

INTL 4455	Violent Political Conflict	Fall 2016
T, TR 3:30-4:45	MLC 253	Prerequisites/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: Wed. 4-5 p.m.	Office: Candler 319	

Course Description

This course deals with the systematic theoretical and empirical study of violent political conflict. We will use a very general, social scientific approach to studying violence and cover a broad range of topics including civil war, protest/rebellion, terrorism, state terror/repression, democratization, and international human rights law.

Course Objectives

This is not a history course, though we will discuss historical events. The purpose of this course is not to gain familiarity with any particular war or conflict. Rather, the goal is to understand what a social science approach to studying violent conflict entails, how the study of violent conflict has developed and advanced in recent years, and how scholarly work in this field can be usefully applied to many forms of conflict and provide insight into real world events. This requires learning about general theories of human behavior in social science as well as basic quantitative analysis.

Required Reading

There will be no textbook in this class. There will be 1-3 articles/book chapters assigned every week. All readings will be posted on the class ELC site. Students are expected to read the assigned material.

Grades

Students can review their grades during office hours or by appointment. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Response Essay 1: 15%

Response Essay 2: 15%

Attendance: 10%

Grade Distribution:

90-100: A	80-89: B	70-79: C
60-69: D	59 and below: F	

Examinations

Exams will be multiple choice with two essay questions. The exams will cover the lecture as well as assigned readings. There will be three exams including the final. Only the final exam will be cumulative.

Response Essays

During two weeks of the semester, students will submit a short (1-2 pages, single spaced) essay in response to a general question related to the week's topic/readings. The question for the week will be provided on Monday, and the response must be submitted via email no later than 8 p.m. on Friday. Students choose which weeks they turn in essays, but must submit their first essay by the end of Week 8 (Friday, October 6th). Essays should be submitted via the course website on ELC.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at random 10 times throughout the semester. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each of these days you miss.

Makeup Exams

An absence from any exam will result in a zero for that exam. *Makeup exams will not be given for any reason. However, the lowest exam grade will be dropped when calculating final grades.* This means that everyone may miss one exam and not be penalized.

Course Website and Email

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for any syllabus updates or for posted readings. Announcements may also be sent out via email. It is your responsibility to check blackboard for syllabus updates.

Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

University Honor Code/Academic Honesty Policy

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Withdrawal Policy

Students who withdraw from the class before the withdrawal deadline are assigned a grade based on their performance (pass/fail) in the class up the point of withdrawal. This means that students who are failing will be assigned a "WF" grade even if they withdraw before the deadline. Students who withdraw from the class after the withdrawal deadline are automatically assigned a "WF" grade upon withdrawal.

Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introduction, social science basics

Aug 15: Syllabus review, class overview. No reading.

Aug 17: Little, Daniel. 1991. *Varieties of Social Explanation*. Westview Press, chap 3, pp. 195-201.

Week 2: The State and Violent Conflict

Aug 22: Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." in Theda Skocpol (ed.) *Bringing the State Back In.*, Cambridge Press.

Aug 25: Gurr, T.R. 1988. "War, Revolution, and the Growth of the Coercive State." *Comparative Political Studies* 21: 45-65.

Week 3: Collective Action and Coordination

Aug 29: Weingast, Barry. 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* 91: 245-263.

Aug 31: Wagner, Harrison. 2007. *War and the State*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 112-122.

Week 4: Collective Action and Protest/Rebellion

Sep 5: Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44: 7-48.

Sep 7: Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge Press, chap 8.

Week 5: Discontent and "Greed" Theories of Civil War

Sep 12: Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1987. "Inequality and Insurgency." *American Political Science Review* 81: 425-452.

Sep 14: Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56: 563-595.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2001. "New and Old Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?" *World Politics* 54(1): 99-118.

Review for Exam 1

Week 6: Ethnic Conflict I

Sep 19: Exam 1

Sep 21: Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54: 845-877.

Week 7: Ethnic Conflict II

Sep 26: Mueller. 2000. "The Banality of Ethnic War." *International Security* 25: 42-70.

Sep 28: Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90.

Week 8: Civil War Settlement, Violence against Civilians in Civil War

Oct 3: Walter, Barbara. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization* 51: 335-364.

Kalyvas, Stathys. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge University Press.

chaps 6 and 7.

Oct. 5: Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2005. "Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 598-624.

Zhukov, Yuri. 2014. A Theory of Indiscriminate Violence. Ph.D. Dissertation, Harvard University. chap 2.

Week 9: Terrorism

Oct. 10: Stohl, Michael. 1983. "Demystifying Terrorism." In Michael Stohl (ed.) *The Politics of Terrorism*. Marcel Dekker, pp. 1-19.

Oct. 12: Kydd, Andrew H. and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *Security Studies* 31(1): 49-80.

Atran, Scott. 2003. "Genesis of Suicide Terrorism." *Science* 7 March, pp. 1534-1539.

Week 10: State Terror and Repression

Oct. 17: Walter, Eugene. 1969. *Terror and Resistance*. Oxford University Press, pp. 1-55.

Gurr, Ted Rober. 1986. "The Political Origins of State Violence and Terror: A Theoretical Analysis." In Michael Stohl and George A. Lopez (eds.) *Government Violence and Repression: An Agenda for Research*. Greenwood Press.

Oct. 19: Poe, Steven and Neal C. Tate. 1994. "Repression of Human Rights to Personal Integrity in the 1980s." *American Political Science Review* 88: 853-872.

Week 11: Torture in Democracies

Oct. 24: Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy*. Princeton University Press. chap 2, pp. 45-64.

Ron, James. 1997. "Varying Methods of State Violence." *International Organization* 51: 275-300.

Oct. 26: No reading, review for Exam 2.

Week 12: Genocide and Mass Killing

Oct 31: Exam 2

Nov. 2: Schabas, William. Introductory note to UN Genocide Convention. Available online at http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/cppcg/cppcg_e.pdf

Harff, Barbara. 2003. "No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust: Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1955." *American Political Science Review* 97: 57-74

Week 13: Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping

Nov. 7: Kuperman, Alan. 2008. "The Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention: Lessons from the Balkans." *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 49-80.

Nov. 9: Fortna, Virginia. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep the Peace?" *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 269-292.

Week 14: International Human Rights Law

Nov. 14: Hathaway, Oona. 2002. "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?" *Yale Law Journal* 111, skim.

Nov. 16: Vreeland, James. 2008. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter Into the United Nations Convention Against Torture." *International Organization* 62: 65-101.

THANKSGIVING BREAK NOV. 20-24

Week 15: Predicting Political Violence

Nov. 29: Ward, Michael D., Brian D. Greenhill, and Kristin M. Bakke. 2010. "The Perils of Policy by p-value: Predicting Civil Conflicts." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(4): 363-375.

Dec. 1: No reading

Week 16: Review

Dec 5: Review for final exam

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 3:30-6:30 p.m.