, simplicity; • Validity of statements and conclusions; • Direct answer to the examination question; • Ability to analyse, evaluate; • Knowledge and application of subject literature.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Mary Kaldor	2006	New and old wars		Cambridge: Polity Press
Hugh Gusterson	2016	Drone: Remote Control Warfare		Cambridge: The MIT Press
Edward Newman and Karl DeRouen Jr. (ed.)	2014	Routledge handbook of civil wars		New York: Routledge
Aaron Edwards	2016	War: A Beginner's Guide.		London: One world Publications
Dierk Walter	2017	Colonial Violence: European Empires and the Use of Force		Hurst Publishers
Stephen Biddle	2021	Nonstate warfare		Princeton University Press
Williamson Murray, Richard Hart Sinnreich (sud.)	2006	The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Margaret MacMillan	2020	War: how conflict shaped us		New York: Random House
Azar Gat	2017	The causes of war and the spread of peace: but will war rebound?		New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press
Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson	2010	Causes of war		London: Wiley-Blackwell
Rob Johnson	2017	The Changing Character of War	162:1	The RUSI Journal

David Kilcullen	2020	The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West		Oxford: Oxford University Press
Alex de Waal	2017	The Nazis Used It, We Use It	Vol. 39 No. 12, 15 June	London Review of Books
Jeffrey S. Bachman	2020	Four Schools of Thought on the Relationship Between War and Genocide	22:4	<i>Journal of Genocide Research</i>
Alexander B. Downes	2008	Targeting civilians in war		Cornell University Press
Mark Lattimer, Philippe Sands	2017	The Grey Zone: Civilian Protection Between Human Rights and the Laws of War		Oxford, London: Bloomsbury
Isabel Bramsen, Poul Poder and Ole Wæver (ed.)		Resolving international conflict: dynamics of escalation, continuation and transformation		Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2019
Marcos Zunino	2018	Justice framed: a genealogy of transitional justice		Cambridge; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press
Matthew Talbert & Jessica Wolfendale	2019	War crimes: causes, excuses, and blame		New York: Oxford University Press
Wayne E. Lee (sud.)	2020	Warfare and Culture in World History		New York: New York University Press
David A. Messenger	2020	War and Public Memory: Case studies in twentieth century Europe		Tucaloosa: University of Alabama Press
Recommended reading				
Robert Johnson, Timothy Clack (ed.)	2015	At the end of military intervention: historical, theoretical and applied approaches to transition, handover and withdrawal		Oxford: Oxford University Press
Margaret MacMillan	2020	War: How Conflict Shaped Us		Penguin Random