

# Power, Conflict and Justice

Title	Power, Conflict and Justice
Semester	F2026
Master programme in	Global and Development Studies
Type of activity	Course
Teaching language	English
Study regulation	Read about the Master Programme and find the Study Regulations at <a href="http://ruc.dk">ruc.dk</a>

## REGISTRATION AND STUDY ADMINISTRATIVE

You register for activities through [stads selvbetjening](#) during the announced registration period, which you can see on the [Study administration homepage](#).

Registration When registering for courses, please be aware of the potential conflicts and overlaps between course and exam time and dates. The planning of course activities at Roskilde University is based on the recommended study programmes, which should not overlap. However, if you choose optional courses and/or study plans that goes beyond the recommended study programmes, an overlap of lectures or exam dates may occur depending on which courses you choose.

Number of participants

ECTS 5

Responsible for the activity Laust Schouenborg ([lausts@ruc.dk](mailto:lausts@ruc.dk))

Head of study Markus-Michael Müller ([muellerm@ruc.dk](mailto:muellerm@ruc.dk))

Teachers

Study administration ISE Registration & Exams ([ise-exams@ruc.dk](mailto:ise-exams@ruc.dk))

Exam code(s) U60119

**ACADEMIC CONTENT**

Overall objective This course studies the power relations that structure and challenge order from the local to the global levels; the conflicts, including their interconnections, that these relationships create, reproduce and resolve; as well as questions of justice and rights inherent in power relations and conflict dynamics. Students learn theoretical approaches to power, conflict and justice, and study how their assumptions lead to different analyses and conclusions.

Detailed description of content The course will typically have two parts. The first part will outline the relevant theoretical / conceptual approaches to power, conflict and justice, and their historical background. The second part will present real-world cases of conflict and justice problems and solutions, and facilitate students' ability to apply theories, either through group work, class presentations, class discussions, or other means. Actors from the public and private sectors can be invited in to shed light on cases and general problems.

Course material and Reading list Course material is available on Moodle.

The course is worth 5 ECTS, so students need to adjust the workload accordingly. You are expected to attend class and prepare by reading 2-3 compulsory texts every week plus doing the required presentation activities related to the cases. You are also expected to regularly check the course's Moodle site and keep yourselves up to date with information.

Overall plan and expected work effort The course norm is 5 ECTS. This means that the course is set for 135 hours, which is divided in the following way:

- 15 hrs to participate in 10 classes
- 40 hrs for reading course material (10 classes)
- 40 hrs for preparing presentations / discussions
- 40 hrs for exam including preparation

Students are expected to spend 6.5 hrs preparing for each class including readings, links on moodle, cases, and presentations.

Format

Evaluation and feedback The course is evaluated regularly. At the start of the course, the course convenor is informed if the course is to be evaluated and notifies the students. The evaluation is carried out in accordance with the study board's [evaluation practice](#).

Indicative program from 2024:

Session 1. Conflict as Productive and Destructive; and Outline of the Course (Course Convenor, Lars Buur)

Session 2. Power and Conflict (Laust Schouenborg)

Session 3. Power and Justice (Line Gissel)

Session 4. Conflict Solutions (Laust Schouenborg)

Programme Session 5. Justice Solutions (Line E. Gissel)

Session 6. Political Violence (Lars Buur)

Session 7. The Arms Race (Laust Schouenborg)

Session 8. Post-Conflict Divisions (Line Gissel)

Session 9. Investment Conflicts (Lars Buur)

Session 10. (Lars Buur, Line Gissel and Laust Schouenborg)

## ASSESSMENT

Overall learning outcomes

- Students acquire skills to critically analyse and compare different types of power relations and how they produce and prevent conflict, and to evaluate and question different positions and meanings of justice and rights, including human rights.
- They acquire specialised knowledge and skills regarding the role of power relations in shaping conflict dynamics, patterns conflict resolution, human rights, and justice at different levels (local, national, international, global).
- They acquire an advanced understanding of different theoretical debates related to these subjects and develop skills in selecting

and critically applying relevant theories and methods, including in choosing relevant approaches in order to investigate a problem area. They also develop skills in communicating and discussing theories and empirical results.

Individual oral exam with time for preparation

Form of examination

Time for preparation including time to pick a question by drawing lots: 30 minutes.  
Time allowed for the exam including time used for assessment: 30 minutes.

Permitted support and preparation materials: Course material and own notes.

Assessment: 7-point grading scale  
Moderation: Internal co-assessor.

Form of Re-examination

Samme som ordinær eksamen / same form as ordinary exam

Type of examination in special cases

- Explain and evaluate, using relevant terminology, the advantages and disadvantages of various theories within the aspect of a subject area that is dealt with in the specialisation course

- Confidently and independently, select and apply relevant theories in relation to a specific issue

Examination and assessment criteria (implemented)

- Analyse and reflect critically on the course material
- Discuss in a creative and solution-oriented manner conflict scenarios from the course

- Communicate knowledge in language that is technically precise, well-structured and well-argued.

In this course, the use of generative AI aids (GenAI) is not allowed when taking exams. Ordinary spell checking and other language suggestions as

known from Word or other word processing programs are allowed without declaration.

Exam code(s) Exam code(s) : U60119

## **Course days:**

**Hold: 1**

### **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 09-02-2026 12:15 til  
09-02-2026 14:00

location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)

Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

### **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 16-02-2026 12:15 til  
16-02-2026 14:00

location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)

Teacher Laust Schouenborg ( lausts@ruc.dk )

### **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 23-02-2026 12:15 til  
23-02-2026 14:00

location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)

Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

### **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 02-03-2026 12:15 til  
02-03-2026 14:00

location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)

Teacher Laust Schouenborg ( lausts@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 09-03-2026 12:15 til  
09-03-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 16-03-2026 12:15 til  
16-03-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 23-03-2026 12:15 til  
23-03-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Laust Schouenborg ( lausts@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 13-04-2026 12:15 til  
13-04-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Malin Nystrand ( malinn@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 20-04-2026 12:15 til  
20-04-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 27-04-2026 12:15 til  
27-04-2026 14:00  
location 45.1-011 - auditorie 45 (148)  
Teacher Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 01-06-2026 08:15 til  
04-06-2026 18:00

Teacher Laust Schouenborg ( lausts@ruc.dk )  
Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )

## **Power, Conflict and Justice**

time 13-08-2026 08:15 til  
14-08-2026 18:00

Teacher Laust Schouenborg ( lausts@ruc.dk )  
Line Engbo Gissel ( lgissel@ruc.dk )