

POLI 6890  
SEMINAR IN CIVIL CONFLICT  
SPRING 2012

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Class Meeting: Tu 6:00-8:45pm  
Classroom: MH 212  
Office Hours: Tu/We/Th 3-5pm  
and by appointment

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Course Description

Since 1945 civil wars have replaced interstate wars as the world's deadliest form of conflict. The last decade has witnessed an explosion of interest in the causes and consequences of civil wars. News reports from Libya and Syria to Somalia and Afghanistan underscore the political, economic and social consequences of civil conflict. What leads citizens to take up arms against their government? How do governments respond? How can a durable peace be reached? This class systematically explores the causes and effects of civil war—both domestically and internationally. Topics include the roles of ethnicity, ideology, natural resources, institutions, and government repression in mobilization and recruitment, and the broader effects of refugee flows, foreign interventions, and foreign aid in the regional spread of conflict and in conflict termination.

Class Meetings

This class meets Tuesdays from 6pm to 8:45pm. This class is a seminar and revolves around discussion and class participation. Reading the assigned readings prior to class is essential as is attendance and attentiveness.

Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to 1) define key concepts in civil conflict; 2) explain different theories about the causes, duration, outcomes, and effects of civil conflict; 3) be able to take a position on the major debates in the field; and 4) describe these positions to others.

Course Requirements

Participation is essential to a successful seminar; as is an engagement with the material. You do not have to agree with the material presented either by me or by the authors we will read. What I do expect you to do is to engage with the material and the class discussion, think about the issues they raise, come to your own conclusions, and be able to convey them to others.

As a result, your course grade will be determined by four components: 1) class participation, 2) five short papers, 3) a research paper, and 4) a presentation of your research paper. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

20%	Discussion/Participation
40%	Three response & two citation papers (2-5 pages each)
10%	Paper Presentation
30%	Research paper (20-30 pages)

### **Discussion/Participation**

To do well in this class (like any graduate-level class) it is necessary to actively participate in class discussion. Discussion is the lifeblood of a graduate seminar. This does not mean that dominating the discussion with nonsensical ramblings will help your grade. Rather, after every class I evaluate participation 1) on the quality of your comments and 2) on whether the seminar was better for you having attended.

It should go without saying that attendance is a necessary condition for participation. Attendance is mandatory.

### **Response Papers**

You will be responsible for writing three short (2-5 full pages) response papers. Each paper should focus on one particular reading during a week of your choice. Choices will be assigned on a first come, first served basis using a dedicated Moodle discussion thread.

Your response papers should not summarize the readings. Rather, they should make an *argument* about or be a *reaction* to the selected readings. What did you find puzzling or unconvincing about the authors' arguments? How and why would you approach their theoretical questions differently?

These reaction papers are due at the start of class on the day that the readings are due to be discussed. Reaction papers must be submitted digitally to the class's Moodle discussion board Monday night at midnight before the start of class. Therefore, other students will be able to read your work before the start of class. They will be useful for PhD students taking comps. More than one paper cannot be submitted per class. Late papers will be penalized.

These papers are short, but they require an intense engagement with the readings and multiple close readings of the works are essential. They will be evaluated based on how effectively they examine the work in question, their thoughtfulness, and how effectively you lead discussion on this work.

### **Citation Papers**

You will also write two short (2-5 page) citation papers. Each paper should focus on two works: (1) one of the assigned readings and (2) a later work that builds on the chosen paper or book. Our syllabus is filled with both classic works in the field and more recent work. Choose one in an area of interest to you and then start researching works—whether through Google Scholar, JSTOR, or other database—that have built on this research. This is an opportunity for you to get a better sense of the research process. What assumptions does the newer work have that are different than the previous work? How does the newer work differentiate itself either theoretically or empirically from the earlier work?

### **Presentation**

During class on Week 16, all students will make presentations summarizing the main parts of their research paper. A brief (10-15 minute) oral presentation is one of the primary ways that graduate students begin to present their research at political science conferences. This exercise will enable you to gather experience in presenting your research to other social scientists and receiving constructive feedback.

### **Research Papers**

Lastly, you will be required to write a research paper for this class. The earlier you start to think about possible topics the lower your stress level will be and the more time you can spend finding sources and honing your argument. The paper has to have something to do with civil conflict, but the specific subject matter is up to you. You must choose your topic and turn in a 3-5 page paper proposal due February 28<sup>th</sup>. This proposal should summarize 1) the motivating question your paper will address, 2) the argument that

you think answers this question, and 3) the sources you are planning to use. Your finished paper should be one that you can revise for presentation at a conference in the hopes of eventually revising it for publication. We will discuss in more detail during class my expectations for a graduate-level research paper. The final paper is due by Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for every 24 hours they are late.

#### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>.

You will submit a digital copy of all your written work to Turnitin software on Moodle, which finds whether sentences originate in other works. If there is evidence of plagiarism it will be punished to the fullest extent possible. Neither ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism nor a lack of intent to plagiarize are not acceptable defenses. I consider your enrollment in this course past the first week as an acceptance of the University's Judicial Code. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

#### Moodle

Moodle is a useful tool that will be used extensively for this course for announcements, paper submission, and posting grades. During the course I will make some readings available in the documents section. It is advisable to check Moodle and your UNO email account often.

#### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

#### Assigned Readings

There are five (5) required books available from the UNO Bookstore or from online booksellers. Online stores are usually significantly cheaper, but you need to plan ahead so as to receive them in time to read them and discuss them in class.

1. Mason, David T. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire: Revolution, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. Landham, MD: Roman & Littlefield. ISBN: 0742525392.
2. Regan, Patrick M. 2002. *Civil Wars and Foreign Powers: Outside Intervention in Intrastate Conflict*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press. ISBN: 0472088769
3. Salehyan, Idean. 2009. *Rebels Without Borders: Transnational Insurgencies in World Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 0801447445.
4. Walter, Barbara F. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691089310
5. Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521670047.

In addition to the above books, I have assigned a number of scholarly journal articles. All articles are available through Moodle, the library's website, or through Google Scholar. If you have any questions about accessing e-journals, please let me know.

## READING SCHEDULE

This reading list is subject to change. Updates to this syllabus will be posted on Moodle. All readings listed below are required readings and must be completed before the start of class.

### Week 1: Jan. 17—Course introduction

- Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2007. "Civil Wars." In Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press: 416-434.

### Week 2: Jan. 24—What is a civil war?

- Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Håvard Strand. 2002. "Armed Conflict 1946–2001: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 39:615–637.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 814-858.
- Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56(4): 563-595.
- Hegre, Håvard, and Nicholas Sambanis. 2006. "Sensitivity Analysis of Empirical Results on Civil War Onset." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(4): 508-535.

### Week 3: Jan. 31—How can we start explaining its causes?

- Gurr, Ted Robert. 1968. "Psychological Factors in Civil Violence." *World Politics* 20(2): 245-278.
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.
- Mason, David T. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire: Revolution, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. Landham, MD: Roman & Littlefield.
- Walter, Barbara F. 2009. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 243–261.

### Week 4: Feb. 7—Motivations (I)

- Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2008. "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2): 436-455.
- Cederman, Lars-Eric, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. "Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis." *World Politics* 62(1): 87–119.

### Week 5: Feb. 14—Motivations (II)

- Gartner, Scott S., and Patrick M. Regan. 1996. "Threat and Repression: The Non-Linear Relationship between Government and Opposition Violence." *Journal of Peace Research* 33(3): 273-287.
- Moore, Will H. 2000. "The Repression of Dissent: A Substitution Model of Government Coercion." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(1): 107-127.
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54(4): 845-887.
- Regan, Patrick M., and Daniel Norton. 2005. "Greed, Grievance and Mobilization in Civil Wars." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(3): 319-336.

- Cunningham, David E., Kristian S. Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan. 2009. "It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(4): 570-597.

**Week 6: Feb. 21—Mardi Gras**

**Week 7: Feb. 28—State capacity (Proposal due)**

- Buhaug, Halvard. 2006. "Relative Capability and Rebel Objective in Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 43(6): 691-708.
- Fjelde Hanne, and Indra De Soysa. 2009. "Coercion, Co-optation, or Cooperation? State Capacity and the Risk of Civil War, 1961-2004." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 26(1): 5-25.
- Hendrix, Cullen S. 2010. "Measuring State Capacity: Theoretical and Empirical Implications for the Study of Civil Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(3): 273-285.
- Thies, Cameron G. 2010. "Of Rulers, Rebels, and Revenue: State Capacity, Civil War Onset, and Primary Commodities." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(3): 321-332.

**Week 8: Mar. 6—Regime types**

- Hegre, Håvard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. "Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992." *American Political Science Review* 95(1): 33-48.
- Vreeland, James R. 2008. "The Effect of Political Regime on Civil War: Unpacking Anocracy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(3): 401-425.
- Regan, Patrick M., and Sam R. Bell. 2009. "Changing Lanes or Stuck in the Middle: Why Are Anocracies More Prone to Civil Wars?" *Political Research Quarterly* 63(4): 747-759.
- Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede, and Andrea Ruggeri. 2010. "Political Opportunity Structures, Democracy, and Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(3): 299-310.
- Fjelde, Hanne. 2010. "Generals, Dictators, and Kings: Authoritarian Regimes and Civil Conflict, 1973-2004." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 27(3): 195-218.
- Savun, Burcu, and Daniel C. Tirone. 2011. "Foreign Aid, Democratization, and Civil Conflict: How Does Democracy Aid Affect Civil Conflict?" *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 233-246.

**Week 9: Mar. 13—External interventions**

- Regan, Patrick M. 2002. *Civil Wars and Foreign Powers: Outside Intervention in Intrastate Conflict*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Balch-Lindsay, Dylan, Andrew Enterline, and Kyle A. Joyce. 2008. "Third-Party Intervention and the Civil War Process." *Journal of Peace Research* 45(3): 345-363.
- Kathman, Jacob D. 2011. "Civil War Diffusion and Regional Motivations for Intervention" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55(6): 847-876.
- Salehyan, Idean, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and David E. Cunningham. 2011. "Explaining External Support for Insurgent Groups." *International Organization* 65(4): 709-744.

**Week 10: Mar. 20—Subnational studies**

- Deininger, Klaus. 2003. "Causes and Consequences of Civil Strife: Micro-level Evidence from Uganda." *Oxford Economic Papers* 55: 579-606.
- Raleigh, Clionadh and Håvard Hegre. 2009. "Population Size, Concentration, and Civil War: A Geographically Disaggregated Analysis." *Political Geography* 28: 224-238.
- Do, Quy-Toan, and Lakshmi Iyer. 2010. "Geography, Poverty and Conflict in Nepal." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(6): 735-748.

- Vadlamannati, Krishna Chaitanya. 2011. "Why Indian Men Rebel? Explaining Armed Rebellion in the Northeastern States of India, 1970–2007." *Journal of Peace Research* 48(5): 605-619.
- Rustad, Siri Camilla Aas, Halvard Buhaug, Åshild Falch, and Scott Gates. 2011. "All Conflict is Local: Modeling Sub-National Variation in Civil Conflict Risk." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28(1): 15-40.
- Nepal, Mani, Alok K. Bohara, and Kishore Gawande. 2011. "More Inequality, More Killings: The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(4): 886–906.

**Week 11: Mar. 27—The spread of civil wars**

- Salehyan, Idean, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2006. "Refugees and the Spread of Civil War." *International Organization* 60: 335-366.
- Buhaug, Halvard, and Kristian S. Gleditsch. 2008. "Contagion or Confusion? Why Conflicts Cluster in Space." *International Studies Quarterly* 52(2): 215-233.
- Salehyan, Idean. 2009. *Rebels Without Borders: Transnational Insurgencies in World Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

**Week 12: Apr. 3—Spring Break**

**Week 13: Apr. 10—Globalization, natural resources, and conflict**

- Ross, Michael. 2004. "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases." *International Organization* 58: 35-67.
- Humphreys, Macartan. 2005. "Natural Resources, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 508-537.
- Cornell, Svante E. 2005. "The Interaction of Narcotics and Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 42(6): 751-760.
- Fearon, James D. 2005. "Primary Commodities Exports and Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 483-507.
- Barbieri, Katherine, and Rafael Reuveny. 2005. "Economic Globalization and Civil War." *The Journal of Politics* 67(4): 1228-1247.

**Week 14: Apr. 17—Conflict duration**

- Balch-Lindsay, Dylan and Andrew J. Enterline. 2000. "Killing Time: The World Politics of Civil War Duration, 1820-1992." *International Studies Quarterly* 44(4): 615-642.
- Fearon, James D. 2004. "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer than Others?" *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 275-301.
- Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Måns Söderbom. 2004. "On the Duration of Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 253-273.
- DeRouen, Karl R. Jr. and David Sobek. 2004. "The Dynamics of Civil War Duration and Outcome." *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 303-320.
- Walter, Barbara F. 2004. "Does Conflict Beget Conflict? Explaining Recurring Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 371-388.

**Week 15: Apr. 24—How do civil wars end?**

- Mason, T. David, and Patrick J. Fett. 1996. "How Civil Wars End: A Rational Choice Approach." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40(4): 546-568.
- Doyle, Michael, and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 94(4): 779-801.
- Walter, Barbara F. 2002. *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- Fortna, Virginia Page, and Lise Morjé Howard. 2008. "Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 283-301.

**Week 16: May 3—Student presentations**

Final paper are due on Friday May 4th at 5pm.