

CDSn4001: Conflict Analysis

Introduction & Welcome

**September 18, 2023
Miriam Matejova, PhD**

Welcome to CDSn4001

- **Instructor:** Miriam Matejova, PhD
- **Office Hours:** Mon 2-4 pm or by e-mail/Zoom
- **Email:** matejova@fss.muni.cz

Introductions

1. Who are you?
2. Why did you choose to pursue an MA at MUNI?
3. What are you hoping to get out of this course?

Required Literature

- The required course readings are available through the course online system or
- the library:
<https://knihovna.fss.muni.cz/>

Course website

- We have a course website through MUNI Information System:
<https://is.muni.cz/?lang=en>
- On the website you will find the readings as well as course announcements, slides, and the syllabus.
 - Lecture outlines will be posted once a week
- You are responsible for regularly checking the website.

Syllabus overview

- **Assignments:**

- 1) Weekly collaboratively summaries of the assigned required readings.
- 2) Final exam in form of a written test, which will cover the required literature and lectures.

Weekly summaries

- Worth 30 points
 - Start in Week 2
 - 3 points per week
- Collaborative
- Analytical
- Written through GoogleDocs
- Must be submitted **by 8 pm CET the day before the class meets**

Final exam

- Worth 40 points
- Written test after the course concludes (likely online)
- Short-answer questions
 - Must answer 4 out of 5
 - 10 points each
- Covers required literature and lectures

Grade distribution

- A: 70-64 points
- B: 63-57 points
- C: 56-51 points
- D: 50-46 points
- E: 45-42 points
- F: 41 points and less

Course objectives

- Identify and critically evaluate major theories, hypotheses, and debates on the causes of violent interstate conflict and civil war;
- Use theory to better understand and gain insight into the causes of particular conflicts;
- Use theory and history to design and assess viable policy options for preventing or minimizing the severity of violent conflict.

Course overview

- This class is organized around discussion.
- Respectful environment is therefore crucial.
- Our starting point will be the weekly analytical summaries.
- Lectures will focus and/or supplement the reading material.

Next week: analytical
summaries

- GoogleDocs
- Template
distribution
- Summarizers