

PLSC 44701: Comparative Approaches to Civil War

Department of Political Science

University of Chicago

DRAFT

Spring 2018

Professors: Paul Staniland and Lisa Wedeen

Time: Wednesday, 9:30 am-12:20 pm

Room: Wilder 101

Staniland Office Hours: Tuesday, 1pm-3pm and by appt.

Wedeen Office Hours: Tuesday, 2pm-3pm and by appt.

Email: paul@uchicago.edu; lwedeen@uchicago.edu

Course Description

This course blends theoretical, empirical, and conceptual work on civil conflict with detailed studies of cases. It will assess research on civil war "onset," mobilization, violence, civilian agency, and resolution, while linking these broader literatures to conflicts in the Middle East and South Asia. The course will emphasize theoretical innovations grounded in detailed empirical knowledge, including primary texts, ethnographies, films, and other forms of cultural production

Research on civil war has exploded beyond our ability to cover in a quarter and we have had to exclude a lot of important work. 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. There will likely be some changes in the syllabus as the quarter goes along, and we 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. We 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 short papers will be assigned. In week 4 we will assign a paper due in week 5 and in week 8 we will assign a paper due in week 9. The first 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. This is not an opportunity for you to do a literature review or summary of readings, but instead to advance an argument. The second paper will ask you to explore a particular case of a phenomenon under study. Each paper will account for 10% of your grade. We 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 us or (preferably) emailed to both Staniland and Wedeen by 5 pm CST on the Thursday of finals week. 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. We shall reduce your grade for excess.

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

Electronic Etiquette

We 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.

We 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. We 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.
- Long, Austin. 2016. *The Soul of Armies: Counterinsurgency Doctrine and Military Culture in the US and UK*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Marra, Anthony. 2013. *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*. New York: Hogarth, all.
- 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.

The required readings are intentionally eclectic, with a mix of new and old work from a wide variety of perspectives. We 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 us and/or consult Charles Lipson's *Doing Honest Work in College* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

1. Concepts and Data

Allansson, Marie, Erik Melander & Lotta Themnér (2017) “Organized violence, 1989-2016.” *Journal of Peace Research* 54(4).*

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.*

2. 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.

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

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

Rogers Brubaker. 2006. "Ethnicity Without Groups," in *Ethnicity Without Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

3. 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.

Ahmad, Aisha. "The Security Bazaar: Business Interests and Islamist Power in Civil War Somalia." *International Security* 39, no. 3 (January 1, 2015): 89–117.*

4. Insurgent Organization

Paper topic #1 handed out.

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)

Bahney, Benjamin W., Radha K. Iyengar, Patrick B. Johnston, Danielle F. Jung, Jacob N. Shapiro, and Howard J. Shatz. 2013. "Insurgent Compensation: Evidence from Iraq." *The American Economic Review* 103 (3):518–22.*

5. 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

Marra, Anthony. 2013. *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*. New York: Hogarth, all.

Jessica Stanton, *Violence and Restraint in Civil War*, chapters 1-2.

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

Fujii, Lee Ann. "The Puzzle of Extra-Lethal Violence." *Perspectives on Politics* 11, no. 02 (2013): 410–26.*

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

8. Ecologies of Violence

Lisa Wedeen, *Authoritarian Apprehensions: Ideology, Judgment, and Mourning in Syria*

FILMS:

Abou naddara, *Trajectory of an Unknown Soldier* (four part shorts, approximately 2 minutes each)

Ziad Kalthum, *The Eternal Sergeant* (documentary film)

Usama Muhammad, *Silvered Water* (documentary film)

9. How do Wars End?

Paper topic #2 handed out.

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

Matanock, Aila M. “Bullets for Ballots: Electoral Participation Provisions and Enduring Peace after Civil Conflict.” *International Security* 41, no. 4 (April 1, 2017): 93–132.

https://doi.org/10.1162/ISEC_a_00275.

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.

Meister, Robert. 2012. *After Evil: A Politics of Human Rights*. New York: Columbia University Press, pages to be announced.