

Civil War and Conflict Resolution

PSCI 4316

Spring 2024

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Course Description

What is a civil war? What causes civil wars? Why do some civil wars last longer than others? Why are some civil wars more violent than others? Why do civil wars end? What are the political and socio-economic consequences of civil wars? This course explores the domestic and international dynamics of civil wars and conflict resolution in a scientific and rigorous way. Students will gain an understanding of how to ask and answer questions on the causes and consequences of civil war onset, duration and termination from a social science perspective.

We begin the course by exploring the history, concepts, patterns and trends of civil wars, and transition to an overview of what factors cause civil wars. We proceed to consider major issues related to civil wars such as ethnic inequalities, collective action, political violence and terrorism. We then explore how civil wars can be resolved using methods such as humanitarian intervention, peace keeping and peace agreements. The course concludes by exploring contemporary issues in civil war and a discussion of what the future holds for civil wars.

This course's goal is to teach undergraduates the major theories and explanations of the causes, consequences and dynamics of civil war in different countries and in different time periods. The readings for this course survey major explanations of civil wars and the causes and effects of social movements, political violence, terrorism, climate change and migration. Students will be exposed to theoretically driven as well as empirical research.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Gain familiarity with the major theories of the causes of civil war onset, duration and termination.

- Gain understanding with concepts in civil war research and contemporary debates on conflict resolution.
- Be able to apply explanations of civil war and conflict resolution to the explanation and understanding of real-world scenarios.
- Be able to explain historical cases in light of the theories presented in class.
- Be able to read and understand empirical research in the social sciences.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
1	Introduction: Patterns and Trends	Mason, Mclaughlin Mitchell and Prorok. 2016. Gleditsch, Melander and Urdal. 2016.		
2	Concepts and Debates	Sambanis. 2004. Kalyvas. 2001.		
3	Political Explanations of Civil War	Young. 2016. DeRouen and Sobek. 2016.		
4	Ethnicity, Inequalities and Civil War	Seymore and Gallagher Cunningham. 2016. Cederman, Gleditsch, and Weidmann. 2011.		

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
5	Collective Action, Bargaining and Civil War	Stephan and Chenoweth. 2008. Walters. 2009.		
6	Terrorism and Civil War	Belgioioso. 2018. Polo and Gleditsch. 2016.		
7	Political Violence and Civil War	Valentino. 2014. Davenport. 2007.		
8	First Online Exam		First Online Exam	Tuesday, March 05 @ 11:59pm
9	Spring Break: No Classes			
10	International Relations and Civil War	Forsberg. 2016. Gleditsch. 2007.		
11	Peacekeeping	Cordell, Wright and Diehl. 2021. Fortna. 2004.		
12	Case Studies in Civil War	Lynch. 2016. Gourevitch. 1995.	Case Study Paper	Sunday, April 07 @ 11:59pm
13	Gender and Civil War	Melander. 2016. Cohen. 2013.		
14	Natural Resources and Consequences of Civil Wars	Thyne. 2016. Smith. 2016.		

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
15	Forced Migration, Climate Change, and Civil Wars	Hendrix, Gates and Buhaug. 2016. Salehyan. 2014.		
16	Second Online Exam		Second Online Exam	Tuesday, April 30 @ 11:59pm

Required Textbooks and Materials

Regular completion of the course readings is essential to your success in this class. During class, there will be activities designed to assess your comprehension of the weekly readings.

All book chapters and journal articles are available to students free of charge. They can be accessed via the eLearning course homepage.

Belgioioso, Margherita. 2018. "Going Underground: Resort to Terrorism in Mass Mobilization Dissident Campaigns. *Journal of Peace Research* 55(5): 641-655.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Nils B. Weidmann. 2011. "Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison." *American Political Science Review* 105 (3): 478-495.

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

Cordell, Rebecca, Thorin M. Wright and Paul F. Diehl. 2021. "Extant Commitment, Risk and UN Peacekeeping Authorization." *International Interactions* 47(1): 135-160.

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

DeRouen, Karl Jr. and David Sobek. 2016. "State Capacity, Regime Type, and Civil War." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 4.

Forsberg, Erika. 2016. "Transnational Dimensions of Civil Wars: Clustering, Contagion and Connectedness." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 5.

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

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

Gleditsch, Nils Petter and Erik Melander and Henrik Urdal. 2016. "Introduction-Patterns of Armed Conflict since 1945." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 1.

Gourevitch, Philip. 1995. "After the Genocide." *The New Yorker*. Available at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1995/12/18/after-the-genocide>.

Hendrix, Cullen, Scott Gates and Halvard Buhaug. 2016. "Environment and Conflict." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 14.

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

Lynch, Marc. 2016. "Syria's Uprising." *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East*. Public Affairs. Chapter 4.

Mason, David T., Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell and Alyssa K. Prorok. 2016. "What Do We Know About Civil Wars?: Introduction and Overview." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter: Introduction and Overview.

Melander, Erik. 2016. "Gender and Civil Wars" In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 12.

Salehyan, Idean. 2014. "Forced Migration as a Cause and Consequence of Civil War." In Edward Newman and Karl DeRouen Jr. *Routledge Handbook of Civil Wars*. Chapter 21.

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

Polo, Sara M. T. and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2016. "Twisting Arms and Sending Messages: Terrorist Tactics in Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 53(6): 815-829.

Seymore, Lee J. M. and Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham. 2016. "Identity Issues and Civil War: Ethnic and Religious Divisions." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 3.

Smith, Benjamin. 2016. "Exploring the Resource-Civil War Nexus." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 13.

Stephan, Maria J. and Chenoweth, Erica. 2008. "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict." *International Security* 33(1): 7-44.

Thyne, Clayton L. 2016. "The Legacies of Civil War: Health, Education and Economic Development." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 10.

Valentino, Benjamin A. 2014. "Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence Against Civilians." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 89-103.

Walters, Barbara F. 2009. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 243-261.

Young, Joseph K. 2016. "Antecedents of Civil War Onset: Greed, Grievance, and State Repression." In David T. Mason and Sara Mclaughlin Mitchell. *What Do We Know About Civil Wars?* Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 2.

Grading Policy

Assignments and Exams

Active Participation (20% of your grade): Students will be evaluated on 1) completion of class exercises 2) contributions to class discussions.

Case Study Paper (30% of your grade): 7 pages (12-point font, 1-inch margin, double spaced). Write a research paper that applies the theories explored in the course to a civil war. The civil war you choose must be included in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and have the code '3' for the *type_of_conflict* variable (intrastate conflict). Search for the civil war first before writing your paper: <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/index.html#armedconflict>. In the paper you should describe 1) Why you chose this civil war 2) the history of the civil war 3) the causes of the civil war. **Your paper must include ample references for all facts**

presented pertaining to the civil war and any theories discussed. Students should discuss their case selection with the Teaching Assistant at least two weeks prior to the due date for this assignment. Paper due: Sunday, April 07 at 11:59pm via eLearning.

First Online Exam (25% of your grade): The first exam will cover material in the first half of the semester. The exam will contain multiple choice questions only. **Exam: Tuesday, March 05 open 12am-11:59pm via eLearning.**

Second Online Exam (25% of your grade): The second exam will cover material in the second half of the semester. The exam will contain multiple choice questions only. **Exam: Tuesday, April 30 open 12am-11:59pm via eLearning.**

Exam Format: The exams will be open book, with 25 multiple choice questions in total per exam. You can take the exam any time between the dates provided. The exam will be timed, giving students 50 minutes to complete the exam (two minutes per question). The exam must be completed in a single sitting. The questions and answers will be randomized so that no student takes the same version of the exam. The Exam Review will be posted in each Exams folder in advance.

Grading Scale:

A+ = 97-100%

A = 94-96%

A- = 90-93%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 84-86%

B- = 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 74-76%

C- = 70-73%

D+ = 67-69%

D = 64-66%

D- = 60-63%

F = 0-59%
