

PLSC 36100: Civil War
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
DRAFT 3/13/17

Spring 2017
Time: Wednesday, 9:30 am-12:20 pm
Room: TBD
Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2:30 pm and by appt.

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Course Description

Civil war is the dominant form of political violence in the contemporary world. This graduate seminar will introduce students to cutting edge scholarly work and to the task of carrying out research on internal conflict. We will study the origins, dynamics, and termination of civil wars, as well as international interventions, post-conflict legacies, and policy responses to war. A variety of research approaches will be explored, including qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive methods, micro- and macro-level levels of analysis, and sub- and cross-national comparative designs. The emphasis throughout is on designing rigorous research that persuasively addresses important questions.

Research on civil war has exploded beyond our ability to cover in a quarter and I have had to exclude a lot of important work. This version emphasizes very recent research and is admittedly biased toward the style of work I find most useful, but you are responsible for both deeper and broader study of specific topics for your research paper. The required readings are, at very best, a crude starting point.

I strongly encourage you to take this course in sequence with Ben Lessing's "Crime, Conflict, and the State" (PLSC 48700). These two courses are near-prerequisites for doing an MA or PhD thesis on political violence.

There will likely be some changes in the syllabus as the quarter goes along, and I will be sure to communicate them to you.

Course Requirements

Participation in class discussion is essential for a successful seminar. Students are expected to have carefully done all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it in detail. I realize that some weeks there is a heavy reading load, but the works assigned are important and worth your time. Participation will account for 20% of your grade.

Two response papers (each no more than 4 pages, doubled-spaced, 12-point font) will be assigned. In week 4 I will assign a paper due in week 5 and in week 8 I will assign a paper due in week 9. The paper topic will identify an important claim from our readings in the previous weeks and ask you to critically assess it in light of our reading and discussions. These are not

opportunities for you to do a literature review or summary of readings, but instead to advance an argument. Each paper will account for 10% of your grade. I will provide the topic at the end of class and the paper will be due in hard copy at the beginning of the next class meeting.

Research paper of no more than 30 pages total (doubled-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) due at the end of the quarter. It can be emailed to me or (preferably) dropped off at my office by 5 pm CST on Thursday, June 8, 2017. This paper should address a major question in the study of civil war with a literature review, theoretical argument, and empirical evaluation of the theory relative to its competitors. This empirical evaluation can include a case or comparative case studies, quantitative analysis, or a mix of methods. Students can use this opportunity to lay the groundwork for a publishable article, develop research for a thesis, or “try out” a possible dissertation topic. The reason for requiring this paper is to force you to experience some of the transition from being a consumer and critic of research to becoming a producer who has to grapple with a different set of challenges. Please note that this is a hard space limit: the entire paper must not be more than 30 pages. I will reduce your grade for excess.

The paper will account for 60% of your grade. You must confirm your topic with me, in person or over email, before our Week 7 class meeting. Late papers will not be accepted.

Electronic Etiquette

I request that students not use their cell phones during class for any reason. This will allow more focused discussion and intellectual exchange. Laptops should only be used if this will facilitate bringing readings to class.

I aim to be responsive to email from students. However, please do not expect an answer to your question any sooner than 48 hours after it is sent. Last-minute email questions and requests are bad for everyone involved. I prefer that students use office hours rather than email for asking substantive questions.

Books to Purchase

- Finkel, Evgeny. 2017. *Ordinary Jews: Choice and Survival during the Holocaust*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Debos, Marielle. 2016. *Living by the Gun in Chad: Combatants, Impunity and State Formation*. Zed Books.
- Roessler, Philip. 2016. *Ethnic Politics and State Power in Africa: The Logic of the Coup-Civil War Trap*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Stanton, Jessica A. 2016. *Violence and Restraint in Civil War: Civilian Targeting in the Shadow of International Law*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Long, Austin. 2016. *The Soul of Armies: Counterinsurgency Doctrine and Military Culture in the US and UK*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Straus, Scott. 2015. *Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Cohen, Dara Kay. 2016. *Rape During Civil War*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Autesserre, Séverine. 2014. *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*. Cambridge University Press.

Book chapters that are not part of the required books will be posted in the Library Course Reserves section of the Chalk site and are marked with an asterisk. Journal articles can be found through the University of Chicago library, unless the URL is specified on the syllabus. If you are having trouble accessing a reading, please let me know ASAP.

For each section below I have also included a set of recommended further readings. These can provide a starting point for your papers or other research. The required and recommended readings are intentionally eclectic, with a mix of new and old work from a wide variety of perspectives. I encourage you to read as widely as possible during this course, from economics to fiction to journalism, in order to generate new insights and puzzles. Creativity is hard to cultivate within strict disciplinary confines.

Academic Integrity

This is the University of Chicago's Academic Integrity statement:

“It is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas, whether by direct quotation or paraphrase, is expected. In particular, if any written or electronic source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number, or by website and date accessed. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.”

If you have questions, ask me and/or consult Charles Lipson's *Doing Honest Work in College* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

I. January 6. Concepts and Data

Melander, Erik, Therése Pettersson, and Lotta Themnér. 2016. “Organized Violence, 1989–2015.” *Journal of Peace Research* 53 (5): 727–42. doi:10.1177/0022343316663032.

Sambanis, Nicholas. “What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48, no. 6 (December 2004): 814-858.

Todd Landman and Anita Gohdes, “A Matter of Convenience: Challenges of Non-Random Data in Analyzing Human Rights Violations in Peru and Sierra Leone,” in Taylor Seybolt, Jay Aronson, and Baruch Fischhoff, eds., *Counting Civilian Casualties: An Introduction to Recording and Estimating Nonmilitary Deaths in Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2013), Chapter 5.*

Brass, Paul R. 1997. *Theft of an Idol: Text and Context in the Representation of Collective Violence*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 20-31, chapter 3.*

Scott, James. 1985. *Weapons of the weak: everyday forms of peasant resistance*. New Haven: Yale University Press, chapter 2.*

II. Onset

Roessler, *Ethnic Politics and State Power*, all [skim Appendices].

Lawrence, Adria. 2010. "Triggering Nationalist Violence: Competition and Conflict in Uprisings against Colonial Rule." *International Security* 35 (2): 88–122. doi:10.1162/ISEC_a_00019.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min. 2010. "Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel?: New Data and Analysis." *World Politics* 62 (1): 87–119.

Lewis, Janet I. 2016. "How Does Ethnic Rebellion Start?" *Comparative Political Studies*, October, 10414016672235. doi:10.1177/0010414016672235.

III. Mobilization

Petersen, Roger Dale. 2001. *Resistance and Rebellion: Lessons from Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1. *

Finkel, *Ordinary Jews*, all [skim Appendices].

Kalyvas, Stathis N., and Matthew Adam Kocher. "How "Free" Is Free Riding in Civil Wars? Violence, Insurgency, and the Collective Action Problem." *World Politics* 59, no. 2 (January 2007): 177-216.

Dube, Oeindrila, and Juan F. Vargas. 2013. "Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia." *The Review of Economic Studies* 80 (4): 1384–1421. doi:10.1093/restud/rdt009.

Pearlman, Wendy. 2013. "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings." *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (2): 387–409. doi:10.1017/S1537592713001072.

Iwilade, Akin. 2014. "Networks of Violence and Becoming: Youth and the Politics of Patronage in Nigeria's Oil-Rich Delta." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 52 (4): 571–95. doi:10.1017/S0022278X14000603.

IV. Insurgent Organization

Staniland, Paul. 2014. *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), Chapter 1.*

Cohen, *Rape During Civil War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), all.

Parkinson, Sarah E. 2016. "Money Talks: Discourse, Networks, and Structure in Militant Organizations." *Perspectives on Politics* 14 (4): 976–94. doi:10.1017/S1537592716002875.

Arjona, Ana. 2016. "Rebelocracy: A Theory of Social Order in Civil War" (Kellogg Working Paper) & *Rebelocracy: Social Order in the Colombian Civil War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 5-6. (All on Chalk Course Documents)

V. Counterinsurgency

Long, *The Soul of Armies*, all.

Day, Christopher R., and William S. Reno. 2014. "In Harm's Way: African Counter-Insurgency and Patronage Politics." *Civil Wars* 16 (2): 105–26. doi:10.1080/13698249.2014.927699.

Biddle, Stephen, Jeffrey A. Friedman, and Jacob N. Shapiro. 2012. "Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007?" *International Security* 37 (1): 7–40. doi:10.1162/ISEC_a_00087.

Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai. 2013. "Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan." *American Political Science Review* 107 (4): 679–705. doi:10.1017/S0003055413000403.

6. Alignment and Alliance

Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher. 2011. "Divide and Conquer or Divide and Concede: How Do States Respond to Internally Divided Separatists?" *American Political Science Review* 105 (2): 275–97. doi:10.1017/S0003055411000013.

Christia, Fotini. 2012. *Alliance Formation in Civil Wars*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 2-3.*

Krause, Peter. 2013. "The Political Effectiveness of Non-State Violence: A Two-Level Framework to Transform a Deceptive Debate." *Security Studies* 22 (2): 259–94. doi:10.1080/09636412.2013.786914.

Reno, Will. 2011. *Warfare in independent Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), chapters 5-6.*

Seymour, Lee J.M. 2014. "Why Factions Switch Sides in Civil Wars: Rivalry, Patronage, and Realignment in Sudan." *International Security* 39 (2): 92–131. doi:10.1162/ISEC_a_00179.

7. Violence against Civilians

Jessica Stanton, *Violence and Restraint in Civil War*, all.

Scott Straus, *Making and Unmaking Nations*, chapters 1-4.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapters 7 and 9.*

8. International Relations of Civil War

Tamm, Henning. 2016. "The Origins of Transnational Alliances: Rulers, Rebels, and Political Survival in the Congo Wars." *International Security* 41 (1): 147–81.
doi:10.1162/ISEC_a_00252.

Kenneth A. Schultz, "The Enforcement Problem in Coercive Bargaining: Interstate Conflict over Rebel Support in Civil Wars," *International Organization*, Vol. 64, No. 2 (Spring 2010), pp. 281–312

Ferwerda, Jeremy, and Nicholas L. Miller. 2014. "Political Devolution and Resistance to Foreign Rule: A Natural Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 108 (3): 642–660.
doi:10.1017/S0003055414000240.

Kocher, Matthew A., and Nuno P. Monteiro. 2016. "Lines of Demarcation: Causation, Design-Based Inference, and Historical Research." *Perspectives on Politics* 14 (4): 952–75.
doi:10.1017/S1537592716002863.

Hegghammer, Thomas. 2013. "Should I Stay or Should I Go? Explaining Variation in Western Jihadists' Choice between Domestic and Foreign Fighting." *American Political Science Review* 107 (1): 1–15. doi:10.1017/S0003055412000615.

9. How do Wars End?

Debos, *Living by the Gun in Chad*, all.

Staniland, Paul. Forthcoming. "Armed Politics and the Study of Intrastate Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* (Chalk Course Documents).

Matanock, Aila. Forthcoming. "Bullets for Ballots: Electoral Participation Provisions in Peace Agreements and Conflict Recurrence." *International Security*
<https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2927319>

Daly, Sarah Zukerman. 2014. "The Dark Side of Power-Sharing: Middle Managers and Civil War Recurrence." *Comparative Politics* 46 (3): 333–53.
doi:10.5129/001041514810943027.

Hartzell, Caroline A., and Matthew Hoddie. 2015. "The Art of the Possible: Power Sharing and Post—Civil War Democracy." *World Politics* 67 (1): 37–71.
doi:10.1017/S0043887114000306.

10. Legacies and Aftermaths

Lake, Milli. 2017. “Building the Rule of War: Post-Conflict Institutions and the Micro-Dynamics of Conflict in Eastern DR Congo.” *International Organization*.

Autesserre, *Peaceland*, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, Conclusion, Appendix.

Gilligan, Michael J., Benjamin J. Pasquale, and Cyrus Samii. 2014. “Civil War and Social Cohesion: Lab-in-the-Field Evidence from Nepal.” *American Journal of Political Science* 58 (3): 604–19. doi:10.1111/ajps.12067.

Bauer, Michal, Christopher Blattman, Julie Chytilová, Joseph Henrich, Edward Miguel, and Tamar Mitts. 2016. “Can War Foster Cooperation?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30 (3): 249–74. doi:10.1257/jep.30.3.249.