

INTL 4455	Violent Political Conflict	Fall 2019
T, TR 11:00-12:15	Caldwell Hall 102	Prerequisites/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: Tuesday 2-4 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, genocide, conflict intervention, and international human rights law.

Course Objectives

Though we will read about and discuss historical and current events, this is not a history or current events course. The main purpose of the course is to understand what a social science approach to studying violent conflict entails, and how such an approach can provide insight into real world events. Our primary focus will be general explanations for the occurrence of political violence, and how to use evidence to determine the accuracy and usefulness of these explanations. Another purpose of the course is to gain some familiarity with the details of particular wars/conflicts.

Required Reading

There will be no textbook in this class. There will be 1-3 articles/book chapters assigned every week. 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: 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

Students must submit 2 short (1-2 pages, single spaced) essays in response to general question related to course topic/readings. During most weeks I will provide an essay prompt for the week on Monday, and if students choose to submit a response that week they must do so no later than 8 p.m. on Friday. Students choose which 2 weeks to submit essays, but must submit their first essay by Friday, October 4th. Students should upload their essays to a dropbox on the ELC course site.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at random 10 times throughout the semester. For each of these days a student is absent, one point will be deducted from their final grade.

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 students 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

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

Week of Aug 19-23

Aug 20: Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." in Theda Skocpol (ed.) *Bringing the State Back In*.

Aug 22: Callimachi, Rukmini. "The ISIS Files: When Terrorists Run City Hall." *New York Times*, April 4, 2018.

Week of Aug 26-30

Aug 27: Weingast, Barry. 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* 91: 245-263.

Aug 29: Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44: 7-48.

Week of Sep 2-6

Sep 3: Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge Press, chap 8.

Sep 5: Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97: 75-90.

Week of Sep 9-13

Sep 10: Horne, Alistair. 2006 [1977]. *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962*. pp. 23-28, 32-37, 41-43, 60-64, 69-73.

Sep 12: Fanon, Frantz. 1963. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Selected pages.

Week of Sep 16-20

Sep 17: 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

Sep 19: Exam 1

Week of Sep 23-27

Sep 24: Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of Ethnic War." *International Security* 25: 42-70.

Sep 26: Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54: 845-877.

[Council on Foreign Relations reader on Sunni/Shia conflict in the Middle East](#) (I will also provide an abridged version)

Week of Sep 30-Oct 4

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

Oct 3: Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*. pp. 78-79, 83-84, 118-123, 132-135, 183-191.

Week of Oct 7-11

Oct 8: 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*.

Oct 10: 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 of Oct 14-18

Oct 15: Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy*. Chap 2, pp. 45-64.

Selected clips from movie ["The Battle of Algiers"](#)

Oct 17: Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*. pp. 190-207.

Week of Oct 21-25

Oct 22: Ron, James. 1997. "Varying Methods of State Violence." *International Organization* 51: 275-300.

Selected clips from movie ["Standard Operating Procedure"](#)

Oct 24: Schabas, William. [Introductory note to UN Genocide Convention](#)

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 of Oct 28-Nov 1

Oct 29: No reading, review for Exam 2

Oct 31: Exam 2

Week of Nov 4-8

Nov 5: Kuperman, Alan. 2008. "The Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention: Lessons from the Balkans." *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 49-80.

Nov 7: Fortna, Virginia. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep the Peace?" *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 269-292.

Week of Nov 11-15

Nov 12: Morrow, James D. "The Institutional Features of the Prisoners of War Treaties." *International Organization* 55: 971-991.

Nov 14: Rudolph, Christopher. 2001. "Constructing an Atrocities Regime: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals." *International Organization* 55: 655-691.

[\(Old\) NYT op-ed on intervention in Syria](#)

Week of Nov 18-22

Nov. 19: Hathaway, Oona. 2002. "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?" *Yale Law Journal* 111, skim.

Nov. 21: Vreeland, James. 2008. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter Into the United Nations Convention Against Torture." *International Organization* 62: 65-101.

Week of Nov 25-29

Nov 26: 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.

Visit the website for the [Early Warning Project](#)

Nov 28: Thanksgiving, no class

Week of Dec 2-6

Dec 3: Review for final exam

Final exam: Thursday, Dec 12, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.