

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=V2xQdnNNRldvNy9NeXRJazdtbGEzQTog>

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Abboud, Mona E.	Dang, Katie H.	Donaldson, Brooks T.

Zaldibar Anguiano, Gitzel	Dautovic, Melina	Graham, Paige E.
Blankenship, Harper W.	Ferencie, Anna C.	Green, Blake H.
Williams, Ted W.	Smith, Wesley R.	Hagerty, Michael D.
Bowles, Paul	Russell, Haley C.	Jackson, Mathew P.
Webb, John W.	Farrell, Emma B.	Mudd, Sarah J.
Cann, Alexander L.	Goza, Natalie J.	Naves, Sage S.
Mora, Alyssa M.	Lucas, Aysia J.	Plog, Morgan T.
Newman, Dana M.	Parks, Mercurii M.	Segat, Bryce S.
Moore, Sarah E.	Romano, Jamie C.	Shinholster, Michael J.
Walker, Payne B.	McCown, William R.	English, Thomas J.

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-](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16_EbGwbZ8pXYUTt-BY9u4HvUaeRvjIP2FlUvquIDDjQ/edit?usp=sharing)

[BY9u4HvUaeRvjIP2FlUvquIDDjQ/edit?usp=sharing](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

Pettersson, T., & Eck, K. (2018). Organized violence, 1989–2017. *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(4), 535–547

OPTIONAL: Callimachi, Rukmini. [“The ISIS Files: When Terrorists Run City Hall.”](#) *New York Times*, April 4, 2018.

WEEK 2. Understanding Violent Conflict

Mon., 1/18 NO CLASS (MLK DAY)

Wed., 1/20

Gurr, T. R. (1993). Why Minorities Rebel: A Global Analysis of Communal Mobilization and Conflict since 1945. *International Political Science Review* 14(2), 161-201.

Fri., 1/22

Lichbach, M. I. (1998). *The Rebel's Dilemma*. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. Ch. 1 and 2.

WEEK 3. Ethnic Conflict I

Mon., 1/25

Fearon, J. & Laitin. D. (2003). Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97 (1), 75-90

Wed., 1/27

Kaufman, Stuart J. (1996). Spiraling to Ethnic War: Elites, Masses, and Moscow in Moldova's Civil War. *International Security* 21(2), 108-138.

Fri., 1/29

Movie (at home): Bloody Sunday (2002)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuTJSQChVvI>

WEEK 4. Ethnic Conflict II

Mon., 2/1

Discussion about the movie

Bosi, L. & Dochartaigh, N. Ó. (2018). Armed activism as the enactment of a collective identity: the case of the Provisional IRA between 1969 and 1972. *Social Movement Studies* 17(1): 35-47.

Wed., 2/3

Watch the documentary (at home): "Forever Pure"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z9eEqctAGI>

Fri., 2/5

Discussion about the documentary

DeVotta, N. (2005). From ethnic outbidding to ethnic conflict: the institutional bases for Sri Lanka's separatist war. *Nations and Nationalism* 11, 141-159

ORJUELA, C. (2003). Building Peace in Sri Lanka: a Role for Civil Society?. *Journal of Peace Research*, 40(2), 195–212.

WEEK 5. Civil War I

Mon., 2/8

Sambanis, N. (2004). What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48(6), 814-858

Wed., 2/10

Ross, M. (2004). How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* 58(1), 35-67.

Fri., 2/12

Young, J. (2013). Repression, Dissent, and the Onset of Civil War." *Political Research Quarterly* 66(3), 516-532

Cederman, L.-E., & Vogt, M. (2017). Dynamics and Logics of Civil War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 61(9), 1992–2016.

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

PAPE, R. (2003). The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 97(3), 343-361.

Wed., 2/24

Moghadam, A., Berger, R. & Beliakova, P. (2014). Say Terrorist, Think Insurgent: Labeling and Analyzing Contemporary Terrorist Actors. *Perspectives on Terrorism* 8(5).

Richards, A. (2014). Conceptualizing Terrorism, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 37(3), 213-236

Fri., 2/26

Piazza, J. A. (2011). Poverty, minority economic discrimination, and domestic terrorism. *Journal of Peace Research*, 48(3), 339–353.

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/oAD6xLs42lDMJ7NL9KG4Mn?si=OnhFprmwToefrgzZH9m3rw> (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

HAFNER-BURTON, E., HYDE, S., & JABLONSKI, R. (2014). When Do Governments Resort to Election Violence? *British Journal of Political Science*, 44(1), 149-179.

Wed., 3/17

Condra, L. N., Long, J. D., Shaver, A. C., Wright, A. L. (2018). The logic of insurgent electoral violence. *American Economic Review*, 108(11), 3199–3231.

Fri., 3/19

Alesina, A., Piccolo, S., & Pinotti, P. (2019). Organized Crime, Violence, and Politics. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 86 (2), 457–499.

WEEK 11. Electoral Violence II

Mon., 3/22

Bratton, M. (2008). Vote buying and violence in Nigerian election campaigns. *Electoral Studies* 27(4): 621–632.

Gutiérrez-Romero, R., & LeBas, A. (2020). Does electoral violence affect vote choice and willingness to vote? Conjoint analysis of a vignette experiment. *Journal of Peace Research*, 57(1), 77–92

Wed., 3/24

Doctor, A. C., & Bagwell, S. (2020). ASSESSING THE RISK OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES. *Political Violence at a Glance*, October 13. Available at: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2020/10/13/assessing-the-risk-of-electoral-violence-in-the-united-states/>

Fri., 3/26

Guest Lecture TBA

WEEK 12. The Extreme Left and Right Violence

Mon., 3/29

PORTA, D.D. and TARROW, S. (1986). Unwanted children: Political violence and the cycle of protest in Italy, 1966–1973. *European Journal of Political Research*, 14: 607-632.

Weinberg, L., & Assoudeh, E. (2018). Political Violence and the Radical Right. In Rydgren, J. *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford University Press, Oxford. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190274559.013.21

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>

-a documentary on the German terrorist group Baader Meinhof “Baader Meinhof - In Love With Terror”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnUnR9S4vLo&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>

Fri., 4/2

Discussion about the Videos

McAlexander, R. J. (2020). How Are Immigration and Terrorism Related? An Analysis of Right- and Left-Wing Terrorism in Western Europe, 1980–2004. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 5 (1), 179–195.

WEEK 13. The Solutions to Violent Conflict I

Mon., 4/5

Mearsheimer, J. (1994). The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* 19, 5-49.

Keohane, R. O., & Martin, L. L. (1995). The Promise of Institutional Theory. *International Security*, 20, 39-51.

Wed., 4/7

Karreth, J., & Tir, J. (2013). International Institutions and Civil War Prevention." *Journal of Politics* 75: 96-109.

Fri., 4/9

Simmons, B., & Danner, A. (2010). Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court. *International Organization*, 64, 225-256.

Chapman, T. L., & Chaudoin, S. (2013). Ratification Patterns and the International Criminal Court. *International Studies Quarterly*, 57, 400-409.

WEEK 14. The Solutions to Violent Conflict II

Mon., 4/12

Fortna, V. (2004). Does Peacekeeping Keep the Peace?. *International Studies Quarterly*, 48, 269-292.

Wed., 4/14

Beardsley, K. (2011). Peacekeeping and the Contagion of Armed Conflict. *Journal of Politics*, 73, 1051-1063.

Fri., 4/16

Guest Lecture TBA

WEEK 15. The Solutions to Violent Conflict III

Mon., 4/19

Lijphart, A. (2004). "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15(2): 96-109.

Krueger, A. B., & Malečková, J. (2003). Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17 (4), 119-144.

Wed., 4/21

Chapman, Thomas and Philip G. Roeder (2007). "Partition as a Solution to Wars of Nationalism: The Importance of Institutions," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101(4): 677-92.

Sambanis, N. and J. Schulhofer-Wohl (2009). "What's in a Line? Is Partition a Solution to Civil War?". *International Security* 34 (2) 82-118.

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