

INTL 4455	Violent Political Conflict	Summer 2018
T, TR 3:30-4:45	Gilbert Hall 115	Prerequisites/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: By appointment	Office: Candler 319	

Course Description

This course deals with the systematic 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.¹

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. Instead, 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 on various forms of conflict can 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 1-2 articles/book chapters assigned every day. Some readings are available through the library's website. Those that are not 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: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Response Essay 1: 20%

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Response Essay 2: 20%
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 two exams including the final. The final exam will be cumulative.

Response Essays

Students must submit 2 short (1-2 pages, single spaced) essays in response to general questions related to course topics/readings. At least one essay prompt will be provided every week, and response essays for each week must be submitted no later than 8 p.m. on Friday. Students choose which weeks they submit essays, but must submit their first essay by Friday, June 15th, and must submit their second essay by Friday, June 29. Essays should be submitted via the course website on ELC.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at random on 10 days 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. Exams may be taken early if a student cannot attend an exam. If a student wishes to take an exam early they must notify the instructor at least 2 days prior to the exam.

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: Course intro, social science basics, violence and the state

June 5: Syllabus review, class overview. No reading.

June 6: Little, Daniel. 1991. *Varieties of Social Explanation*. Westview Press, chap 3, pp. 195-201.

June 7: Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." in Theda Skocpol (ed.) *Bringing the State Back In.*, Cambridge Press.

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

June 8: Wagner, Harrison. 2007. *War and the State*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 112-122.

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

Week 2: Collective action, protest, and rebellion

June 11: Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44: 7-48.

June 12: Chong, Dennis. 1991. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*. University of Chicago Press, chap 8.

June 13: Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge Press, chap 8.

June 14: Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1987. "Inequality and Insurgency." *American Political Science Review* 81: 425-452.

Review for Exam 1

June 15: Exam 1

Week 3: Civil War, ethnic conflict, and terrorism

June 18: 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.

June 19: Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54: 845-877.

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

June 20: Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90.

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.

June 21: 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.

June 22: Stohl, Michael. 1983. "Demystifying Terrorism." In Michael Stohl (ed.) *The Politics of Terrorism*. Marcel Dekker, pp. 1-19.

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

Week 4: State violence, genocide, and international responses

June 25: Walter, Eugene. 1969. *Terror and Resistance*. Oxford University Press, pp. 1-27.

Gurr, Ted Robert. 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.

June 26: Poe, Steven and Neal C. Tate. 1994. "Repression of Human Rights to Personal Integrity in the 1980s." *American Political Science Review* 88: 853-872.

June 27: 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.

June 28: 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

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

June 29: Hathaway, Oona. 2002. "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?" *Yale*

Law Journal 111, skim.

Review for Final Exam.

FINAL EXAM: Monday, July 2, 11:45–2:00 p.m.