

Civil Conflict Processes

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11a–12:15p TR
212 Baldwin Hall
Office Hours: W 2p–4p

Course Description:

Why do people risk their lives to take up arms against their state? What factors influence how severe civil wars are, how long they last, and how they end? How are civilians affected by war, and what shapes their lives in post-war societies? Students in this course will be exposed to contemporary news and scholarship as we address these questions and others related to contemporary civil conflicts. We will learn from scholars in several disciplines including political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and more. Students will also learn about the international dimensions of civil conflict such as conflict diffusion, refugee flows, peacekeeping interventions, and cross-border ethnic ties and secessionist movements. Most of the academic readings will approach research from a quantitative position (large datasets and statistical modeling), we will read about and discuss many current, real-world civil wars, and your research paper may focus on a single case as well.

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand how political scientists approach civil conflict research.
- Produce original research on a topic related to civil conflict.
- Be familiar with the details of ongoing civil wars, including the wars in Syria, Nigeria, Yemen, Iraq, and elsewhere.
- Be able to offer an informed opinion on civil conflict-related questions by drawing upon conflict scholarship.

Required Texts:

- No textbook is required for this course. All readings will come from academic articles, accessible book chapters, and media publications.
- For effective participation, students should keep up with current events, especially those involving domestic conflict. *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *BBC*, *Foreign Affairs*, or a weekly periodical such as *The Economist* are a few good choices.

Grade Distribution:

Midterm	25%
Research Paper	35%
Simulations	20%
Attendance and Participation	20%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Course Policies:

• Reading

- You are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. Lectures and activities will assume you did so.
- If you don't do the reading, you will likely not be able to participate effectively. This will harm your participation grade.

• Exams

- Exams are closed book, closed notes.
- Make-up exams are only given when the student has a documented medical or other approved excuse.

• Simulation

- We will have one multi-class simulation in this course. To effectively participate in the simulation, students must read the materials beforehand, plan with their group in and outside of class, and maintain a group file folder system in Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.
- Specific details and reading materials will be provided for each simulation in class.

• Research Paper

- Students will come up with a political science research question related to civil conflict and will develop a research paper over the course of the semester.
- Students will submit a hard copy of their papers to me on the due date. Students must hand in their own papers.
- Late papers will be penalized ten percentage points each calendar day.

- **Attendance and Participation**

- Students may miss up to 2 class periods for any reason; excuses are not required. Each additional absence will result in a penalty of one point off the final grade.
- Participation is drawn from student engagement in lecture and participations.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Tuesday: Course Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No Readings <p>Thursday: Defining Civil War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. “What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 48(6): 814-858.
Week 2	<p>Tuesday: The State and Organized Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tilly, Charles. 1985. “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.” In Skocpol, Theda (ed.). <i>Bringing the State back in</i>. Book chapter available on online learning system. <p>Thursday: Collective Action Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. <i>Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador</i>. Chapter 8 available on online learning system.
Week 3	<p>Tuesday: Civil War Onset: Greed and Grievance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. “Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars.” <i>Economic Papers</i> 56(4): 563-595. <p>Thursday: Civil War Onset: Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Denny, Elaine K., and Barbara F. Walter. 2014. “Ethnicity and Civil War.” <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 51(2): 199-212.

Week	Content
Week 4	<p>Tuesday: Civil War Onset: Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. “Why do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis.” <i>World Politics</i> 62(1): 87-119. – <i>Recommended</i>: Hegre, Havard, and Nicholas Sambanis. 2006. “Sensitivity Analysis of Empirical Results on Civil War Onset.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 50(4): 508-535. <p>Thursday: Civil War Duration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Balch-Lindsay, Dylan, and Andrew J. Enterline. 2000. “Killing Time: The World Politics of Civil War Duration, 1820-1992.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 44(4): 615-642.
Week 5	<p>Tuesday: Civil War Duration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cunningham, David. 2006. “Veto Players and Civil War Duration.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 50(4): 875-892. <p>Thursday: Civil War Termination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Walter, Barbara F. 1997. “The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement.” <i>International Organization</i> 51(3): 335-364.
Week 6	<p>Tuesday: Civil War Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Linebarger, Christopher, and Andrew J. Enterline. 2016. “Third Party Intervention and the Duration and Outcomes of Civil Wars.” In Mason, T. David, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, eds. <i>What do we know about Civil Wars?</i> Book chapter available on online learning system. <p>Thursday: Peacekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. “Does Peacekeeping keep the Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 48(2): 269-292.
Week 7	<p>Tuesday: Types of Civil Wars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Balcells, Laia, and Stathis N. Kalyvas. 2014. “Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 58(8): 1390-1418. – Moore, Will H. 2017. “What do we know as a Field about the Causal Determinants of Ethnic Conflict?” <i>Ethnopolitics</i> 16(1): 56-59.

Week	Content
Week 7	<p>Thursday: Transnational Dimensions of Civil Wars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Salehyan, Idean. 2008. “No Shelter here: Rebel Sanctuaries and International Conflict.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> 70(1): 54-66. – Salehyan, Idean, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2006. “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War.” <i>International Organization</i> 60(2): 335-366.
Week 8	<p>Tuesday: Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ross, Michael L. 2004. “How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases.” <i>International Organization</i> 41(3): 35-67. <p>Thursday: Who Rebels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2005. “Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49(4): 598-624.
Week 9	<p>Tuesday: Civil War Severity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lacina, Bethany. 2006. “Explaining the Severity of Civil Wars.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 50(2): 276-289. <p>Thursday: Wartime Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. <i>The Logic of Violence in Civil War</i> chapters 6 and 7. Available on online learning system.
Week 10	<p>Tuesday: Wartime Violence: Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wainaina, Binyavanga. 2005. “How to write about Africa.” – Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. “Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 100(3): 429-447. <p>Thursday: Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Frieden, Lake, and Schultz pp. 264-289. From <i>World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions</i>. Excerpt available on online learning system.
Week 11	<p>Tuesday: Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kydd, Andrew H., and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. “The Strategies of Terrorism.” <i>Security Studies</i> 31(1): 49-80.

Week	Content
Week 11	<p>Thursday: Midterm Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exam taken in class
Week 12	<p>Tuesday: Conflict Resolution Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Round 1. Handouts in class. <p>Thursday: Conflict Resolution Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Round 2. Handouts in class.
Week 13	<p>Tuesday: Conflict Resolution Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Round 3. Handouts in class. <p>Thursday: Conflict Resolution Simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Round 4. Handouts in class.
Week 14	<p>Tuesday: Gender and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hudson, Valerie M., Mary Caprioli, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Rose McDermott, and Chad F. Emmett. 2009. “The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States.” <i>International Security</i> 33(3): 7-45. <p>Thursday: Gender and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Karim, Sabrina, and Kyle Beardsley. 2013. “Female Peacekeepers and Gender Balancing: Token Gestures or Informed Policymaking?” <i>International Interactions</i> 39(4): 461-488. – Simulation papers due at beginning of class.
Week 15	<p>Tuesday: International Law and Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conrad, Courtenay, and Emily Hencken Ritter. 2013. “Treaties, Tenure, and Torture: The Conflicting Domestic Effects of International Law.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> 75(2): 397-409. <p>Thursday: Research Papers Due at start of Final Exam Period</p>