INTL 8365	Comparative Political Violence	Spring 2023
Monday 3:35-6:35	Room 117 IA Building (202 Herty Dr.)	Pre/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: TR 2:30-4:30 p.m.	Office: 319 IA Building	
(and by appointment)		

Course Description

This is a graduate course that reviews the systematic study of violent political conflict. The course examines various forms of intrastate violent conflict, and excludes conflict between states, i.e. interstate war. We will begin by reading about and discussing general theories of organized violence and participation in violence, and then move to studies that examine more specific forms of political violence such as civil war, ethnic conflict, state repression, and dissident violence.

Grades/Assignments

Grades are based upon class discussion, two response papers, and a final paper. Your final grade will be determined as follows:
Class Discussion: 20%
Response Papers (2): 30%
Final Paper

- Submission of paper proposal by 20 February: 5%

- Submission of revised proposal by 13 March: 5%

- Paper: 40%

Class Discussion

Students are expected to read the assigned material and be ready to discuss it in class. Consider and be prepared to discuss the following questions when reading:

- What research question is the author trying to answer?

- What is the author's argument?

- How does the argument fit with the rest of the literature?

- Is the argument logically consistent?

- If the author makes a causal argument, is it plausible?

- Does the evidence support the author's theoretical claims?

- Does the author operationalize concepts appropriately?

- Is the method of analysis appropriate?

- Does the argument have implications that are unexamined?

- Does the study tell us something new and interesting?

Each week students will submit to me 5-10 discussion questions (not the ones above). Questions should be sent via email no later than one day prior to the meeting (by 3:35 p.m. Sunday). The purpose of the questions is to facilitate a discussion, so broad, open-ended questions are encouraged.

Response Papers

Response papers are 6-10 page (single spaced, one inch margins, 12 point font, only your name at the top) papers that offer a constructive, critical evaluation of the week's readings. You must turn in two response papers by the end of the semester. You may turn in your response essays at the end of any week (except the last), but you must submit your first essay by Friday, March 3. You may focus on as many or as few readings as you like, but you must offer a well-reasoned critique of the arguments/evidence presented in each piece and *suggestions on how the research could be improved.* Writing responses to one or more of the questions above is a good way to begin. Response papers should be submitted through the ELC course site.

Final Paper

For the final paper, students may choose to write either a critical literature review, a research design, or a full research paper. Students must submit a 1-2 page (single-spaced) proposal for their final paper by the end of the day on Monday, February 20. Paper proposals should be submitted through the ELC course site. I will provide comments on proposals by Monday, February 27. Students will revise their proposals in response to my comments and distribute them to the entire class by the end of the day on Monday, March 13. Students should distributed their revised proposals to the rest of the class via email. Class meetings on March 20 and 27 will be devoted to workshopping your paper proposals - sharing your ideas and offering each other comments and suggestions. Final papers are due on Friday, May 5. Final papers should be submitted through the ELC course site. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day.

Critical Literature Review

A critical literature review is a review essay that surveys the literature on a relevant topic and constructs an argument about how different pieces of research on that topic relate to each other. *It is not simply a summary of the readings.* Students who choose this option should write a paper that compares and contrasts different approaches to the chosen topic, assesses the state of accumulated knowledge on the topic and its limits (what we know and what we don't), and identifies useful directions for future research. For helpful examples look through any issue of the *Annual Review of Political Science.*

Research Design

A research design is a paper that describes a plan to conduct an empirical research project. It is basically a research paper without analysis or results. Choosing this option entails identifying a research question, developing a coherent argument, and describing in detail an empirical study (to be executed later) that answers the question. Your research design can be qualitative or quantitative, but there must be a plan to execute an empirical analysis (the paper cannot be purely theoretical/conceptual).

Research Paper

A full research paper is an entire paper complete with a detailed discussion of your analysis and results. Students are encouraged to choose this option if they have a paper that is already underway and fits with the subject matter.

Books

We will be reading selected portions of the following books (listed in the order they appear on the syllabus). *I will make an electronic copy of selected chapters or the entire book available on the ELC course site, so you do not need to purchase any of these books unless you want your own copy.*

Wagner, Harrison. 2007. *War and the State.* University of Michigan Press.

Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups.* Harvard University Press.

Lichbach, Mark Irving. 1995. *The Rebel's Dilemma.* University of Michigan Press.

Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador.* Cambridge University Press.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Halvard Buhaug. 2013. *Inequality, Grievances, and Civil War.* Cambridge University Press.

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

Walter, Eugene Victor. 1969. *Terror and Resistance: A Study of Political Violence.* Oxford University Press.

Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy.* Princeton University Press.

Simmons, Beth A. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law and Domestic Politics.* Cambridge University Press.

Course Website

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for posted readings and updates to the syllabus.

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.

Reading Schedule

Jan 9: Introduction and Course Overview
No reading.

Jan 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No class

Jan 23: The State and Organized Violence

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

Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567-576.

Bates, Robert, Avner Greif, and Smita Singh. 2002. "Organizing Violence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (5): 599-628.

Wagner, Harrison. 2007. *War and the State.* University of Michigan Press, pp. 105-122.

Gurr, Ted Robert. 1988. "War, Revolution, and the Growth of the Coercive State." *Comparative Political Studies* 21 (1): 45-65.

Jan 30: Collective Action and Coordination Problems

Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups.* Harvard University Press. chaps 1-2.

Tilly, Charles. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution.* McGraw-Hill. Selected chapters.

Lichbach, Mark Irving. 1995. *The Rebel's Dilemma.* University of Michigan Press. chap 1.

Moore, Will H. 1995. "Rational Rebels: Overcoming the Free-Rider Problem." *Political Research Quarterly* 48 (2): 417-454.

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

Weingast, Barry. 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* 91 (2): 245-263.

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics* 44 (1): 7-48.

Lohmann, Susanne. 1994. "The Dynamics of Informational Cascades: the Monday Demonstrations in Leipzig, East Germany, 1989-1991." *World Politics* 47((1): 42-101.

Feb 6: Civil War, Grievance, and Greed

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

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

Muller, Edward and Mitchell Seligson. 1987. "Inequality and Insurgency." *American Political Science Review* 81 (2): 425-452.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56 (4): 563-595.

Humphreys, Macartan. 2005. "Natural Resources, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution: Uncovering the Mechanisms." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49 (4): 508-537.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Halvard Buhaug. 2013. *Inequality, Grievances, and Civil War.* Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-5.

Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2008. "Who Fights? Determinants of Participation in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (2): 436:455.

Feb 13: Ethnic Conflict

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90 (4): 715-735.

Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of Ethnic War." *International Security* 25 (1): 42-70.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54 (4): 845-877.

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Non-ethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes? A Theoretical and Empirical Inquiry." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 259-282.

Reynal-Querol, Marta. 2002. "Ethnicity, Political Systems, and Civil Wars." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (1): 29-54.

Fearon, James D., Kimuli Kasara, and David D. Laitin. 2007. "Ethnic Minority Rule and Civil War Onset." *American Political Science Review* 101 (1): 187-193.

Chandra, Kanchan. 2006. "What is Ethnic Identity and Does it Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 397-424.

Feb 20: Rebel Group Organization and Violence in Civil War

One page paper proposals due by end of the day.

Gates, Scott. 2002. "Recruitment and Allegiance: The Microfoundations of Rebellion." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (1): 111-130.

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

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2006. "Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 100 (3): 429-447.

Amelia Hoover Green. 2017. "Armed group institutions and combatant socialization: Evidence from El Salvador." *Journal of Peace Research* 54(5): 687-700.

Cohen, Dara Kay. 2013. "Explaining Rape During Civil War: Cross-National Evidence (1980-2009)." *American Political Science Review* 107 (3): 461:477.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War.* Cambridge University Press. chaps 6 and 7.

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

Feb 27: State Violence, Repression, and Terror

Walter, Eugene Victor. 1969. *Terror and Resistance: A Study of Political Violence.* Oxford University Press, chaps 1-3.

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.

Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 1-23.

Poe, Steven C. and Neal C. Tate. 1994. "Repression of Human Rights to Personal Integrity in the 1980s: A Global Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 88 (4): 853-872.

Hill Jr., Daniel W. and Zachary M. Jones. 2014. "An Empirical Evaluation of Explanations for State Repression." *American Political Science Review* 108 (3): 661-687.

Ron, James. 1997. "Varying Methods of State Violence." *International Organization* 51 (2): 275-300.

Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy.* Princeton University Press. selected chapters.

March 6: Spring break, no class

March 13: Dissident Violence and Terror

Revised proposals due by end of the day (send it to the whole class).

Stohl, Michael. 1983. "Myths and Realities of Political Terrorism." In Michael Stohl (ed.) *The Politics of Terrorism.* Marcel Dekker.

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

Kalyvas, Stathis. 1999. "Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria." *Rationality and Society* 11 (3): 243-285.

Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

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

Li, Quan. 2005. "Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49 (2): 278-297.

Iqbal, Zaryab and Christopher Zorn. 2006. "Sic Semper Tyrannis? Power, Repression, and Assassination Since the Second World War." *Journal of Politics* 68 (3): 489-501.

March 20: Paper Workshop 1

No reading

March 27: Paper Workshop 2

No reading

April 3: Mass Killing and Genocide

Krain, Matthew. 1997. "State-Sponsored Mass Murder: The Onset and Severity of Genocides and Politicides." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41 (3): 331-360.

Valentino, Benjamin. 2000. "Final Solutions: The Causes of Mass Killing and Genocide." *Security Studies* 9 (3): 1-59.

Harff, Barbara. 2003. "No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder Since 1955." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 57-73.

Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth, and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. "Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare." *International Organization* 58 (2): 375-407.

Krain, Matthew. 2005. "International Intervention and the Severity of Genocides and Politicides." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (3): 363-388.

Eck, Kristine and Lisa Hultman. 2007. "One-Sided Violence Against Civilians in War: Insights from New Fatality Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 44(2): 233-246.

Ulfelder, Jay and Benjamin Valentino. 2008. "Assessing Risks of State Sponsored Mass Killing." Working Paper, Social Science Research Network. Available at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1703426

DeMeritt, Jaqueline H.R. 2015. "Delegating Death: Military Intervention and Government Killing." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59 (3): 428-454.

April 10: The Dissent-Repression Nexus

Lichbach, Mark. 1987. "Deterrence or Escalation? The Puzzle of Aggregate Studies of Repression and Dissent." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 31 (2): 266-297.

Davenport, Christian. 1995. "Multidimensional Threat Perception and State Repression: An Inquiry Into Why States Apply Negative Sanctions." *American Journal of Political Science.* 39 (3): 683-713.

Francisco, Ronald A. 1995. "The Relationship Between Coercion and Protest: An Empirical Evaluation in Three Coercive States." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 39 (2): 263-282.

Rasler, Karen. 1996. "Concessions, Repression, and Political Protest in the Iranian Revolution." *American Sociological Review* 61 (1): 132-152.

Moore, Will H. 1998. "Repression and Dissent: Substitution, Context, and Timing." *American Journal of Political Science* 42 (3): 851-873.

Pierskalla, Jan Henryk. 2010. "Protest, Deterrence, and Escalation: The Strategic Calculus of Government Repression." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54 (1): 117-145.

Ritter, Emily Hencken. 2014. "Policy Disputes, Political Survival, and the Onset and Severity of State Repression." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58 (1): 143-168.

Ritter, Emily Hencken and Courtenay Conrad. 2016. "Preventing and Responding to Dissent: The Observational Challenges of Explaining Strategic Repression." *American Political Science Review* 110(1): 89-95.

April 17: International Relations and Civil Conflict

Fortna, Virgina Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep the Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War." *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (2): 269-292.

Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. 2014. "United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science.* 57 (4): 875-891.

Regan, Patrick. 1996. "Conditions of Successful Third Party Intervention in Intrastate Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40 (2): 336-359.

Regan, Patrick. 2002. "Third-party Interventions and the Duration of Intrastate Conflicts." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (1): 55-73.

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. 2007. "Transnational Dimensions of Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (3): 293-309.

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede and Halvard Buhaug. 2008. "Contagion or Confusion? Why Conflicts Cluster in Space." *International Studies Quarterly* 52 (2): 215-233.

Salehyan, Idean. 2007. "Transnational Rebels: Neighboring States as Sanctuary for Rebel Groups." *World Politics* 59 (2): 217-242.

Salehyan, Idean, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and David E. Cunningham. 2011. "Explaining External Support for Insurgent Groups." *International Organization* 65 (4): 709-744.

April 24: Gender and Conflict

Krishna, Kumar. 2001. "Civil Wars, Women, and Gender Relations: An Overview." in Krishna Kumar (ed.) *Women and Civil War: Impact, Organizations, and Action.* Lynne Rienner.

Hudson, Valerie M., Mary Caprioli, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Rose McDermott, and Chad F. Emmett. 2009. "The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States." *International Security* 33 (3): 7-45.

Caprioli, Mary. 2005. "Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (2): 161-178.

Melander, Erik. 2005. "Gender Equality and Intrastate Armed Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (4): 695-714.

Butler, Christopher K., Tali Gluch, and Neil J. Mitchell. 2007. "Security Forces and Sexual Violence: A Cross-National Analysis of a Principal-Agent Argument." *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (6): 669-687.

Plümper, Thomas and Eric Neumayer. 2006. " The Unequal Burden of War: The Effect of Armed Conflict on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy." *International Organization* 60 (3): 723-754.

Gizelis, Theodora-Ismene. 2009. "Gender Empowerment and United Nations Peacebuilding." *Journal of Peace Research* 46 (4): 505-523.

Karim, Sabrina, and Kyle Beardsley. 2013. "Female Peacekeepers and Gender Balancing: Token Gestures or Informed Policymaking?" *International Interactions* 39 (4): 461-488.

May 1: International Human Rights Law and Advocacy

Final papers due by end of the day, Friday, May 5.

Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter Into the United Nations Convention Against Torture." *International Organization* 62 (1): 65-101.

Simmons, Beth A. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law and Domestic Politics.* Cambridge Press. chaps 4 and 7.

Conrad, Courtenay and Emily Hencken Ritter. 2013. "Treaties, Tenure, and Torture: The Conflicting Domestic Effects of International Law." *Journal of Politics* 75 (2): 397-409.

Lupu, Yonatan. 2013. "Best Evidence: The Role of Information in Domestic Judicial Enforcement of International Human Rights Agreements." *International Organization* 67 (3): 469-503.

Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2008. "Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem." *International Organization* 62 (4): 689-716.

Bell, Sam R., K. Chad Clay, and Amanda Murdie. 2012. "Neighborhood Watch: Spatial Effects of Human Rights INGOs." *Journal of Politics* 74 (2): 354-368.

Murdie, Amanda, and David R. Davis. 2012. "Shaming and Blaming: Using Events Data to Assess the Impact of Human Rights INGOs." *International Studies Quarterly* 56 (1): 1-16.