

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Unit Specification

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	Philosophy of War
Unit code	PS038
Credit rating	15
Level	MA in Political Science and International Relations
Contact hours	21
Pre-requisite units	None
Co-requisite units	None
School responsible	Moscow School of Social & Economic Sciences
Member of staff responsible	Arseniy Kumankov
ECT*	
Notional hours of Learning**	150

2. AIMS

The unit aims to prepare students for fundamental philosophical analysis of the phenomenon of war. This will require accomplishing the following tasks:

- define the concept of war and reveal key characteristics of modern armed conflict;
- articulate the positions of realism, pacifism, just war theory and militarism - the most prominent philosophical conceptions of war;
- investigate the relationships between an individual and a state in the context of person's implication in warfare in order to reveal micro- and macro-level of war.

As a result students would be able to deal with philosophical context of war and peace problems.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

There has been a long tradition in philosophical and ethical consideration of armed conflict in the western humanitarian society. Meanwhile in Russian academic sphere this line of investigation and teaching stays undeveloped. This course pretends to fill up the lacuna. It offers multi-disciplinary studying of war and involves approaches of ethics, international law, history, social science and political theory. Students are expected to get acquainted with classical and contemporary interpretations of war, trace how its status has changed during the last centuries and consider whether hostilities can be viewed from a perspective of ethics.

* ECT (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): There are 2 UK credits for every 1 ECT credit, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA). Therefore if a unit is worth 30 UK credits, this will equate to 15 ECT.

** Notional hours of learning: The number of hours which it is expected that a learner (at a particular level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level. It is expected that there will be 10 hours of notional study associated with every 1 credit achieved. Therefore if a unit is worth 30 credits, this will equate to 300 notional study hours, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA).

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4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	<i>Students will be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acquire various notions of war viewed from different theoretical perspectives; - understand argumentation of the key philosophical war theories in their historical and contemporary state, comprehend principles and procedures of normative theorizing and will be capable to distinguish and compare them; - get firm and eternal values related to the sphere of war, which they will be able to dispute and develop
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analyze ethics of conflicts, war, massive violence and global security using both descriptive and prescriptive approaches; - think critically and construct argumentation for armed conflict research; - generate concepts and theoretical models in order to develop proper methods of evaluating the normative framework of war
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interpret the results of research and prepare analytical materials (reviews, reports, recommendations) on the issues of armed conflict and political violence and present them in the accordance with academic standards in an ethical manner; - critically evaluate contemporary research methods of political conflicts; - develop policy proposals
Transferable skills and personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - define and disseminate ethical and legal standards in her/his professional and social activities; - work independently or as part of a team

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Contact hours: lectures (50%) and seminars (50%). Seminars will combine textual analysis and discussion. Course Reader will be sent by e-mail.
 Weekly homework is due and includes reading and watching video materials.
 Furthermore students would be offered to watch and discuss video materials provided by MOOCs (Coursera, FutureLearn, edX), TED and YouTube on the seminars.
 One essay, to be written at home.
 Students are welcomed to e-mail or social network communication on all kind of questions related to this course.

6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
essay	3500 words	80 %
exam	1000 words	20 %

7. INDICATIVE READING LIST

1. Aron R. Peace and War, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1966.

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2. Clausewitz C. *On War*. Wilder Publications. 2008.
3. Fotion N., Kashnikov B., Lekea J. K. *Terrorism. The New World Disorder*. New York: Continuum, 2008.
4. Fotion N. *War and ethics: a new just war theory*. New York: Continuum, 2007.
5. Frowe H. *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction*. Routledge, 2011.
6. Holmes R. *Nonviolence in Theory and Practice*. Waveland Press, 2004.
7. May L. *War Crimes and Just War*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
8. McMahan J. *Killing In War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
9. Morgenthau H. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978.
10. Niebuhr R. *Moral Man and Immoral Society: A Study in Ethics and Politics*. Kessinger Publishing, 2006.
11. Orend B. *The Morality of War*. Broadview Press, 2006.
12. Schmitt C. *The Concept of the Political*. Chicago, London: The University of Chicago press. 2007.
13. Singer P. W. *Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry*. Cornell University Press, 2003.
14. *Terrorism and Justice: Moral Argument in a Threatened World* / Edited by Coady T., O’Keefe M. Melbourne University Publishing, 2004.
15. *Terrorism: The Philosophical Issues*. / Edited by Primoratz I. London: Palgrave, 2004.
16. *The Ethics of War: Classic and Contemporary Readings* / Reichberg G., Syse H., Begby E. Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.
17. Walzer M. *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*. New York: Basic Books. 2000.
18. Walzer M. *Arguing about war*. Yale University Press, 2006.

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