



Durham
University

Durham Global Security Institute

Inspiring the extraordinary

MSc Programmes DGSI

Core Modules 2025/26



Available Modules and Timetable

List of core modules available in 2025/26

- Defence, Development and Diplomacy in Conflict
- Conflict Prevention and Sustainable Peace
- Consolidating Peace after Violence
- Post-Conflict Reconstruction and State Building
- International Law and Conflict Intervention
- Peace Processes and Everyday Political Negotiation
- Capstone Exercise: Humanitarian Intervention Simulation

A handbook and reading list will be available during the course of the programmes.

Timetable

Induction Week 29 September 2025 – 05 October 2025

Michaelmas Term 06 October 2025 – 12 December 2025

Epiphany Term 12 January 2026 – 20 March 2026

Easter Term 27 April 2026 – 26 June 2026

**Please note that all programmes and modules are provisional and subject to change*



Defence, Development and Diplomacy in Conflict (Michaelmas Term)

This module will introduce students to the changing nature of defence, development and diplomacy in conflict. It will situate these concepts in the broader historical context of changing political structures, conventions and theories and will equip students with the conceptual tools to understand the changing nature of conflict, the actors participating in it, and the evolution of the paradigms with which we seek to understand conflict. Typical topics covered include: the evolution of conflict and conflict paradigms; the impact of the evolution of the state and the international system on conflict; the relationship between knowledge and political structures; drivers and dynamics of contemporary conflict; human security and its relationship to national security, development and conflict; counter-insurgency, social movements and (dis)-empowerment; the role of law, human rights and ethics in conflict; and the role of religion, identity and culture in conflict and conflict intervention.

Preliminary Reading:

- Kaldor, M. (1999), *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era*, Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Lechner, Silviya and Frost, Mervyn. 2018. *Practice theory and international relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lipsky, Phillip Y. 2017. *Renegotiating the World Order: Institutional Change in International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Malešević, Siniša (2010), *The Sociology of War and Violence*. Cambridge: University Press.
- Olsson, L and TH Gizelis. 2015. *Gender, Peace and Security: Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325*. London: Routledge. (eBook)
- Trager, Robert F. 2017. *Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Waever, O and B. Buzan. 2020. *Racism and responsibility – the critical limits of deep fake methodology in security studies: A reply to Howell and Richter-Montpetit*. *Security Dialogue*. Online first.



Topics covered will include the security-development-peace nexus; key concepts such as civil society and social capital; game theory and conflict analysis frameworks and models; the prevention strategies of Governments, the UN and regional security organisations (such as the OSCE, ASEAN, AU); peace building from below and how communities combat violence; early warning and rapid response; anti-corruption; state stabilisation and new thinking on integrated intervention; the 'right of intervention' and the 'responsibility to protect' in response to human rights abuses; the importance of an agender perspective as a fundamental thread running through conflict prevention and building peace; development aid and conditionality.

Conflict Prevention and Sustainable Peace (Michaelmas Term)

This module will discuss frameworks and concepts underpinning approaches to the prevention of violent conflict and the promotion of sustainable peace from the macro to micro levels of intervention. An important element of this is a general understanding of human social dynamics, and an appreciation of how such dynamics are affected by the structure of particular human societies.

Preliminary Reading:

- Berger, Mark T. and Heloise Weber (2009), 'War, Peace and Progress: conflict, development, (in) security and violence in the 21st century', *Third World Quarterly*, 30(1): pp. 1-16.
- Jansen, S. (2000), 'Victims, rebels, underdogs: discursive practices on resistance in Serbian protest', *Critique of Anthropology*, 20: pp. 393-419.
- Ramsbotham, O., T. Woodhouse and H. Miall (2011), *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press. Esp. Chapter 1 'Concepts and Definitions' (pp. 3-34) and Chapter 5 'Preventing violent conflict' (pp. 123-146).

Consolidating Peace After Violence (Epiphany Term)

Once a peace process and peace negotiations have brought armed conflict to an end, the complex and inter-related issues of post-war recovery and reconstruction begin. This module will examine these through a peace-building analytic lens, focusing on issues around state stabilisation and the establishment of good governance from a “bottom-up” perspective. The module will focus on debates around situations where states are identified to have failed or to be fragile and weak after years of bitter conflict. It will address the contribution of civil society and non-state actors to ensuring people’s security and democratic political inclusion alongside the building of state-legitimacy and cooperative state-society relations. Topics covered will include: an introduction to “bottom-up” approaches to peace-building; the design of power-sharing models of governance and post-war constitution-building; different approaches to the roles of NGOs, civil society and social organisations in the pursuit of sustainable peace and the demobilisation. The module will also cover disarmament and reintegration ex- combatants; the dilemmas surrounding reconciliation, accountability and transitional justice, and how external development, humanitarian and peace- building actors can at the least “do no harm” and at the best “do some good” in what is usually a turbulent and changing environment.



Preliminary Reading:

- Berdal, M. (2009), *Building Peace After War*, London: Routledge.
- Crocker, C., F. Hampson and P. Aall (eds.) (2001), *Turbulent Peace: The Challenges of Managing International Conflict*, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace.
- Lederach, J.P and J.M. Jenner (eds.) (2002), *A Handbook of International Peacebuilding: Into the Eye of the Storm*, San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Ramsbotham, O., T. Woodhouse and H. Miall (2011), *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Reyckler, L. and T. Paffenholz (eds.) (2001), *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*, London: Lynne Rienner.
- Richmond, O. (ed.) (2010), *Palgrave Advances in Peacebuilding: Critical Developments and Approaches*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Stedman, S., D. Rotchild and E. Cousens (eds.) (2002), *Ending Civil Wars: The Implementation of Peace Agreements*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction and State- Building (Epiphany Term)

This module looks at the relationship between stabilisation, development and capacity-building in areas of limited statehood. Its lectures and seminars will explore five main areas of activity: the security arena, political structures (official vs. traditional and local vs. international), development and socio-economic factors, society and culture, and issues associated with post-conflict environments. In all these areas, the module will consider the dynamics and/or tensions that exist between international and local perspectives, military and civil goals, and state and non-state actors. Topics to be covered include counter-insurgency and stabilisation, state-building, transitional justice, security sector reform and the rule of law, the challenges of transforming war economies, cross-border dynamics and conservation.

Preliminary Reading:

- Beswick, D and P Jackson (2011) *Conflict, Security and Development: An introduction*, London: Routledge.
- Bøås, M and K Jennings (2005) 'Insecurity and Development: The Rhetoric of the "Failed State"', *European Journal of Development Research*, 17:3, 385-395.
- Chandler, D (2008) 'Review Article: Theorising the shift from security to insecurity— Kaldor, Duffield and Furedi', *Conflict, Security & Development*, 8:2, 265-276.
- Denney, L (2011) 'Reducing poverty with teargas and batons: The security-development nexus in Sierra Leone', *African Affairs*, 110: 439, 275-294.
- Chandler, D. (2010), *International State building: The Rise of Post-Liberal Governance*, Abingdon: Routledge.
- Paris, R and T Sisk (eds.) (2009) *Dilemmas of State building: Confronting the Contradictions of Post war Peace Operations*, Abingdon: Routledge.
- RUSI Journal (2007) Special issue on counterinsurgency, 152: 4.
- Utas, M (ed) (2012) *African Conflicts and Informal Power: Big Men and Networks*, London: Zed.

International Law and Conflict Intervention (Epiphany Term)

This module will look at the role, interplay and limits of defence, development and diplomacy in ongoing conflicts. It will critically examine the evolution of concepts and practices such as 'responsibility to protect' (R2P) and humanitarian intervention within the context of a changing international state system and international norms. In particular, it will consider the impact of these norms and practices on the North-South divide by situating them historically, looking at, for instance, the progression from colonial-era (counter)-insurgencies to post-colonial(counter)-insurgencies, or changes in the notion of 'humanitarian intervention' in the context of global changes following the end of the Cold War and the acceleration of globalisation. The module will look at five areas of operation and the way they interact: military dynamics; political dynamics; legal dynamics; development and socio-economic factors; and society more broadly. Topics covered include: the role of international law, human rights conventions and jus in bello models, and how these have changed with, and affected, the evolving nature of conflicts; the history, challenges and contradictions of humanitarian intervention; the history of counter-insurgency (COIN) and counter-terrorism practices and how these have impacted on human security and society more broadly; the role of negotiations with armed non-state actors in conflict intervention; the role of aid and development in conflict intervention; gender and conflict dynamics. Throughout, students will be asked to consider the tensions between local cultural and political practices and international norms, between military, diplomatic and development goals, and between national security and human security.

Preliminary Reading:

- Beswick, D and P. Jackson (2011), *Conflict, Security and Development*, Abingdon: Routledge.
- Chandler, D. (2006), *From Kosovo to Kabul and Beyond: Human Rights and International Intervention*, New ed. London: Pluto.
- Dinstein, Y. (2004), *The Conduct of Hostilities under the Law of International Armed Conflict*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fontan, Victoria (2006), 'Polarization Between Occupier and Occupied in Post-Saddam Iraq: Colonial Humiliation and the Formation of Political Violence', *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 18(2): pp. 217-238.
- Gray, C. (2008), *International Law and the Use of Force*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kilcullen, D. (2010), *Counterinsurgency*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Moser, C.O.N. and F.C. Clark (eds.) (2001), *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence*, London: Zed Books.
- Neumann, Peter (2007), 'Negotiating with Terrorists', *Foreign Affairs*, 86(1): pp. 128-138.



Peace Processes and Everyday Political Negotiation (Epiphany Term)

This module will examine theories and concepts that underpin effective peace processes which will be investigated by drawing from a number of case studies of both successful and failed processes, and analysing factors which affect the outcome. The role of external mediators and facilitators (non-official and official, state and non-state) can be pivotal to such peace processes, and Module 3b will evaluate their effectiveness in different conflict situations. Effective peace processes depend upon the skill and commitment of the negotiators and various approaches and styles of negotiation will be explored. Of particular interest are issues of asymmetry, relationship building, cultural differences, non-negotiable factors (such as religion), spoilers and the challenges of political violence, and gender. Indicative Topics covered will include: theories, concepts and practices needed for successful peace processes; asymmetry in negotiation; engaging non-state armed actors; international mediation case studies; multi-party mediation; cultural differences; non-negotiable factors; the impact of spoilers and the challenges of political violence on negotiation; gender perspectives; managing perceptions of peace processes among the parties' target constituencies.

Preliminary Reading:

- Comaroff, J.L. and S. Roberts (1981), *Rules and Processes: The Cultural Logic of Dispute in an African Context*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Das, S.K. (ed.) (2005), *Peace Processes and Peace Accords*. London: Sage. Lyon, S.M. (2004), *An Anthropological Analysis of Local Politics and Patronage in a Pakistani Village*, Lampeter: Edwin Mellwn Press.
- MacGinty, R. and J. Darby (eds.) (2008), *Contemporary Peace-making. Conflict, Peace Processes and Post-War Reconstruction*, 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 5: 'Negotiations and Peace Processes' by Adrian Guelke, pp.63-77.
- Chapter 7: 'Mediation and Ending of Conflicts' by Christopher Mitchell, pp. 94-104. Nugent, D. and J. Vincent (eds.) (2007), *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Ricigliano, R. (ed.) (2005), *Choosing to Engage. Armed Groups and Peace Processes*, London: Conciliation Resources: c-r.org/our-work/accord/engaging-groups/contents.php; accessed 18 August 2011.
- Wolfsfield, G. (2008), 'The Role of the news Media in Peace Negotiations: Variations Over Time and Circumstance', in J. Darby and R. MacGinty (eds.)



Capstone Exercise: Humanitarian Intervention Simulation (Easter Term)

The capstone exercise will provide an opportunity for students to operationalise learning and knowledge from Modules 1-4b and their chosen Optional Modules in a simulated conflict setting. During conflict, and the immediate post-conflict context, there are urgent actions that need to be tackled including: poor security and law enforcement; a lack of administrative structures; a need for emergency relief and care of IDPs and refugees; the rebuilding of economies; the disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of combatants. Humanitarian interveners have to communicate, negotiate and make (rapid) decisions with a myriad of actors including: politicians, military forces, warlords and criminal elements, civilians, other INGOs and LNGOs, media representatives. The exercise will expose students to problems that can occur through rogue and unexpected incidents and issues related to communication, information and intelligence flows. The exercise allows students to reflect on how they may behave in such situations. Prior to the exercise students will be given full briefings on the scenario, background readings, and be expected to prepare for a 'role' they will be playing.

Preliminary Reading: N/A



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