There has never been a day without a war. But there are now less wars. And existing wars between sovereign states may be less violent than ever before. Are human societies becoming less aggressive? And although war has long been considered a form of political action, political action is also necessary to end war and oppression. Why is political justice, for example, often the opposite of violent war?

This course is not only about the causes and consequences of war. It is also about applying the code of the warrior, identifying enemies, conscientious objectors, using non-violent methods in conflict resolution, and about institutions that diminish the risk of different types of armed conflict.

PS 343 course materials include three books, various articles, and select films. All materials cover the ambivalent relation between politics and armed aggression, while introducing students to various Political Science subfields.