**INTL 4455: Violent Political Conflict**  
University of Georgia – Spring 2021  
MWF 11:30-12:20  
Classroom: Caldwell Hall 107

*Jakub Wondreys*  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course deals with the systematic theoretical and empirical study of violent political conflict. It offers a general overview of its causes, various examples of different types of political violence, and proposed solutions to violent political conflict. We will cover a broad range of topics including civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, electoral violence, the extreme left and right violence, and the role of international institutions and law.

We will use a wide variety of readings and other materials concentrating on different cases of political violence all around the World. The main objective is to acquire general knowledge of proposed causes for the occurrence of political violence and evaluate their accuracy and usefulness. Another purpose is to gain familiarity with different forms of political violence and reflect which of these do we encounter in modern democracies today. Finally, we will also strive to figure which strategies should be used to prevent or stop violent political conflict.

**Course Requirements:**

**Readings**  
There are no required texts to purchase, all the readings and materials will be provided through eLC unless otherwise noted.

**Classroom Attendance and Activity**  
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemics, the full in-person attendance is not possible at the moment. To not discriminate the students who are unable to attend, attendance of this class is not mandatory, however it is strongly encouraged. Students will be randomly divided into three groups and are requested (not mandated) to attend their group in-person class once a week and join the other groups meetings online twice a week. Meetings will be also recorded and posted on eLC (hopefully).

ZOOM link to join the classes is:  
[https://zoom.us/j/97093133032?pwd=V2xQdnNNRldvNy9NeXRJazdtbGEzQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97093133032?pwd=V2xQdnNNRldvNy9NeXRJazdtbGEzQT09)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th>Group 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abboud, Mona E.</td>
<td>Dang, Katie H.</td>
<td>Donaldson, Brooks T.</td>
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<td>First Name</td>
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<td>Zaldibar Anguiano</td>
<td>Gitzel</td>
<td>Dautovic, Melina</td>
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<td>Blankenship, Harper W.</td>
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<td>Ferencie, Anna C.</td>
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<td>Williams, Ted W.</td>
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<td>Smith, Wesley R.</td>
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<td>Bowles, Paul</td>
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<td>Russell, Haley C.</td>
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<td>Webb, John W.</td>
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<td>Farrell, Emma B.</td>
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<td>Cann, Alexander L.</td>
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<td>Goza, Natalie J.</td>
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<td>Mora, Alyssa M.</td>
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<td>Lucas, Aysia J.</td>
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<td>Newman, Dana M.</td>
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<td>Parks, Mercurii M.</td>
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<td>Moore, Sarah E.</td>
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<td>Romano, Jamie C.</td>
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<td>Walker, Payne B.</td>
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<td>McCown, William R.</td>
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Course Evaluation:

**Participation**
This course will require a great deal of discussion and active listening. **Simply showing up to class does not constitute participation.** Given the particular attendance policy of this course, however, participation will not be officially graded. At the same time, active participation is encouraged and will be still taken into consideration.

**Short Reflection (20%)**
In the short reflection (**min 500, max 1000 words**), you will analyze readings of a week of your choice (except weeks 1, 9, and 16). The reflection should **not** simply **summarize articles**, it needs to **analyze them** (**what did you like or didn’t like**) and **connect and compare** them (**what do they have/have not in common, one is better, both are good, both are bad...why**). You will need to include **all** of the readings from the selected week in your reflection. You are also encouraged to use outside sources or readings from other weeks.
You are required to **upload your reflection on the course’s eLC page or e-mail it to me** no later than **Sunday (5 pm)** of the selected week (**later submissions will not be accepted**).
You will have to pick your week, signing up here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16_EbGwbZ8pXYUTt-BY9u4HvUaeRvjiP2FlUvquIDDjQ/edit?usp=sharing, by **Sunday 1/24** (**max 5 students** per week, first come first serve). You will **not be allowed to change your week once signed up for it**.

**First Exam (25%)**
The first exam will address the topics which have been covered throughout the **first six weeks** of the course (**weeks 1 to 6**). **Friday 3/5** (format TBD)

**Second Exam (25%)**
The second exam will address the topics which have been covered **in weeks 7 to 15**. **Friday 4/23** (format TBD)
Final Essay (30%)
In the final essay (min 5000, max 7000 words) you will be expected to select one or multiple cases of political violence (civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, electoral violence, the extreme left or right violence), analyze it/them (why violence occurred), and propose a solution on how to stop the violence and prevent it to happen again. In the paper, you are expected to provide enough evidence that supports or dismisses your initial assumptions. To do that you should use readings (making examples of other cases) with which you have become familiar throughout the course, as well as other sources which you believe are relevant. Generally, you are required to use enough (at least 10) reliable sources and cite them properly. Later submission will be penalized (1% of your overall grade for each day late). DUE 5/7 (eLC or e-mail)

Course Policies:

Technology
Laptops are not welcome in class, unless I instruct you to bring one. Should you need to use a laptop please provide proper documentation from UGA’s DRC.

All cell phones/Blackberries, etc. should be shut off or set to silent – NOT VIBRATE – before arriving to class. The use or interruption of these devices during regular class time will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

Communication and Email
I will keep you updated about the course and any changes to the syllabus through the e-mail or the course’s ELC page – PLEASE REGISTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS! You are required to frequently check both.
When emailing me please use your UGA email account and include your course number in the subject line. In most cases I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Importantly, before you email me please check the syllabus and the news page of the ELC site to be sure that your question has not been previously addressed. A note on etiquette: please use appropriate salutations, including my name in the opening and your name in the closing.

Academic Dishonesty
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: http://www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy. The most common issue of academic dishonesty I have come across is plagiarism. To be clear, plagiarism is copying from any source material (direct or paraphrasing of ideas), published or unpublished (this includes wikipedia!), without giving proper credit. I will post a link to the Chicago Manual of Style citation format on ELC.

Students with Disabilities
UGA is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of special accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at 114 Clark Howell Hall (for more information visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment to see me with their appropriate paperwork from DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

Privacy and Intellectual Property
UGA's code of conduct protects student privacy and intellectual property and thus prohibits recording and digital release of classroom lectures and conversations unless a student has an accommodation from the DRC. If this is your situation, please let me know and we will devise an accommodation that protects your right to privacy, that of your classmates, and everyone’s intellectual property.

This syllabus is subject to changes throughout the semester.

Class Schedule & Readings:

WEEK 1. Introduction

Wed., 1/13
No readings

Fri., 1/15


WEEK 2. Understanding Violent Conflict

Mon., 1/25 NO CLASS (MLK DAY)

Wed., 1/20

Fri., 1/22

WEEK 3. Ethnic Conflict I

Mon., 1/25
Wed., 1/27

Fri., 1/29
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuTJSQChVvI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuTJSQChVvI)

WEEK 4. Ethnic Conflict II

Mon., 2/1
*Discussion about the movie*


Wed., 2/3
Watch the documentary (at home): “Forever Pure”  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z9eEqctAGI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z9eEqctAGI)

Fri., 2/5
*Discussion about the documentary*


WEEK 5. Civil War I

Mon., 2/8

Wed., 2/10

Fri., 2/12

WEEK 6. Civil War II

Mon., 2/15
Watch (at home):
-a documentary on Angolan Civil War: “BBC - Cuba! Africa! Revolution!”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1kQ5aIaUcg

-a documentary War in Yugoslavia: “Death of Yugoslavia” parts II
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcZvQxoTzdQ) and III
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6zTmgxW490)

Wed., 2/17 (NO CLASS – BREAK)

Fri., 2/19
Discussion about the movie

Guest Lecture TBA

Listen to the Radikaal Podcast Ep. 13: “Kacper Rekawek on Far Right Foreign Fighters in Ukraine”
https://open.spotify.com/episode/1LgF7roXb4Nyykj4Pmc3lS?si=opnLMcxKRXKs7HYT7wxREQ (or other platforms, see: https://www.radikaalpodcast.com/#PreviousEpisodes)

WEEK 7. Terrorism I

Mon., 2/22

Wed., 2/24


Fri., 2/26

WEEK 8. Terrorism II

Mon., 3/1
Watch (at home) movie: “Hotel Mumbai” (2019) (on Hulu)

Wed., 3/3
Discussion about the movie

Listen to Radikaal Podcast Ep. 25: “Amarnath Amarasingam on Religion and Terrorism”
https://open.spotify.com/episode/0AD6xLs42lDMJ7NL9KG4Mn?si=OnhFprmwToefrgzZH0m3rw (or other platforms, see: https://www.radikaalpodcast.com/#PreviousEpisodes)

Fri., 3/5 – First Exam

WEEK 9.

Mon., 3/8
Watch (at home) movie: “Four Lions” (2010) (on Amazon Prime and other platforms)

Wed., 3/10
CLASS CANCELLED

Fri., 3/12 (NO CLASS – BREAK)

WEEK 10. Electoral Violence I

Mon., 3/15

Wed., 3/17

Fri., 3/19

WEEK 11. Electoral Violence II

Mon., 3/22


Wed., 3/24
Fri., 3/26
Guest Lecture TBA

**WEEK 12. The Extreme Left and Right Violence**

**Mon., 3/29**


**Wed., 3/31**
Watch (at home):
- a documentary on the extreme Left-wing terrorism in Italy (The Red Brigades) “Age of Terror 3: In the name of revolution”
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmnhKAggsls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmnhKAggsls)

- a documentary on the German terrorist group Baader Meinhof “Baader Meinhof - In Love With Terror”
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnUnR9S4yLo&bpctr=1610075762](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnUnR9S4yLo&bpctr=1610075762)

- a short video on the Extreme Left and Right violence during the so-called “Years of Lead” period in Italy “Victims of Italy's deadly ‘Years of Lead’ demand justice”
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxQB8t7DbEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxQB8t7DbEo)

**Fri., 4/2**
Discussion about the Videos


**WEEK 13. The Solutions to Violent Conflict I**

**Mon., 4/5**


**Wed., 4/7**
Fri., 4/9


**WEEK 14. The Solutions to Violent Conflict II**

Mon., 4/12

Wed., 4/14

Fri., 4/16
Guest Lecture TBA

**WEEK 15. The Solutions to Violent Conflict III**

Mon., 4/19


Wed., 4/21


Fri., 4/23 – Second Exam

**WEEK 16. Final Review**

Mon., 4/26
Final Review GROUP 1 (optional)

Wed., 4/28
Final Review GROUP 2 (optional)
Fri., 4/30
Final Review GROUP 3 (optional)

FINAL ESSAY DUE 5/7