Political Science 3350: Civil Conflict  
Fall 2016  
Friday 1-3:45pm, CB2 1.202

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Office Hours: by appointment.

This class will examine current theories and empirical analyses of contentious politics, civil war, and political violence. Different theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of civil war will be addressed. Students will be required to develop a general understanding of the literature and to focus in depth on one particular topic as they develop an independent research project.

Readings:  
The following books are required for purchase. You can order books through your favorite online retailer, or find them at the library.


All other readings are accessible through JSTOR and/or the UTD libraries. Searching in scholar.google.com from campus internet servers will give you a variety of access options.

Requirements:  
A. Participation - 20%. Attendance is required at all class sessions. In addition, you are expected to participate in class discussions. Speaking up frequently is not as important as contributing meaningful arguments, and well-reasoned critiques. You are expected to read the materials for class and be prepared to discuss and critique them. For each class session, prepare 1-2 questions and/or comments about the readings for discussion.

B. Discussion papers & presentations– 30%. You are required to write two short papers (approx 1,500-2,000 words) on the weekly reading assignments. During the first class meeting, we will divide the weeks among students. These papers are to be an analytical summary and review of the literature. They should be more than a simple synopsis of each article, but should evaluate and critique the literature. These papers should include a list of 3-5 questions which will serve as prompts for class discussions. In preparing these papers, you are encouraged to include pertinent readings not on the list, including recommended readings. You are required to circulate these papers to everyone in the class at least 24 hours before the given class meeting. In addition, you are expected to give a brief presentation (approx 15 minutes) on the literature and pose your discussion questions to the class.

C. Research design – 50%. Each student is required to develop a research project relating to some aspect of civil war and political violence. This paper must include an interesting research question, a review of the relevant literature, a clearly stated and well-argued theory, a set of testable hypotheses, and a plausible strategy for carrying out empirical research. You should approach this as a first-step in constructing a viable research project that could eventually lead to a journal article, thesis, or dissertation. Although you may conduct some preliminary data collection and testing, this will not be required.
This research design project will come due in several cumulative installments:

1) **Research question and justification.** What is the question you propose to answer? Why is this an interesting and important question? DUE: September 16.

2) **Literature review.** Summarize and critique the existing literature on your topic. What remains to be done and how does your project fit in with and expand upon existing work? DUE: October 14.

3) **Theory and hypotheses.** In addition to the parts above, submit an original theory that proposes and answer to your research question and provide one or more testable hypotheses. DUE: November 18.

4) **Final paper.** Combine all of the elements above and include a section on data and operational indicators that will be used to test your hypotheses. You do not need to actually test the hypotheses given, but develop a viable plan for data collection and analysis. You are also to prepare a brief, 10-minute presentation of your paper for the class. DUE: December 9.

Failure to turn in any section by the required date will result in a 3% penalty per day late on the final grade.

*All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, no more than one inch margins. Use in-text parenthetical citations [example: (Mason 1991)] and a complete bibliography at the end.

**UT Dallas Policies and Procedures**
The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to [https://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies](https://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies) for these policies.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

1. **August 26. Definitions.**

2. **September 2. Psychological approaches**

**Recommended:**


**Recommended:**

**4. September 16. Political economy II: natural resources.**


**Recommended:**

5. **September 23. Nationalism and ethnic conflict I: group comparisons.**


**Recommended:**

6. **September 30. Nationalism and ethnic conflict II: territory and state-building.**


**Recommended:**


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

8. October 14. Political institutions I: political opportunity structures


Recommended:

9. October 21. Political institutions II: institutions and processes


**Recommended**

10. **October 28. Logic of Violence in Civil War.**

   **Recommended:**

11. **November 4. Individual Participation**

   **Recommended:**
   - Lichbach, Mark I. *The Rebel's Dilemma*


Recommended:
13. **November 18. Violence and Non-Violence.**


**Recommended:**
- *Journal of Peace Research.* Special Issue on Nonviolent Resistance. 2013(5)

14. **December 2. Conflict Resolution.**


**Recommended**
- Mukherjee, Bumba. 2006. Why Political Power-Sharing Institutions Lead to Peaceful Resolution of Some Civil Wars but not Others? *International Studies Quarterly* 50:479-