In this course, we will study different forms of political violence: terrorism, protest violence, civil wars, and riots. We will explore the differences between these types of political violence as well as their commonalities. We will look into the geographic and temporal incidence of these different forms of political violence in the contemporary world and put the focus on particular cases (e.g., terrorism and civil war in Spain, civil war in Côte d’Ivoire, riots in India, and state repression in Myanmar). We will also study the alternative to political violence, nonviolent protest and resistance, and we will discuss its efficacy in promoting political change.

Session 1. Civil War as one form of political violence

Civil War as a form of political violence. We will undertake an overview to the different varieties of political violence (e.g. terrorism, riots, protests) and the relationship between these types of political violence and civil wars.
Required reading:


Recommended reading:


**Session 2. Causes of civil war**

Causes of civil war. We will go over the main theories on the causes of civil war’s outbreak and analyse the differences between civil wars and other forms of political violence such as terrorism or communal violence.

Required reading:


Recommended reading:


**Session 3. Violence against civilians during civil war**

Why are noncombatants killed during internal conflict? In this session, we will explore different theories of violence against civilians during armed conflict.

**Required reading:**


**Recommended reading:**


**Session 4. The international system, terrorism, and civil wars**

The international system and civil wars. We will discuss the relationship between international relations and domestic civil strife (i.e. civil wars, terrorism), with a particular emphasis on the Cold War period and its end.
**Required reading:**


**Recommended reading:**


**Session 5. Nonviolence Resistance**

We will discuss non-violent forms of resistance and their efficacy at achieving political goals, as compared to violent action.

**Required reading:**


Recommended reading:
