

PLSC 486T
POVERTY AND CONFLICT
FALL 2008

Class Meeting: Tuesdays 6-9pm
Classroom: TU 219
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30pm

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Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.
Aristotle (1984: 1265bl, 11-12)

Power has only one duty: to secure the social welfare of the People.
Benjamin Disraeli (1845: 317-318)

Poverty and economic disparities in developing countries are often cited as causes of mass protests, political instability, and civil war. This course asks following questions: What are the economic and political causes of poverty and how do governments respond (or fail to respond) to the needs of their citizens? How are poverty and relative deprivation motivating forces for political grievances and conflict? What effects have globalization and foreign aid had on the stability of governments and the likelihood of civil war? This seminar will systematically explore these questions and the relevant theoretical and empirical literature on poverty, development, and civil war.

CLASS MEETINGS

This class meets Tuesdays from 6pm to 9pm. 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.

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 400-level seminar, this class meets Harpur College General Education requirements for writing (W). As a result, your course grade will be determined by four components: 1) brief pa-

pers responding to the week's reading, 2) a research paper, 3) a presentation on your research paper, and 4) class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

25%	Class Participation
30%	Eight reaction papers (1-2 pages each)
5%	Research paper proposal (3-5 pages)
10%	10-15 minute presentation on your research paper
30%	Research paper (20-25 pages)

Reaction Papers

You will be responsible for writing eight short reaction papers over the course of the remaining fourteen weeks of class. Each paper should focus on one particular reading or several of the day's readings. These 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 author's argument? These reaction papers are due at the start of class on the day that the readings are due to be discussed in class. Reaction papers must be submitted to the class's Blackboard digital drop box and to Turnitin before the start of class. More than one paper cannot be submitted per class. Late papers will be accepted at the cost of a letter grade for every 24 hours they are late.

Research Papers

You will be required to write a research paper for this class. Indeed, the largest single part of your grade (35%) will be determined by your proposal and research paper. The earlier you start to think about possible topics the lower your stress level and the more time you can spend finding sources and honing your argument.

You must choose your topic and turn in a 3-5 page paper proposal by October 14th. This proposal should summarize the motivating question your paper will address, the argument that you think answers this question, and the sources you are planning to use. If you decide to change your paper topic once I have accepted your paper, you need to notify me and submit a new proposal before November 11th.

Your final research paper should have standard margins, a 12 point standard font, a cover page with a title, footnotes or endnotes, a bibliography of works cited, and be in a consistent format (APSA, Chicago, etc.). All sources must be credited. Wikipedia and its ilk will not be accepted as sources. If you have any question about the acceptability of a source, please ask me.

Participation

To do well in this class (like any upper-level class) it is necessary to actively participate in class discussion. At the end of the seventh week I will post on Blackboard your participation grade to

that date. If this grade is not what you hoped/expected please talk to me outside of class. It should go without saying that attendance is a necessary condition for participation. I realize that situations do crop up that may make it necessary to miss class. Thus, I will not deduct from your participation grade if you miss class once. However, we only meet fifteen times over the semester. Therefore, if you miss more than one class and you do not have a letter from a doctor or other excuse you have spoken to me in advance about and that I accept, I will take 2 points out of the 25 possible participation points for each additional absence.

Academic Dishonesty

According to the 2007-2008 [Student Handbook](#) (2008: 180), plagiarism includes:

“quoting, paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, even a few phrases;

- failing to acknowledge the source of either a major idea or ordering principle central to one’s own paper;
- relying on another person’s data, evidence or critical method without credit or permission;
- submitting another person’s work as one’s own;
- using unacknowledged research sources gathered by someone else.”

You will need to submit a digital copy of all your written work to Turnitin. If there is evidence of plagiarism it will be punished to the fullest extent possible. Just don’t do it.

Blackboard

Blackboard is a useful tool that will be used extensively for this course for announcements, an ongoing discussion board, and grades. During the course I will make some readings available and post interesting articles I encounter (and that I expect you to read) in the documents section. It is advisable to check Blackboard often.

ASSIGNED READINGS

There are five (5) assigned books available from the BU 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 write about and discuss them in class.

Bates, Robert H. 2008. *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Paul Collier et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy* Washington, D.C.: The World Bank. Also available [online](#).

Beah, Ishmael. 2007. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Lischer, Sarah Kenyon. 2006. *Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War, and Humanitarian Aid*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall. 2007. *Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World*. Washington D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.

In addition to the above books, I have assigned a number of scholarly journal articles. All articles are available through the BU Library's website, through Google Scholar, or through links within this syllabus. It is in your self interest to learn how to access online journal articles from the library's website. If you have any questions about accessing e-journals, please let me know.

Further, it is useful to keep up to date about current events relevant to this course. Current conflicts like those in Darfur, Colombia, and the DRC are ongoing and provide context and content for our discussions. Several sources I recommend include:

The Economist (<http://www.economist.com>).

The Financial Times (<http://www.ft.com>).

The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This reading list is subject to change. Updates to this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.

AUGUST 26th WEEK 1: Introduction

Go over syllabus

What are the possible links between poverty and conflict?

SEPTEMBER 2nd WEEK 2: What is Poverty? (1)

- Olson, Mancur Jr. 1996. "Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk: Why Some Nations Are Rich, and Others Poor." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 10(2): 3-24.
- Collier, Paul. 2007. "Falling Behind and Falling Apart: The Bottom Billion." In *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can be Done About It*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 3-13. (Blackboard)
- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books: Chapters 2-4 (35-110). (Blackboard)

SEPTEMBER 9th WEEK 3: Poverty and Conflict

- Sen, Amartya. 2008. "Violence, Identity and Poverty." *Journal of Peace Research* 45(1): 5-15.
- Gallup, John L., Jeffery D. Sachs, and Andrew D. Mellinger. 1999. "Geography and Economic Development." *International Regional Science Review* 22(2):179-232.
- Wood, Elizabeth Jean Wood. 2008. "The Social Processes of Civil War: The Wartime Transformation of Social Networks." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11:539-561.
- Tadjoeddin, Mohammad Zulfan, and Syed Mansoob Murshed. 2007. "Socio-Economic Determinants of Everyday Violence in Indonesia: An Empirical Investigation of Javanese Districts, 1994-2003." *Journal of Peace Research* 44(6): 689-709.

SEPTEMBER 16th WEEK 4: State-making

- Collier et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap*. Washington DC: World Bank: 1-50.
- Rotberg, Robert I. 2007. "The Challenge of Weak, Failing, and Collapsed States." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 83-94.
- Ayoob, Mohammad. 2007. "State Making, State Breaking, and State Failure." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 95-114.
- Gourevitch, Peter. 2008. "The Role of Politics in Economic Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 137-159.

SEPTEMBER 23rd WEEK 5: Causes of Conflict (1) Rebels

- Mason, T. David. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire: Revolutions, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. Chapter 2: "Theories of Revolution: The Evolution of the Field": 28-57. (Blackboard)
- 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.
- Collier, Paul. 2007. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and Their Implications for Policy." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 197-218.
- Stewart, Frances, and Graham Brown. 2007. "Motivations for Conflict: Groups and Individuals." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 219-241.

SEPTEMBER 30th WEEK 6: Rosh Hashannah, No Class

OCTOBER 7th WEEK 7: Causes of Conflict (2) State Failure

- Bates, Robert H. 2008. *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late Century Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**OCTOBER 14th WEEK 8: Causes of Conflict (3) External/Trans-border Forces/Climate
Research Proposal (3-5 pages) Due**

- Levy, Jack S. 2007. "International Sources of Interstate and Intrastate War." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 17-38.
- Salehyan, Idean, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2006. "Refugees and the Spread of Civil War." *International Organization* 60: 335-366.
- Gleditsch, Nils Petter. 2007. "Environmental Change, Security, and Conflict." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 177-195.

OCTOBER 21st WEEK 9: Effects of Conflict (1) State-level –Development in reverse?

- Collier et al. 2003. *Breaking the Conflict Trap*: 51-118.
- Justino, Patricia. 2008. "Poverty and Violent Conflict: A Micro Level Perspective on the Causes and Duration of Warfare." MICRON Research Working Paper 6. Brighton: MICRON. (Blackboard)

OCTOBER 28th WEEK 10: Effects of Conflict (2) —Individual-level

- Beah, Ishmael. 2007. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

NOVEMBER 4th WEEK 11: Possible Solutions (1): Development/Humanitarian Aid

- Thyne, Clayton. 2006. "ABC's, 123's, and the Golden Rule: The Pacifying Effect of Education on Civil War: 1980-1999." *International Studies Quarterly* 50(4): 733-754.
- Kaufmann, Daniel, and Aart Kraay. 2002. "Growth Without Governance." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 2928. Washington DC: World Bank. (Blackboard)
- Abouharb, M. Rodwan, and David Cingranelli. 2007. *Human Rights and Structural Adjustment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 29-77. (Blackboard)

NOVEMBER 11th WEEK 12: Possible Solutions (2): Migrants

- Lischer, Sarah Kenyon. 2006. *Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War, and Humanitarian Aid*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (Selected chapters).
- Fagen, Patricia Weiss, and Micah Bump. 2006. "Remittances in Conflict and Crises: How Remittances Sustain Livelihoods in War, Crises, and Transitions to Peace." Policy Paper. International Peace Academy. (Blackboard)
- Nyberg-Sorensen, Ninna, Nicholas Van Hear, and Poul Engberg-Pedersen. 2002. "The Migration-development Nexus Evidence and Policy Options State-of-the-Art Overview." *International Migration* 40(5): 3-47.
- Ratha, Dilip, Sanket Mohapatra, and Sonia Plaza. 2008. "Beyond Aid: New Sources and Innovative Mechanisms for Financing Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Policy Research Working Paper No. 4609. Washington DC: World Bank. (Blackboard)

NOVEMBER 18th WEEK 13: Possible Solutions (3): Globalization

- Weede, Erich. 2004. "The Diffusion of Prosperity and Peace by Globalization." *The Independent Review* 9(2):165-186.
- Kharas, Homi. 2007. "The New Reality of Aid." *Brookings Blum Roundtable*. Washington DC: The Brookings Institution. (Blackboard)
- De Haas, Hein. 2005. "International Migration, Remittances and Development: Myths and Facts." *Third World Quarterly* 26(8): 1269-1284.
- Morduch, Jonathan. 1999. "The Microfinance Promise." *Journal of Economic Literature* 37: 1569-1614.

NOVEMBER 25th WEEK 14: Possible Solutions (4): Intervention/Conflict Management

- Fortna, Virginia Page, and Lise Morjé Howard. 2008. "Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 283-301.
- Jentleson, Bruce W. 2007. "Yet Again: Humanitarian Intervention and the Challenges of "Never Again." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 277-297.

- Mack, Andrew. 2007. "Successes and Challenges in Conflict Management." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 521-533.
- Malone, David M. and Jake Sherman. 2007. "Economic Factors in Civil Wars: Policy Considerations." In *Leashing the Dogs of War*: 637-651.

DECEMBER 2nd WEEK 15: Presentations 1

DECEMBER 9th WEEK 16: Presentations 2/Wrap Up
Research paper due December 9th 6pm.