



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



NatoLin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Ethics and Religion in Armed Conflicts

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

DAOU Fadi

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

HAMMAMI Amel

COURSE TYPE

Contextual Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to:

1. Introduce the ethical concerns, dilemmas, and boundaries related to wars;
2. Engage with the complex interlinkage of certain Armed conflicts with religion;
3. Approach the ethical and religious factors of armed conflicts as part of a multistakeholder ecosystem of diplomacy and conflict management for peacemaking and peacebuilding.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Analyze and assess armed conflicts and related responsibilities through ethical frameworks and boundaries (ESSST2);
- 2) Critically and contextually understand and discuss the public dimension of religion and its instrumentalization into armed conflict (ESSST2);
- 3) Use key international instruments and theoretical frameworks to successfully design and engage in multistakeholder diplomacy addressing examples of armed conflicts and related peace efforts (ESSST4, MATA1.1).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

For an optimal engagement with the course, the students are expected to familiarize themselves, before the start of the course, with the following bibliographical references:

1. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols: <https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/geneva-conventions-and-their-commentaries>
2. United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (2016). Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/plan_of_action_religious_rev5.pdf
3. Daou, Fadi (2025). Religions beyond Borders: The Ambivalence and Effectiveness of Religious Engagement in Public and Global Affairs: Research Article. *Religion and Development*, 3(2), 127-155. <https://doi.org/10.30965/27507955-00302002>
4. Driessen, Michael and Fadi Daou (2026). Changing the Narrative Preparing for Peace: A White Paper on Multifaith and Multistakeholder Engagement in Times of War and Polarisation. Geneva: Globethics. <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4321293>

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Interactive, based on theoretical presentations and discussions and case studies analysis.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

The course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis based on:

- A digital onsite multiple-choice, closed-book test (80% of the final score) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the final score).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal to or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course. Each student is entitled to retake the test once. The retake test will account for 80% of the final score, while overall attendance will account for the remaining 20%.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course will address the following topics:

- Ethics and Religion: differences and interlinkages
- Religious engagement in public affairs
- Ethical frameworks of armed conflicts
- Religion between war and peace
- Multifaith and multistakeholder diplomacy in peacemaking and peacebuilding

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

See the bibliographical list in the Course outline.